

KOTZEBUE'S

VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD.

JANUARY 22d, 1815.—THIS afternoon, at three o'clock, I bade farewell to my native town, REVAL, and proceeded on my journey to Abo, at the head of my crew, consisting of Lieut. KORDINKOFF and twenty sailors. I had been permitted by government to pick out the best men, as more volunteers than I wanted offered to venture everything with me. The men were in excellent spirits, singing and playing till we arrived at the halting-place.

On the 31st of January we arrived at St. Petersburg, when I gave my men some days' rest. Here Lieut. Schischmaref, whom I had selected for this expedition, joined us; and here I paid my respects to the patron of the undertaking, COUNT RUMANZOFF, who treated me with kindness and distinction, which increased my courage against all impending difficulties.

On the 17th of February we left St. Petersburg, and, after a severe march, arrived in Abo on the 19th. Here I, as well as my officers and poor sailors, were quartered in some small decayed huts, where there had been no fire during the whole winter, and which seemed to have been used for fowl-roosts. In vain I expostulated with our landlord; he shrugged up his shoulders, saying, "For Russians, they are good enough;" and it was not till some weeks after that we obtained better quarters.

Here our ship, named *Rurick*, was building; and, till the 11th of May, we had nothing to do but to inspect the progress of the work. On that day she was launched, after having been consecrated by a Russian clergyman. The war-flag was then dipped into the water, under the sound of kettle-drums and trumpets, and the shouts of thousands. This flag, I must here observe, the emperor had granted me on my representing that a voyage of discovery under the merchant's flag might be exposed to inconveniences and even impediments.