

NEW BOOKS.

A Voyage round the World, but more particularly to the North-West Coast of America, performed in the Years 1785, 1786, 1787, and 1788, in the King George and Queen Charlotte, Captains Portlock and Dixon; embellished with twenty Copper Plates. By Captain Nathaniel Portlock. Stookdale, 1789. Quarto.

WE have already had occasion to mention the object and destination of this voyage, in reviewing the account of it published by Captain Dixon. Capt. Portlock informs us, that in May, 1785, Richard Cadman Etches and other traders, entered into a commercial partnership, under the title of *The King George's Scurd Company*, for the purpose of carrying on a fur trade from the Western coast of America to China. With this view, they obtained a licence from the South Sea Company; and another from the East India Company, the latter of whom engaged at the same time, to give them a freight of teas from Canton. The company having purchased a ship of 320, and a snow of 200 tons burthen, as being best fitted for such a voyage they appointed Captain Portlock commander of the former, as well as of the expedition; and Captain Dixon of the smaller. As both these gentlemen had accompanied Captain Cook in his last voyage into the Pacific Ocean, they were deemed well qualified to carry into execution a plan, which required great nautical knowledge and great experience. Inferior officers of competent talents were at the same time appointed; and that the voyage might embrace other objects besides the profits of traffic, or the advantages of discovery, several gentlemen's sons who had shewn an inclination for a sea-faring life, were put under Captain Portlock's care, to be initiated in the knowledge of marine affairs. He at the same time engaged William Philpot Evans, and Joseph Woodcock, two of the pupils of Mr. Wales, master of the mathematical school in Christ's Hospital, to assist in teaching the boys the rudiments of navigation, and to make drawings of remarkable lands, and of other objects.

Captain Portlock sailed from Deptford in the month of August, 1785, and after touching at Guernsey, St. Jago, and Falkland's Islands, doubled Cape Horn, and arrived at Karakakooa Bay, in Owhyhee, one of the Sandwich Isles, on the 26th of February, 1786. Soon after the ships had come to anchor, they were surrounded by an amazing number of the natives, both in canoes and in the water, who became so exceedingly troublesome, crawling up the cable and the ship's sides, that most of the

seamen were employed in keeping the vessel clear, and it was not without some difficulty that they could get moored. By day light next morning, they were visited by a vast number of the natives, but no Chief was to be seen among them, who had sufficient power to keep them in order. They therefore became so daring and insolent, that Captain Portlock was under the necessity of placing centinels, with cutlasses, to prevent them from boarding the vessels. This unexpected reception convinced him that nothing could, with safety, be done on shore, without the protection of a strong guard; and taking such a step might, perhaps, have irritated the natives. On this account he left Karakakooa Bay as soon as possible, and proceeded to Woahoo, another of the Sandwich Isles, which Captain Portlock considers as the most important of the whole.

'Before I quit Woahoo, says he, let me observe, that I think it the finest island in the group, and most capable of being turned to advantage, were it settled by Europeans, than any of the rest, there being scarcely a spot which does not appear fertile. Here we found a great number of warriors and warlike instruments. Many of the warriors were tattooed in a manner totally different from any I ever took notice of amongst the Sandwich Islands; their faces were tattooed so as to appear quite black, besides great part of the body being tattooed in a variety of forms.

'The greatest part of the daggers left by us at these islands, during our last voyage, at present seem to centre here; for we scarcely ever saw a large canoe that the people in her had not one a-piece, and at Owhyhee I do not remember seeing more than two or three.

'As they are very dangerous and destructive weapons, I did not suffer any to be made in either ship, though strongly importuned to it by many of the natives. Indeed I always thought it, the last voyage, a very imprudent action to furnish the Indians with weapons which, at one time or other, might be turned against ourselves. And my suspicions were but too well founded, for with one of the daggers given by us to the natives of Owhyhee my much lamented commander, Captain Cook, was killed;