

A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

TO

SIBERIA, &c.

CHAP. I.

DEPARTURE FROM THE BAY OF AWATSCHA FOR THE
ISLAND OF UNALASCHKA. — DESCRIPTION OF THE
BAY OF BOWROWIA. — REMARKS ON THE ALEUTIANS.

A Favourable gale springing up on the 29th of May, we stood out of the bay Awatscha in a south-easterly direction. On the 10th we discovered a plank floating on the sea, that appeared to have been torn from some vessel. Agreeable to our instructions, we should have steered along the chain of Aleutian islands towards America, and taken a map of this coast; but a thick mist coming on immediately after our departure out of the bay, it was unanimously resolved not to lose our time in a minute survey of every island, but to keep in close to the south side of those that were less obscure, and bend our course directly to America.

On the 16th we were surrounded by a great quantity of floating logs of wood and sea-wort. Many sorts of marine birds in great abundance kept hovering around us, and one of them, of the duck species, even lit on our vessel. We were now in north latitude $50^{\circ} 39'$, and longitude $169^{\circ} 64'$ from Greenwich, not more than 180 Italian miles distant from the island of Atta. We usually calculated by Italian miles, 60 of which go to a degree.

Our people on setting out were all tolerably recovered from the scurvy, with which they had been generally afflicted during the winter, but now they felt an increasing debility as they advanced farther into the open sea. The want of proper diet likewise contributed to renew the disease which had been completely removed. Salt meat was almost our only food, having been unable to lay in any stock of fresh provisions at Kamschatka, where all sorts of animals, both tame and