

A  
V O Y A G E

ROUND THE  
W O R L D,

In the Years MDCCXL, I, II, III, IV.

B Y  
GEORGE ANSON, Esq;  
Commander in Chief of a Squadron of His Majesty's  
Ships, sent upon an Expedition to the *South-Seas*.

C O M P I L E D

From Papers and other Materials of the Right Honourable  
*GEORGE* Lord *ANSON*, and published under his Direction,

By RICHARD WALTER, M. A.  
Chaplain of his MAJESTY'S Ship the *Centurion*, in that Expedition.

Illustrated with Forty-Two COPPER-PLATES.

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## C H A P. VIII.

From *Macao* to *Cape Espiritu Santo*: The taking of the *Manila* galeon, and returning back again.

**T**HE Commodore was now got to sea, with his ship very well refitted, his stores replenished, and an additional stock of provisions on board: His crew too was somewhat reinforced; for he had entered twenty-three men during his stay at *Macao*, the greatest part of which were *Lascars* or *Indian* sailors, and some few *Dutch*. He gave out at *Macao*, that he was bound to *Batavia*, and thence to *England*; and though the westerly monsoon was now set in, when that passage is considered as impracticable, yet, by the confidence he had expressed in the strength of his ship, and the dexterity of his people, he had persuaded not only his own crew but the people at *Macao* likewise, that he proposed to try this unusual experiment; so that there were many letters put on board him by the inhabitants of *Canton* and *Macao* for their friends at *Batavia*.

But his real design was of a very different nature: For he knew, that instead of one annual ship from *Acapulco* to *Manila*, there would be this year, in all probability, two; since, by being before *Acapulco*, he had prevented one of them from putting to sea the preceding season. He therefore resolved to cruise for these returning vessels off *Cape Espiritu Santo*, on the Island of *Samal*, which is the first land they always make in the *Philippine* Islands. And as *June* is generally the month in which they arrive there, he doubted not but he should get to his intended station time enough to intercept them. It is true, they were said to be stout vessels, mounting forty-four guns apiece, and carrying above five hundred hands, and might be expected to return in company; and he himself had  
but

but two hundred and twenty-seven hands on board, of which near thirty were boys : But this disproportion of strength did not deter him, as he knew his ship to be much better fitted for a sea-engagement than theirs, and as he had reason to expect that his men would exert themselves in the most extraordinary manner, when they had in view the immense wealth of these *Manila* galeons.

This project the Commodore had resolved on in his own thoughts, ever since his leaving the coast of *Mexico*. And the greatest mortification which he received, from the various delays he had met with in *China*, was his apprehension, lest he might be thereby so long retarded as to let the galeons escape him. Indeed, at *Macao* it was incumbent on him to keep these views extremely secret ; for there being a great intercourse and a mutual connexion of interests between that port and *Manila*, he had reason to fear, that, if his designs were discovered, intelligence would be immediately sent to *Manila*, and measures would be taken to prevent the galeons from falling into his hands : But being now at sea, and entirely clear of the coast, he summoned all his people on the quarter-deck, and informed them of his resolution to cruise for the two *Manila* ships, of whose wealth they were not ignorant. He told them he should chuse a station, where he could not fail of meeting with them ; and though they were stout ships, and full manned, yet, if his own people behaved with their accustomed spirit, he was certain he should prove too hard for them both, and that one of them at least could not fail of becoming his prize : He further added, that many ridiculous tales had been propagated about the strength of the sides of these ships, and their being impenetrable to cannon-shot ; that these fictions had been principally invented to palliate the cowardice of those who had formerly engaged them ; but he hoped there were none of those present weak enough to give credit to so absurd a story : For his own part, he did assure them upon his word, that, whenever he met with them, he would fight them so near, that they should find, his bullets, instead of being stopped by one of their sides, should go through them both.

