

THIRD SOUTHERN COURSE. 391

tufts; wild burnet, and a plant like moss, which sprung from the rocks. Seals, or sea-bears, were pretty numerous. Among them was a huge animal, of the same kind with the sea-lion described in Lord Anson's voyage; a midshipman shot it through the head, whilst it lay asleep. It was all over of a dark grey colour, with a slight olive cast, something like the seals in the northern hemisphere: it likewise resembled those animals in the most perfect shape of its fore-feet, and the want of external ears: its nose projected far beyond the mouth, and had a loose wrinkled skin; it was about 13 feet long. Here was found a flock of about 20 penguins, of a much greater size than any before seen, being 39 inches long, and weighing 40 pounds. The seals and penguins killed here were very acceptable food to the whole crew; for any kind of fresh meat was eagerly coveted. "For my own part," says captain Cook, "I was now, for the first time, heartily tired of salt meat of every kind; and though the flesh of the penguins could scarcely vie with bullock's liver, it being fresh was sufficient to make it go down^x." Even the climate of *Tierra del Fuego*, tho' lying more to the southward, is mild, with respect to that of *Georgia*; the difference in the thermometer being observed to be at least 10 degrees. Besides being uninhabitable, *South-Georgia* does not appear to contain a single article for which it might be visited occasionally by European ships^y. Not a river or stream of fresh water was seen on the whole coast^z.

Captain Cook left the southern part of this island on the 26th of January, and steered east south-east until he arrived in 60 deg. lat. further than which he did not intend to go, unless he observed some certain signs of meeting with land. These high southern latitudes, where

^u Forster II. 527, 528. ^x Cook II. 215. ^y Forster II. 533. ^z Cook II. 218.