

## INTRODUCTION.

And besides the number and choice of these marine drawings and descriptions, there is another very essential circumstance belonging to them, which much enhances their value ; and that is, the great accuracy they were drawn with. I shall express my opinion of them in this particular very imperfectly ; when I say, that they are not exceeded, and perhaps not equalled by any thing of this nature hitherto made public : For they were not copied from the works of others, or composed at home from imperfect accounts, given by incurious and unskilful observers, as hath been frequently the case in these matters ; but the greatest part of them were drawn on the spot with the utmost exactness, by the direction, and under the eye of Mr. *Anson* himself ; and where (as is the case in three or four of them) they have been done by less skilful hands, or were found in possession of the enemy, and consequently their justness could be less relied on, I have always taken care to apprize the reader of it, and to put him on his guard against giving entire credit to them ; although I doubt not, but these less authentic draughts, thus cautiously inserted, are to the full as correct as those, which are usually published on these occasions. For as actual surveys of roads and harbours, and nice and critical delineations of views of land, take up much time and attention, and require a good degree of skill both in planning and drawing ; those who are defective in industry and ability, supply these wants by bold conjectures, and fictitious descriptions ; and as they can be no otherwise confuted than by going on the spot, and running the risque of suffering by their misinformation, they have no apprehensions of being detected ; and therefore, when they