This speech of the Commodore's was received by his people with great joy : For no sooner had he ended, than they expressed their approbation, according to naval custom, by three strenuous cheers, and all declared their determination to succeed or perish, whenever the opportunity presented itself. And now their hopes, which since their departure from the coast of *Mexico*, had entirely subsided, were again revived ; and they all persuaded themselves, that, notwithstanding the various casualties and disappointments they had hitherto met with, they should yet be repaid the price of their fatigues, and should at last return home enriched with the spoils of the enemy : For firmly relying on the assurances of the Commodore, that they should certainly meet with the vessels, they were all of them too sanguine to doubt a moment of mastering them ; so that they considered themselves as having them already in their possession. And this confidence was so universally spread through the whole ship's company, that, the Commodore having taken some *Chinese* sheep to sea with him for his own provision, and one day enquiring of his Butcher, why, for some time past, he had seen no mutton at his table, asking him if all the sheep were killed, the Butcher very seriously replied, that there were indeed two sheep left, but that if his Honour would give him leave, he proposed to keep those for the entertainment of the General of the galleons.

When the *Centurion* left the port of *Macao*, she stood for some days to the westward ; and, on the first of *May*, they saw part of the Island of *Formosa* ; and, standing thence to the southward, they, on the 4th of *May*, were in the latitude of the *Bashee Islands*, as laid down by *Dampier* ; but they suspected his account of inaccuracy, as they found that he had been considerably mistaken in the latitude of the South end of *Formosa* : For this reason they kept a good look-out, and about seven in the evening discovered from the mast-head five small Islands, which were judged to be the *Bashees*, and they had afterwards a sight of *Botel Tobago Xima*. By this means they had an opportunity of correcting the position of the *Bashee Islands*, which had been hitherto laid down twenty-five leagues

leagues too far to the westward : For by their observations, they esteemed the middle of these Islands to be in  $21^{\circ} : 4'$  North, and to bear from *Botel Tobago Xima* S. S. E. twenty leagues distant, that Island itself being in  $21^{\circ} : 57'$  North.

After getting a sight of the *Basbee Islands*, they stood between the S. and S. W for Cape *Espiritu Santo* ; and, the 20th of *May* at noon, they first discovered that Cape, which about four o'clock they brought to bear S. S. W, about eleven leagues distant. It appeared to be of a moderate height, with several round hummocks on it ; and is exactly represented in the annexed plate. As it was known that there were centinels placed upon this Cape to make signals to the *Acapulco* ship, when she first falls in with the land, the Commodore immediately tacked, and ordered the top-gallant sails to be taken in, to prevent being discovered ; and, this being the station in which it was resolved to cruise for the galeons, they kept the Cape between the South and the West, and endeavoured to confine themselves between the latitude of  $12^{\circ} : 50'$ , and  $13^{\circ} : 5'$ , the Cape itself lying, by their observations, in  $12^{\circ} : 40'$  North, and in  $4^{\circ}$  of East longitude from *Botel Tobago Xima*.

It was the last of *May*, by the foreign stile, when they arrived off this Cape ; and, the month of *June*, by the same stile, being that in which the *Manila* ships are usually expected, the *Centurion's* people were now waiting each hour with the utmost impatience for the happy crisis which was to ballance the account of all their past calamities. As from this time there was but small employment for the crew, the Commodore ordered them almost every day to be exercised in the management of the great guns, and in the use of their small arms. This had been his practice, more or less, at all convenient seasons during the whole course of his voyage ; and the advantages which he received from it, in his engagement with the galeon, were an ample recompence for all his care and attention. Indeed, it should seem that there are few particulars of a Commander's duty of more importance than this, how much soever it may have been sometimes overlooked or misunder-

stood: For it will, I suppose, be confessed, that in two ships of war, equal in the number of their men and guns, the disproportion of strength, arising from a greater or less dexterity in the use of their great guns and small arms, is what can scarcely be ballanced by any other circumstances whatever. For, as these are the weapons with which they are to engage, what greater inequality can there be betwixt two contending parties, than that one side should perfectly understand the use of their weapons, and should have the skill to employ them in the most effectual manner for the annoyance of their enemy, while the other side should, by their awkward management of them, render them rather terrible to themselves, than mischievous to their antagonists? This seems so plain and natural a conclusion, that a person unacquainted with these affairs would suppose the first care of a Commander to be the training his people to the use of their arms.

