

“ and melting them down, as well as the manner of killing seals,
 “ and sea lions, on the Faulkland islands; where, if your vessel
 “ be absent two seasons, he will have no objection to remain
 “ one winter; and I come from him to propose his going out as
 “ a passenger in one of them; he will pay any thing you choose
 “ to demand for his possessing half the cabin; and taking with
 “ him his books, he will have nothing to do with the ship,
 “ where he will never be in the way, but, being a bit of a sea-
 “ man himself, he may sometimes be of use.”—“ Sir,” he
 replied, “ we never take any such persons, I cannot therefore
 “ comply with your request; he must be a very odd young man,
 “ Sir.”—“ Yes, Sir,” said I, “ he is an odd fish.”

My intentions being frustrated here; which probably might not have been the case, had I been a little more explicit; I was next divided between three subjects that occupied my attention.

The first was to endeavour to reach the North Pole; to this I was induced by reading a paper of the Honourable Daines Barrington, on the probability of its being practicable; this, though requiring perseverance, would not require much time, as, at the expiration of the first, second, or third summer, if not accomplished, it would be given up.

The next was to traverse Africa from the Cape of Good Hope, north; or from the Gambia, east. But this required, at least, three years preparation, and five more, in all probability, for its accomplishment. And the third was to coast the world.—This last I conceived might be usefully done in about twenty years.

I had seen the Dutch armament of 1787, the Spanish armament of 1790, and the Russian armament of 1791, terminate