

INTRODUCTION.

on examination, it will be discovered, that in some we are mistaken, and others we had totally overlooked : But he that is employed in drawing what he sees, is at the same time employed in rectifying this inattention ; for by confronting his ideas copied on the paper, with the object he intends to represent, he finds in what manner he has been deceived in its appearance, and hence he in time acquires the habit of observing much more at one view, and retains what he sees with more correctness than he could ever have done, without his practice and proficiency in drawing.

If what has been said merits the attention of Travellers of all sorts, it is, I think, more particularly applicable to the Gentlemen of the Navy ; since, without drawing and planning, neither Charts nor views of lands can be taken ; and without these it is sufficiently evident, that navigation is at a full stand. It is doubtless from a persuasion of a utility of these qualifications, that his Majesty has established a drawing master at *Portsmouth* for the instruction of those, who are presumed to be hereafter intrusted with the Command of his Royal Navy : And though some have been so far misled, as to suppose that the perfection of Sea-Officers consisted in a turn of mind and temper resembling the boisterous element they had to deal with, and have condemned all literature and science as effeminate, and derogatory to that ferocity, which they would falsely persuade us, was the most unerring characteristic of courage : Yet it is to be hoped, that such absurdities as these have at no time been authorised by the Public opinion, and that the belief of them daily diminishes. If those who adhere to these mischievous positions were capable of being influenced by reason, or swayed by example, I should think it sufficient for their conviction to observe, that the most valuable drawings referred to in the following work, though done with such a degree of skill, that even professed artists can with difficulty imitate them, were taken by Mr. *Piercy Brett*, one of Mr. *Anson's* Lieutenants, and since Captain of the *Lion* man of war, who, in his memorable engagement with the *Elizabeth* (for the importance of the service, or the resolution with which it was conducted, inferior to none this age has seen) has given ample proof that