

which are generally regular betwixt the 30th and 40th degrees. This long continuance in a ship at sea produces a scurvy, which sweeps away great numbers of the people on board. But says he, were they to stand northward to the 40th or 45th degree, they would be delivered from the scurvy, the want of water and of harbours, which bring such extreme sufferings among them, only for the inconveniency of a rougher sea and harder gales. To support this opinion, Mr. Walter advances an instance, though in truth, instead of favouring his assertion, any commander of a Philippine ship who should follow his opinion, would find the great inconveniency of it. He says that a French ship in 1721, by pursuing the course which he delineates came from China to Valle de Nanderas on the coast of Mexico in less than fifty days: but he adds, that in that short space of time the scurvy made such a havock on board, that she had only five or six remaining alive. If this unfortunate ship did not, as it appears, put in any where, I am not at all surpris'd at that calamity, as she had stood very far to the northward. We know from experience with what violence the scurvy rages in the higher latitudes: we read of it with pity in the narratives of the voyages from our seas to the N. to Hudson's bay, Baffin's bay and others.