

erected a pillar, containing the fine character of our great navigator that is given at the end of the Introduction of the last Voyage, and the principal part of which has been inserted in the present work. This character was drawn up by a most respectable gentleman, who has long been at the head of the naval profession, the honourable admiral Forbes, admiral of the fleet, and general of marines ; to whom Captain Cook was only known by his eminent merit and his extraordinary actions.

Amidst the numerous testimonials of regard that have been paid to Captain Cook's merits and memory, the important object of providing for his family hath not been forgotten. Soon after the intelligence arrived of his unfortunate decease, this matter was taken up by the Lords of the Admiralty, with a zeal and an effect, which the following authentic document will fully display.

" At the Court of St. James, the
2d of February, 1780.

" (L. S.)

Present: " The KING'S Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

" Whereas there was this day read, at the Board a memorial from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, dated the 27th of last month, in the words following : viz.

" " Having received an authentic account of the death of that great navigator Captain James Cook, who has had the honour of being employed by Your Majesty, in three different voyages, for the discovery of unknown countries, in the most distant parts of the globe ; we think it our duty humbly to represent to your Majesty, that this meritorious officer, after having received from Your Majesty's gracious benevolence, as a reward for his public services in two successive circumnavigations, a comfortable and honourable retreat, where he might have lived many years to