

“ thirty-fifth day; when he descried St. Vincent’s  
“ right a-head: and setting his gaff-topsail, he  
“ ran down, under a light breeze, along the  
“ windward coast of the island; and came to  
“ anchor about eleven o’clock under the circum-  
“ stances before mentioned.”

Such a vessel, and so manned, could hardly have performed the voyage here described, had it not been aided by the current of the trade wind: and what then must be the advantage of such a wind, when, instead of aiding the puny enterprise of a single and obscure individual, it forwards the annual fleets of mighty nations. Most important therefore to the Roman empire was the discovery of Hippalus, which enabled its fleets to stretch across at once from the African to the Indian coast by means of the south-westerly monsoons. But, if we would view the subject in all its magnitude, let us contemplate with a philosophic eye the haven of any one of the larger sea-ports of Europe; filled with vessels from every maritime nation of the world, freighted not only with every thing which the natural wants of man demand, or which the state of society has rendered necessary to his comfort, but with all which the most refined luxury has been able to suggest. “ Merchandise,” to use the words of Scripture, “ of gold, and silver, and  
“ precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen,  
“ and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine