

The practicability of a Passage to the East Indies by the North Pole, has engaged the attention of the most celebrated Navigators from a very early period as will be seen from the following Sketchs:—

The first attempt on record was made in the Year 1497 by Giovanni Caboto, a Venetian, who had received a Commission from Henry VII in 1495. In this Voyage he discovered Newfoundland. —

1500. Corte de Real, a Portuguese Captain, in search of a NW Passage, discovered Labradore. —

1564. One of the Ships belonging to the King of Denmark, that had wintered in Iceland was sent by the Governor in the North; they were prevented proceeding far on account of the Ice...

1576. — Martin Probisher in three Voyages, made several discoveries 1577 of Bays, Straits, Islands, and Capes. — The first land he ap-

1578. — proached on the Coast, was a Cape, which he called Queen Elizabeth Foreland. — In coasting Northward he discovered the Strait which bears his name. — He prosecuted his search for a Passage into the Western Ocean, till he was prevented by Ice, and then returned to England. —

1585. — John Davies, an experienced Navigator, visited the Western

1586 Coast of Greenland, and explored the narrow Sea called Davis's

1587 Strait. — On another Voyage he proceeded as far North as the Island of Disko, and the opposite Shores of Greenland which he named London Coast. — He also discovered Cumberland Strait and upon the whole, the three Voyages of this Navigator are of great consequence. — His furthest point of discovery appears to have been Sanderson's Hope, Lat: 72° whence turning to the West he was impeded by Fields of Ice. —

1593. — Captain Weymouth sailed from England on the 2^d May with.