

THE LIFE OF
CAPTAIN JAMES COOK.

JAMES COOK was born at Marton, in Cleveland, near Great Ayton, in Yorkshire, in Nov. 1728. His father was a day labourer to a farmer, and lived in a small village, surrounded with mud walls. His father afterwards removed to Great Ayton, where he was employed as a hind, by the late Thomas Scut-towe, Esq. assisted by his son in the different branches of husbandry.

At the age of thirteen, he was put under the care of Mr. Pullen, a school-master who taught at Ayton, where he learned arithmetic, book-keeping, &c. and is said to have shewn a very early genius for figures. About Jan. 1745, at the age of seventeen, his father bound him apprentice to learn the grocery and haberdashery business at Snaith; but after a year and a half's servitude, having contracted a strong propensity to the sea, his master was willing to indulge him in following the bent of his inclination, and gave up his indentures.

In July, 1746, he was bound apprentice to Mr. J. Walker of Whitby, for the term of three years, which time he served to his master's full satisfaction. He first sailed on board the ship *Freelove*, chiefly employed in the coal trade from Newcastle to London.

In the spring, 1750, Mr. Cook shipped himself as a seaman on board the *Maria*, under the command of Captain Gaskin. In her he continued all that year in the Baltic trade.