

TALES OF THE SEA.

Leaves from the Diary of a Midshipman.

INTRODUCTION.

It was the most pressing portion of my father's advice to me, on being first "launched on the wide world of waters," to "keep a journal"—if the day of the month only, "to note it," and "never to let it fall into arrears." I have often, very often, heard him say "he would give worlds," anything he possessed, if he had written a diary when young, which would have afforded him many a pleasant hour of a wintry evening to have retraced "byegone scenes," and "fought his old battles o'er again."

"My boy," says he (a few hours before our first parting), "I'll give you a five pound note* if you keep a journal while you're at sea." I have done so, but need I inform my readers that I have not yet the "five pounds"! but I have a far greater reward, the satisfaction of having by my side, while I am endeavouring to place before my readers the passing incidents of ten years in a midshipman's berth (which embrace a voyage

* An inducement to one on £13 a year.