

A. D.

1719.

king an opportunity to dispute with me the command of the ship, telling me upon deck, and before most of the ship's company, that he had private orders from one of the chief of the Gentlemen Adventurers, and captain Clipperton, to take the charge of the the ship upon himself. I asked him if he had a private commission too? but to this he returned nothing but expressions of contempt for the commission, treating it as what was but of little value or consequence, alledging it was but just he should have the command, because he was the only person that had any knowledge of the South Seas, whither we were going. How far this might have prevailed amongst the people who had begun one mutiny by themselves, and were probably ripe for another, especially when headed by what they might think so considerable an officer, I cannot say; had not his unseamanlike behaviour, in the late storm, rendered him ridiculous to them, and apparently unfit for such a charge.

It may be imagined I was under no small uneasiness when I reflected on my ill success hitherto; to have been separated from captain Clipperton as before mentioned, and immediately after that, to find myself with a ship's company, I could not well expect any thing