

ous and useful employment;—if there be any thing capable of effecting these valuable purposes, it is certainly the perusal of travels in which such care is taken; both with the matter and the manner, as to render them best calculated to engage the attention of youth.

This is my plan; and this book is written as introductory to it.

Hence my reason will be apparent, for giving these histories in the form of dialogues, and also why, at the same time, the explanatory conversations occur in this work not so often as in *ROBINSON CRUSOE*. In relating these tales, to the children committed to my care, I was interrupted much seldomer than before, as they found it less necessary to make enquiries.

As the best resources for the history related in this work are so generally known, I think it unnecessary to specify them here. That I have not blindly or carelessly collected my information, but, on the contrary,
have