

for the purpose of making discoveries of countries hitherto unknown, within the high southern latitudes, convenient for navigation, and in climates adapted to the production of commodities useful in commerce, particularly in the Atlantic Ocean, between the Cape of Good Hope, and the Straits of Magellan. The instructions from the Admiralty-board to the commodore, likewise directed him to make an accurate survey of Pepy's Island, and those which had been named by Sir John Narborough, Faulkland's Islands, in honour of lord Faulkland; which, though first discovered, and since visited by British navigators, had never been sufficiently examined, so as that an accurate judgement might be formed of their coasts, natives, and productions. Great care was taken, and extraordinary precautions used in preparing for this voyage. The bottom of the Dolphin was sheathed with copper; as were likewise the braces and pintles for the use of the rudder, which was the first experiment of the kind, that had ever been made on any vessel. On the 14th of May, being ready for sea, she left the dock, when we received a number of men from the old hulks, which had been for some time used to receive on board materials for the use of the ship. The next day we got in our masts, and with all expedition possible, began to put up the rigging; the greatest part of the hands being now, from the time of her leaving the dock, principally employed in receiving the stores, and in shipping the ablest seamen, till the 9th of June, when we slipped our mooring, and sailed for Long Reach, where we received our guns, and were joined by our intended consort, the Tamar frigate.

On the 14th, we received on board a pilot for the Downs, and at six o'clock, A. M. weighed anchor with little wind, and with our boats a-head; our draught of water forward being then 15 feet six inches, and abaft 14 feet six inches. At seven o'clock the Dolphin striking the bottom, swung round; however, the ground being very muddy, it soon gave way, and this accident was attended with no other consequence, than her lying