

which none of his predecessors had ever attained *y*.

Who can peruse the journal of Smeaton, and not admire the penetration, the resources, and the activity of his genius? Consider the nature of the task which he had engaged to perform; his limited and uncertain opportunities of action; the failures of others who had preceded him in a similar undertaking; the consequent necessity of new principles, and new combinations, in his plan of operations; the formidable dangers he was continually under the necessity of encountering; and, lastly, the awful responsibility of the undertaking itself: consider all these points, and it may be safely affirmed that, as an instance of the conjoined effects of personal enterprise, fortitude, and perseverance, the Eddystone lighthouse stands unrivalled.

On a small, precipitous, and completely insulated rock, deriving its very name from the irregular and impetuous eddies which prevail around it; elevated but a few feet above the level of the surrounding ocean, even in its calmest state; and exposed at all times to the uninterrupted swell of the Atlantic; by the joint violence of the wind and waves of which, a preceding structure had been in a moment swept away, leaving not a wreck behind; on such a spot was this

*y* One exception to this assertion perhaps exists, in a work on a similar subject by Banks; in the church of Ashbourne, Derbyshire.