

INTRODUCTION.

These considerations have occasioned the publication of the ensuing work ; which, in gratifying the inquisitive turn of mankind, and contributing to the safety and success of future navigators, and to the extension of our commerce and power, may doubtless vie with any narration of this kind hitherto made public : Since the circumstances of this undertaking already known to the world, may be supposed to have strongly excited the general curiosity ; for whether we consider the force of the squadron sent on this service, or the diversified distresses that each single ship was separately involved in, or the uncommon instances of various fortune, which attended the whole enterprize ; each part, I conceive, must, from its rude well-known outlines, appear worthy of a compleater and more finished delineation : And if this be allowed with respect to the narrative part of the work, there can be no doubt about the more useful and instructive parts, which are almost every where interwoven with it ; for I can venture to affirm, without fear of being contradicted on a comparison, that no voyage I have yet seen, furnishes such a number of views of land, soundings, draughts of roads and ports, charts, and other materials, for the improvement of geography and navigation, as are referred to in the ensuing volume ; which are of the more importance too, as the greatest part of them relate to such Islands or Coasts, as have been hitherto not at all or erroneously described, and where the want of sufficient and authentic information might occasion future enterprizes to prove abortive, perhaps with the destruction of the men and vessels employed therein.

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