

To say much about provisions in healthy climates and roomy ships, must be deemed superfluous. Victualling is now so well understood, that bad provisions are not received on board private vessels, but by neglect of duty: and where abundant space is not taken up with guns and ammunition, there must be in ships fitted out for discoveries, room enough for water, which keeps better in those seas than in others, and can occasionally be replaced by ice when met with, as many Navigators beside Captain Phipps report has been usefully done.

If it be certain that Captain *Cook*, conveying *Omiab* home to *Otabeite*, intends to explore the West coast of America, up into the Strait leading to the North Sea, an accurate description of that part will certainly be obtained.—If, as others surmise, some ships are to be sent from Europe to Canton, thence to attempt the passage upward, perhaps to 68 degr. or thro' the Straits of *Behring*; it is apprehended an undertaking of that kind would not answer the expected end.—To multiply hazards by the wear, tear, and great expence of a voyage to China, there, perhaps, to complete a crew, renew ships stores, careen bottoms, in order to begin discoveries, by the South and West of Japan, up to the North, is at a dear rate to procure some information, only to be had at a season when prejudice and accident will strongly operate against zealous endeavours; and, after all, to have as long a voyage home to Europe, whilst no approach to the Pole, no shortening stretch through the Polar Seas to the North Cape of Europe, forms a part of the design; must appear upon the whole a very unadvisable enterprize.

Rational plans well conducted bear the best prospect of success, and have with them the chance of fortunate events. The experience of an able Navigator, and the knowledge of a Man