

THIRD VOYAGE
OF
CAPTAIN JAMES COOK,
FOR MAKING DISCOVERIES
IN THE
NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.

IN the preceding voyage, the question respecting the existence of a southern continent was fully determined; but the practicability of a northern passage to the Pacific Ocean was still an object of sufficient importance to excite a spirit of investigation.

It had long been a favourite scheme with the most celebrated navigators, to discover a shorter and more commodious course to the oriental regions, than by the Cape of Good Hope. This had been attempted, as has been seen in the former volumes of this work, in various directions; but the completion of this favourite object was as distant as ever.

To settle this point too, of so much importance to navigation and geography, was reserved for the glory of the present reign. For the conduct of such an enterprise, it was evident, that

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