

ticularly, remarks are made, anecdotes are told, customs are described, and principles and traits of character among the natives are brought to light, which, I trust, my readers will find worthy of their attention.

Having kept journals of my voyages and travels, which were made at the time minute and full upon whatever was extraordinary, and being satisfied that the publication of what I had seen and experienced would be useful, especially to seamen, I also desired to employ and amuse my mind in this work, and to spend, in a rational and profitable manner, a number of months which might otherwise have been left a prey to melancholy and painful meditations. I esteem it an occasion of peculiar gratitude to Providence when a man, depressed in his spirits, can fall upon a mode of beguiling his sadness which is equally reasonable and useful in regard to the community, and at the same time agreeable and reputable in regard to himself.

My friends too were solicitous that I should draw up this narrative, and give it to the press. It is hoped that their partiality will not be greatly mortified by the compliance with their advice, and the respect to their opinions, which I have here shown. No seaman from the United States has enjoyed the same opportunity for observation and discovery in the Eastern Ocean, which was afforded to me by the voyage I made with commodore McClure. My remarks upon the navigation along the coast of New Holland, Van Dieman's Land, New Zealand, and round Cape Horn, will also be new to my readers, and I am confident, of great real value. Although I have to regret that my book is not better, I trust that my countrymen will find it containing information and exhibiting a spirit, of which, notwithstanding its faults, they need not be ashamed. There are many suggestions made in it on the various subjects connected with ship building, with practical navigation, with the management of crews, with the conduct of seamen on shore and in port, and with the duties of owners and masters, which I am confident are deserving of the notice, recollection, and attention of persons employed in these departments of life. It was also thought expedient to introduce such information concerning the places which I visited, as might render the book interesting and instructive to landsmen, and as should give me an opportunity to offer my sentiments, as they occurred, upon various topics in morals, condition, and character.

In undertaking this work, I was aware of the difficulties which I should have to encounter, in consequence of my want of an early and academic education, although I have always seized every possible opportunity during my whole life for the improvement of my mind in the knowledge of useful literature and those sciences that are immediately connected with the pursuits to which I have been professionally devoted. My efforts have not been without success; and I have been often employed in giving instructions to midshipmen, other subordinate officers, and seamen, in mathematics, astronomy, and navigation.—These difficulties therefore were not greater in regard to me than they have been in regard to many