

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE MOST
REMARKABLE VOYAGES, FROM
THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA,
BY COLUMBUS, TO THE PRESENT
TIME, VOL. I**

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An account of the most remarkable voyages, from the discovery of America, by Columbus, to the present time, Vol. I by Anonymous

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MDCCCXXXI.

1831

TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY
FOR THE
DIFFUSION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE,

This Work

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THE PUBLISHERS.

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A 25

P R E F A C E.

A COMPENDIOUS history of the principal voyages which have contributed so essentially to the advancement both of geographical and astronomical knowledge, arranged in such a manner, as to introduce the juvenile reader to a sufficient acquaintance with the subject, to induce him, when arrived at maturer years, to peruse with advantage the more voluminous narratives which will supply full and minute details of the adventures

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and enterprises of those to whose spirit, intelligence, and research, science and commerce are both so deeply indebted, has hitherto been wanting among the works that have for their object the initiation of young persons, who are presumed to have mastered the ordinary elementary branches of education, into the more extended fields of practical information.

The present volume does not profess to comprise any but the most important and interesting voyages; and of these an outline is all that can be given, within the limits prescribed to the Editor. Care has, however, been taken to make this outline sufficiently comprehensive to familiarise the reader with the names and characters of the most eminent navigators, and the objects of their researches, as

well as how far those objects have been accomplished, and others, not originally contemplated, fortunately attained.

It being our avowed purpose to consider more what may contribute to useful instruction, than to mere amusement, we have not studied to impart to this volume much of a biographical character. We have been more anxious to embody discoveries, than to narrate adventures ; the latter being frequently calculated to contribute to a love of romantic entertainment, rather than to imbue the mind with solid and valuable knowledge. Those portions of the accounts given by early voyagers, which have subsequently been demonstrated to be decidedly fabulous and erroneous, have been entirely omitted ; and where there appears reason to suspect exag-

geration or misrepresentation, the reader is cautioned against giving implicit credit to any thing that seems to rest upon doubtful authority. The manner in which the different voyages are classified, it will be perceived, has in view the avoiding repetitions which must inevitably occur where the same scenes and places are concerned, and the introduction of which, in a work of this description, would be useless and almost impracticable.

INTRODUCTION.

It is in modern times alone that we must begin to look for voyages of any extent or magnitude. The navigation of the antients was limited to a few inland seas; or, at most, to venturing a short distance from land upon the ocean. It is difficult to avoid smiling, when we find the great Greek Poet speaking of the Mediterranean, which we are accustomed to consider little more than a large gulph, as a vast and almost boundless expanse of water, and Horace representing the ocean, instead of being designed for a medium of communication between the inhabitants of different parts of the earth, as an insurmountable barrier interposed by Providence expressly for the purpose of dividing them from one another, and which it was an impious and presumptuous action on the part of man to attempt to violate. The necessary consequence of their narrow range upon the seas was to render the geographical knowledge possessed by the nations of antiquity extremely deficient. With Europe, except the extreme northern parts, they were tol-