

and might be useful. We have discovered only some few of its coasts; those navigators who have attempted this discovery, have always been stopt by the ice. The thick fogs, which are in those latitudes, is another obstacle; yet, in defiance of these inconveniencies, it is probable that by sailing from the Cape of Good Hope at different seasons, we might at last discover a part of these lands which hitherto make a separate world.

There is also another method which might possibly succeed better; as the ice and fogs seem to have stopped every navigator who has attempted the discovery of a southern land by the atlantic ocean, and as the ice prevails, as well in summer as in winter, might it not be attempted by the Pacific sea; sailing from Baldivia, or any other port on the coast of Chili, and traversing this sea under the 50th degree south latitude. There is not the least appearance that this navigation is perilous, and it is probable that it would be attended with the discovery of new countries; for what remains for us to know on the coast of the southern pole, is so considerable, that we may estimate it as a fourth part of the globe, and of course may contain a continent as large as Europe, Asia, and Africa, altogether.

As we are not at all acquainted with this