

**THE VOYAGE OF
NEARCHUS, AND
THE PERIPLUS OF
THE ERYTHREAN SEA**

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The Voyage of Nearchus, and the Periplus of the Erythrean Sea by William Vincent

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WILLIAM VINCENT

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NEARCHUS, AND
THE PERIPLUS OF
THE ERYTHREAN SEA**

THE
VOYAGE OF NEARCHUS,
AND
THE PERIPLUS
OF
THE ERYTHREAN SEA,

Translated from the Greek

BY
WILLIAM VINCENT, D.D.

DEAN OF WESTMINSTER.

OXFORD,

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS, FOR THE AUTHOR;

AND SOLD BY MESSRS. CADELL AND DAVIES IN THE STRAND, LONDON.

1809.



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TO
THE REV. ROBERT NARES, A. M.
ARCHDEACON OF STAFFORD,
AND
CANON RESIDENTIARY OF LITCHFIELD.

DEAR SIR,

IF Patronage has a demand upon the gratitude of an author, Friendship has a claim of equal validity, which the ungenerous alone will refuse to acknowledge. But an uninterrupted friendship of forty years continuance imposes obligations of superior importance: it confers advice on the one part, and attention on the other, as reciprocal duties, and interchangeable according to the exigencies which may occur.

I had concluded my Commentary on Ancient Commerce, I had relinquished my pursuits connected with the subject, and I had promised to intrude no more upon the indulgence of the public: but you have constantly maintained, that the Commentary, without the Originals, was incomplete; and that the Original in one instance was either not procurable, or, if procured, that the value was inadequate to the price.

In deference therefore to your judgment, I have proceeded to the execution of your plan; and I submit the result of my labour, not without hesitation, to the tribunal of the Public. Profitable it cannot be; and credit, if credit should accrue, I shall consider as derived from suggestions originating in the partiality of a friend: but in no case shall the failure of my hopes diminish the regard and esteem which I owe you for the sincerity of your advice, or the constancy of your attachment. Impressed with these sentiments, I subscribe myself

Your faithful friend and servant,

WILLIAM VINCENT.

July 1, 1809.

P R E F A C E.

ALL the editions of the *Periplus* of the Erythrean Sea are now so scarce, that a single copy is seldom to be met with in the most extensive catalogues. This has been the principal inducement for undertaking the following publication.

A second object was, to enable every class of readers to compare the contents of both the originals with the Commentary already published, and to judge whether the deductions were correct, or the conclusions justifiable.

To effect this purpose, the translations are given in a style of language suitable to the narrative of a navigator and a merchant: all embellishment therefore, or curiosity of expression, are disclaimed. But if I have failed in giving the genuine sense of the originals, or in preserving the purity of the English idiom, it is but lost labour after all.

The version is not literal, neither (if executed according to its intention) will it be thought diffuse. To compress is more desirable than to dilate; but circumlocution is preferable to obscurity.

The language of the *Periplus*, more especially, is so abrupt and concise, that without the aid of insertions, in some instances, the sentence would be incomplete; and in others, unless some liberty