

that the whole account of our discoveries might safely be committed to the care of a man who had given the strongest proofs of probity and virtue. Considering also, that a very hazardous part of the voyage was still to be performed, we resolved to send, by him, the whole of Captain Cook's journal, together with his own, from the death of that commander, till our arrival at Kamtschka; and also a chart of our discoveries. Mr. Baily and Mr. King also determined to send an account of our proceedings to the Board of Longitude. From these precautions, had any accident befallen us, the Admiralty would have been possessed of the principal facts of our voyage. It was further resolved, that a smaller packet should be dispatched from Okaok, which the Major supposed would reach Petersburg by December; and that he expected to arrive there himself in February or March.

The Major was entertained alternately in the two ships, as well as we were able; the three following days. He departed on the 23th, and was saluted with thirteen guns; the sailors, at their own request, expressing their regard for him by three cheers. Mr. King and Mr. Webber attended him, the next morning, some few miles up the Anatka river, where the Russian priest and his family were waiting to bid a last adieu to their commander.

On taking our leave of the Major, it is difficult to say, whether the worthy priest and his family or ourselves were most affected. Though our acquaintance had been of short duration, his behaviour had inspired us with the highest esteem for him; and we could not part (perhaps for ever) with one, to whom we were under such infinite obliga-