
The P R E F A C E.

THE great Utility and very interesting Nature of the important FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD VOYAGES and DISCOVERIES of the late Capt. Cook, are acknowledged by all Ranks of People; consequently it might be deemed impertinent here to attempt any Encomiums on the arduous but exact Researches of this eminent and valuable Navigator, in which Discoveries have been made far greater than those of all the other Navigators in the World, from the Expedition of Columbus to the present Time. Capt. Cook is unquestionably allowed to have been the ablest and most renowned Circumnavigator this or any other Country has produced; and every enlightened Nation must deplore his being unfortunately killed by the Savages of the Island Owhyhee on the 14th of February 1779, when prosecuting his THIRD VOYAGE round the Globe.

This great Man possessed, in an eminent Degree, all the Qualifications requisite for his Profession and great Undertakings. He was cool and deliberate in judging; sagacious in determining; active in executing; steady and persevering in Enterprizes; vigilant, with unremitting Caution; unsubdued by Labour, Difficulties, and Disappointments; fertile in Expedients; never wanting Presence of Mind; always possessing himself of the full Use of a sound Understanding; mild, just, but exact in Discipline. His Knowledge, his Experience, his Sagacity, rendered him so intirely Master of his Subject, that the greatest Obstacles were surmounted, and the most dangerous Navigations became easy, and almost safe under his Direction. He explored the Southern Hemisphere, &c. to a much higher Latitude than had ever been reached, and with fewer Accidents than frequently befall those who navigate the Coasts of Great Britain. By his Attention to the Welfare of his Ship's Company, he discovered and introduced