

**CRUISE OF THE FRIGATE
COLUMBIA AROUND THE
WORLD, UNDER THE COMMAND
OF COMMODORE GEORGE C.
READ, IN 1838, 1839, AND 1840**

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Cruise of the frigate Columbia around the world, under the command of Commodore George C. Read, in 1838, 1839, and 1840 by William Meacham Murrell

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WILLIAM MEACHAM MURRELL

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FRIGATE COLUMBIA

AROUND THE WORLD;

UNDER THE COMMAND OF

COMMODORE GEORGE C. READ,

IN

1838, 1839, AND 1840.

BY WILLIAM MEACHAM MURRELL,

ONE OF THE CREW.

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P R E F A C E .

“Nothing extenuate, nor set down
Aught in malice.”

SHAKSPEARE.

THE author, in presuming to undertake the following work, is perfectly aware of the various difficulties he has to encounter, and by which he is surrounded. He therefore throws himself upon the kind indulgence of his readers, trusting that this, his humble attempt, may stand the test of their judgment.

To make it comprehensive as possible, and at the same time entertaining, he

will endeavor to describe the situations of the various ports touched at during the cruise, or islands visited, with the customs and manners of their inhabitants.

It is absolutely necessary for him to bespeak the kind feeling of the more learned part of his readers, and a candid perusal of this journal, as it is the first humble production of one unused to literary pursuits or finely turned expressions.

He therefore begs they will not examine it with too critical an eye, sincerely hoping that his sole object may succeed, — that of contributing to the amusement and information of those who may peruse it; for even remote and minute events are frequently invested with an interest that is highly gratifying to that curios-

ity of which the human mind is naturally possessed.

“Wandering from clime to clime, I observant stray,
To note their manners and their states survey.”

TO MY SHIPMATES.

According to your request I have had this journal printed. You all know what it is, — a plain and succinct account of our cruise, with short descriptions of the places we have visited. I am told there may be some who will carp and cavil at my little work. Well, let them. You and I will perhaps be far away on the ocean, so that we shall not hear it; but to such persons I quote the following lines:

“Cease, you jabbering, uncouth railer;
List, my shipmates, all to *me*;
Messmates, hear a brother sailor
Tell of past scenes ’twixt you and me.

Those persons on shore, who purchase a copy of it, will be friendly to blue jackets, and of course they won't expect it to be written according to scholastic rules, but a plain sailor's story, told in a sailor's style.

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