

But notwithstanding the objections of interest, and the evils of malice, the Editor feels it a duty, which he owes to the independent candour and integrity of some few of the Southern Pilots, to remark, that their friendly assistance and information have largely contributed to the present highly improved state of his *COAST PILOT*. It is, however, unnecessary minutely to follow, step by step, the various and indefatigable efforts, which for ten years have been exerted in all the principal cities of America, to render this work as correct in its execution as it was extensive in the purposes it contemplated. Every source of marine intelligence which our country affords, and which the narrow selfishness of a bigotted profession had not rendered inaccessible, has been resorted to by epistolary correspondence, expensive journeys, and unwearied application. As the fruit of his labours, it is now the happiness of the Editor to present to the maritime and commercial public the fifth edition of the *AMERICAN COAST PILOT*, exhibiting a perfectly accurate compendium of the American Coast Navigation, and combining all the information on this subject, which skilful experience and modern discovery have collected.

The general accuracy of the last edition, as tested by the careful revision of the most skilful and scientific navigators, and the repeated experience of masters and mariners, who have had occasion to follow its directions, left but few errors to be corrected in the present volume. The matter contained from the fifteenth to the twenty-ninth page of this edition, is entirely new, and, combined with that previously published, exhibits a complete view of the coast of Labrador and Newfoundland. This part of our work derives a new interest from the great increase of the American Fishing trade in that quarter; a trade, which, although in its infancy, has already become an important source of wealth to our citizens, and of revenue to our government. The information given on this subject may be relied on as drawn from the most authentic sources. The whole coast is described with the most elaborate precision; and the bearings, distances, and directions for navigating every part of it, including all the bays, harbours, straits and passages which the adventurous mariner may have occasion to visit, in any voyage, will be found noticed with accuracy. The difficulty of procuring these valuable additions to the work, induced the Editor to be the more careful that they should hereafter need as little amendment as possible. Every aid which the importance of the subject could suggest, has been procured to divest it of every species of error. Among other additions made in this work we ought to mention that of *Directions for the Mississippi*; improvements highly important are also contained in the plans of the principal harbours in the United States. To those contained in the last edition of this work are now added plans of *Long Island Sound* and *Cape Poge*; and the Editor is highly gratified, in being able, after much embarrassment on the subject, to present to the public an entire set of plans and charts, newly engraven, under his own immediate direction, and in a style rarely equalled in this country. These have been taken from actual surveys. The rocks, shoals, flats, and every minutia which can be serviceable to the mariner, are faithfully and distinctly laid down, and will be found strictly to compare with the printed directions.

In this edition the list of *Impost Duties*, and the forms of papers required from merchants and mariners in the Custom-House, have been thoroughly and carefully revised, and conformed to the latest practice and establishment. Other forms, important to seamen, have been annexed. Laws of the United States, passed since the last edition was published, are also inserted in this work. Several State laws, for the government of masters and seamen, which are included in this volume, renders it of high importance to the merchant, commander and seaman.

With such pretensions to public patronage, the Editor is not reluctant in meeting the public scrutiny. The merits of his work are grounded on the best science in the country, and every exertion of long and laborious industry has been employed in executing its pages with the strictest accuracy and fidelity, that were due to its high promise of usefulness and emolument.

EDMUND M. BLUNT.

Newburyport (Mass.) October, 1806.