THE KING.

While we contemplate the maritime power of Great Britain, raised under the auspices of Your Majesty to a preeminence unexampled in the annals of mankind; we view with equal pleasure those not less useful though less splendid efforts, which, under Your Majesty's immediate patronage and direction, have advanced the limits of discovery to that boundary
boundary which Nature has fixed as a barrier to the enterprize of man.

It is due to the consummate abilities of the most experienced commanders, exercised under this patronage and direction, that a solution has been given to three of the greatest problems that concern the world which we inhabit; for it is now determined by a succession of voyages commenced and prosecuted by Your Majesty's command, that the Entrance into the Pacifick Ocean by a passage either on the North West or North East is impracticable, and that the Existence of a great Southern Continent had nothing but theory for its support. It has likewise been ascertained that the longest voyages are not detrimental to life
life or health; and it has been proved by the execution of Your Majesty's commands, that distant nations may be visited, not for the purpose of subjugation, but for the interchange of mutual benefits, and for promoting the general intercourse of mankind.

In the prosecution of these great designs, if we have seen science advancing to perfection, it is still an object of interesting curiosity to turn our view back from the result to the origin, to trace navigation to its source, and discovery to its commencement.

This is the design of the Work which I have now the honour to present to Your Majesty
DE DICATION.

Majesty for protection; its merits must be left to future decision; but it is at least a tribute of gratitude offered to the patron of every science, in which the interests of navigation and geography are concerned. I have the honour to subscribe myself

YOUR MAJESTY's

Most faithful

and most devoted

Subject and Servant,

WILLIAM VINCENT.