

lead to a harvest of intellectual and moral improvement, and the consequent increase of happiness to those who are thus blessed.

The present period seems peculiarly favourable for such an undertaking ; inasmuch as the shores and islands of the Eastern hemisphere, in the space lying between China and South America, including the coasts of Corea, Formosa, Japan, Borneo, Celebes, the Moluccas, the Philippines, the Kurile Archipelago, and the countless islands in the Pacific Ocean, are the parts of the globe least accurately known in every sense ; and these are now likely soon to become as accessible to English ships, as they have for a long time been to foreign vessels only : it being already understood that the East India Company will be willing to admit of English ships being employed as American and other foreign vessels now are, in the conveyance of exports from this country to every part of the Eastern seas, reserving to themselves the import of particular articles only ; and it being matter of still greater certainty, that supposing no change whatever to take place in this respect they would readily grant their license or permission to any ship, proceeding on a publicly avowed voyage of discovery and improvement like this.

The want of an accurate knowledge of distant countries when they are first opened to new intercourse, has been productive of infinite loss and misery, by the evil of overtrading, arising from the natural anxiety of all adventurers to be first in the market, and to be provided with a full supply of every thing needed ; but not knowing what is actually required, either in quantity or description, every thing is taken,—a glut ensues,—and more than half the exports are lost or destroyed.

Such accurate knowledge cannot be speedily obtained, except by a voyage undertaken for that express object, and with adequate preparation for effecting it on a systematic and complete plan.

The first requisite for this purpose is, that a ship of sufficient size and competent equipments should be provided by the British public, fitted, manned, and ready for sea ; combining perhaps the use of steam for occasional application in currents and calms, with the safety tubes of Mr. Watson as a security from foundering ; and such other modern improvements as may tend to increase the speed, safety, and perfect accomplishment of the voyage.

The ship and her equipments being given as a donation to this great object, no further aid on the part of the public will be needed ; as the ordinary operations of trading, in the purchase and sale of commodities, and in the conveyance of goods and passengers from place to place, on the route, will defray all the subsequent charges of the voyage ; and to prevent all misconception on this subject, it is particularly requested to be observed that this is not intended as a joint-stock or trading company, but a public subscription for a great public undertaking, without further risk or concern on the part of the subscribers.

The objects that I pledge myself to keep constantly in view, during the whole of this expedition, and the benefits I may hope to effect by it, of a public and general nature, will be the following :—

I. To add to the existing stock of knowledge every new fact that can be collected respecting the geography and hydrography of the coasts and islands visited ; and to make the most ample researches that can be effected respecting the statistics, productions, manners, and wants, of every particular place ; as well as to collect specimens of whatever may be found to deserve preservation, in natural history, botany, and mineralogy, as well as of the artificial products and native wares, where any such exist.

II. To introduce into all the ports visited, specimens in small quantities, but in infinite variety, of all the various descriptions of goods, manufactured