

couragement, in regard to promotion and rank, as the respective objects are fulfilled, is given to the commander and his followers. No expence has been spared towards procuring such an apparatus and instruments as are necessary for this expedition.

For the purpose also of elucidating the natural history of those distant regions, at present so imperfectly known, the commander is accompanied by Monsieur Patrin, an eminent French naturalist, some time resident at Irkutsk, who is furnished with such excellent instructions as are most calculated to forward the object of his mission.

Captain Billings set out from St. Peterburgh on this expedition in the latter end of 1785. He arrived at Irkutsk in March, 1786; and at Okotsk in July of the same year, from whence he proposed instantly to take his departure for the Kovyra. It is not indeed improbable, that, before the present period, he may have ascertained the longitude and latitude of the mouth of the Kovyra; and thus have determined one important fact, relative to the precise distance between the Kovyra and Cape North. The length of