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# HYDROGRAPHY.

## CHAPTER I.

### INSTRUMENTS.

THE manufacture of astronomical instruments at the time the Expedition was fitted out, had not attained that perfection that it had in Europe, and that it since has in this country. Confidence in our mechanics was wanting, as well as encouragement sufficient for them to compete with those of Europe, both in constructing and keeping for sale, those that were required for its use; of necessity, therefore, the instruments which were furnished the Expedition, were mostly procured from the best makers in Europe. For this purpose it was deemed necessary by the Government to send an officer to Europe, at the time the Expedition was organizing under Commodore Jones, to obtain such instruments as could not be had on this side of the Atlantic, and as would suffice for the results in the departments of science which the Expedition was intended to investigate. I was requested to submit a list, and subsequently directed to proceed to Europe, with positive instructions to return in six months, or by the end of January, 1837; this left me but about one hundred days to effect the object in: consequently, I could not expect to have any instruments constructed, and little time left to complete any that might be found unfinished. On my arrival, I found that all the principal instrument makers were fully occupied, and very unwilling to lay aside any of their engagements, and it was only by representing the great objects of the Expedition, and their becoming interested in them, that they were induced to furnish those I was in search of. Messrs. Troughton and Simms, Dolland, Jones of