

Kuriles, and examine more particularly the islands that lie nearest the northern coast of Japan, which are represented as of a considerable size, and independant of the Russian and Japanese governments. If so fortunate as to find in these any safe and commodious harbours, it was conceived they might be of importance, either as places of shelter for any future navigators, who may be employed in exploring the seas, or as the means of opening a commercial intercourse among the neighbouring dominions of the two empires. The next object was to survey the coast of the Japanese islands, and afterwards to make the coast of China as far to the Northward as possible, and to run along it to Macao.

This place being adopted, Captain King received orders from Captain Gore, in case of separation, to proceed to Macao; and at six o'clock in the evening of the 9th of October, as before observed, having cleared the entrance of Awatska Bay, they steered to the South, along the coast of Kamtschatka.

On the 12th they came in sight of Cape Lopatka, the Southermost extremity Kamtschatka, lying in lat. 51 deg. long. 156 deg. 45 min. At the same time, they saw the first of the Kurile Islands, called Shoomaska, and, on the 13th, the second, named Paramousir, which is the largest of the Kuriles under the dominions of the Russians. On the 14th and 15th, the wind blowing steadily and fresh from the Westward, they were obliged to stand to the Southward, and consequently prevented from seeing any more of the Kurile Islands.

This chain of Islands, running in a South West direction, from the southern promontory of Kamtschatska to Japan, extending from lat. 51 deg. to 45 min. is called the Kuriles, from the inhabitants of the neighbourhood