

P R E F A C E.

It had formerly been my intention to annex an Account of the Maritime Discoveries of the Russians as a Supplement to my History of South Sea Discoveries ; but a small advance showed the difficulty of such a work, and the imperfections to which it must be subject, if undertaken without a knowledge of the Russian language ; the want of which limited the materials I was able to consult, to translations, and to works composed in other languages. Under such a disadvantage, I relinquished the design of making the Russian discoveries an appendage to other voyages, and with the less reluctance, as they are perfectly distinct