

# P R E F A C E.

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labours: to have made a *history* of the *Southern Discoveries*, would not have been sufficient; at the same time the narratives are not circumstantial enough for a work of composition; perhaps, indeed no single voyage can give authentic memorials for such a work, without filling up by a web of conjecture what is wanting in the original.

By a free translation opinions and deductions might have been formed without foundation in the original. There is no room for a *reproach of failure in not effecting* what is *not attempted*. This is not meant as a work of elocution, or literary composition, but a collection of instructing facts: although I am convinced an endeavour to have modelled this work as much as was consistent with the view of preserving the expression of the original, would have failed in satisfying the reader of nice ears: the attempt must have employed much more time than I can bestow on a subject in which I cannot be personally engaged, as I was *not bred up in the royal navy*; and if I ever am a competitor for literary fame, I shall take up the pen on a topic more *generally* engaging: though in such an age as this, there cannot fail of being *some*, to whom information, in *any dress*, will be acceptable. I am not an *author by profession*, and neither write for my *daily bread*, nor from *lucrative views*, but from the desire, which every man ought to feel, of being useful to society, and to let the public share in his labours and researches.

I have been induced to publish the Spanish voyages before the voyages made by the Dutch, although these voyages are ready for the press; because I shall be glad to obtain some further elucidation on this interesting subject;