But human affairs are not always conducted by the plain dictates of common sense. There are many other principles which influence our transactions: And there is one in particular, which, though of a very erroneous complexion, is scarcely ever excluded from our most serious deliberations; I mean custom, or the practice of those who have preceded us. This is usually a power too mighty for reason to grapple with; and is the most terrible to those who oppose it, as it has much of superstition in its nature, and pursues all those who question its authority with unrelenting vehemence. However, in these later ages of the world, some lucky encroachments have been made upon its prerogative; and it may reasonably be hoped, that the Gentlemen of the Navy, whose particular profession hath of late been considerably improved by a number of new inventions, will of all others be the readiest to give up those practices, which have nothing to plead but prescription, and will not suppose that every branch of their business hath already received all the perfection of which it is capable. Indeed, it must be owned, that if a dexterity in the use of small arms, for instance, hath been sometimes less attended to on board our ships of war,

war, than might have been wished for, it hath been rather owing to unskilful methods of teaching it, than to negligence : For the common sailors, how strongly soever attached to their own prejudices, are very quick sighted in finding out the defects of others, and have ever shewn a great contempt for the formalities practised in the training of land troops to the use of their arms ; but when those who have undertaken to instruct the seamen have contented themselves with inculcating only what was useful, and that in the simplest manner, they have constantly found their people sufficiently docile, and the success hath even exceeded their expectation. Thus on board Mr. *Anson's* ship, where they were only taught the shortest method of loading with cartridges, and were constantly trained to fire at a mark, which was usually hung at the yard-arm, and where some little reward was given to the most expert, the whole crew, by this management, were rendered extremely skilful, quick in loading, all of them good marksmen, and some of them most extraordinary ones ; so that I doubt not but, in the use of small arms, they were more than a match for double their number, who had not been habituated to to the same kind of exercise. But to return :

It was the last of *May*, *N. S.* as hath been already said, when the *Centurion* arrived off Cape *Espiritu Santo* ; and consequently the next day began the month in which the galeons were to be expected. The Commodore therefore made all necessary preparations for receiving them, having hoisted out his long boat, and lashed her along side, that the ship might be ready for engaging, if they fell in with the galeons in the night. All this time too he was very solicitous to keep at such a distance from the Cape, as not to be discovered : But it hath been since learnt, that, notwithstanding his care, he was seen from the land ; and advice of him was sent to *Manila*, where it was at first disbelieved, but on reiterated intelligence (for it seems he was seen more than once) the Merchants were alarmed, and the Governor was applied to, who undertook (the commerce supplying the necessary sums) to fit out a force consisting

ing of two ships of thirty-two guns, one of twenty guns, and two sloops of ten guns each, to attack the *Centurion* on her station : And some of these vessels did actually weigh with this view ; but the principal ship not being ready, and the monsoon being against them, the Commerce and the Governor disagreed, and the enterprize was laid aside. This frequent discovery of the *Centurion* from the shore was somewhat extraordinary ; for the pitch of the Cape is not high, and she usually kept from ten to fifteen leagues distant ; though once indeed, by an indraught of the tide, as was supposed, they found themselves in the morning within seven leagues of the land.

As the month of *June* advanced, the expectancy and impatience of the Commodore's people each day encreased. And I think no better idea can be given of their great eagerness on this occasion, than by copying a few paragraphs from the journal of an officer, who was then on board ; as it will, I presume, be a more natural picture of the full attachment of their thoughts to the business of their cruise, than can be given by any other means. The paragraphs I have selected, as they occur in order of time, are as follow :

“ *May 31*, Exercising our men at their quarters, in great expectation of meeting with the galeons very soon ; this being the eleventh of *June* their stile.”

“ *June 3*, Keeping in our stations, and looking out for the galeons.”

“ *June 5*, Begin now to be in great expectation, this being the middle of *June* their stile.”

“ *June 11*, Begin to grow impatient at not seeing the galeons.”

“ *June 13*, The wind having blown fresh easterly for the forty-eight hours past, gives us great expectations of seeing the galeons soon.”

“ *June 15*, Cruising on and off, and looking out strictly.”

“ *June 19*, This being the last day of *June*, *N. S.* the galeons, if they arrive at all, must appear soon.”

From



From these samples it is sufficiently evident, how compleatly the treasure of the galeons had engrossed their imagination, and how anxiously they passed the latter part of their cruize, when the certainty of the arrival of these vessels was dwindled down to probability only, and that probability became each hour more and more doubtful. However, on the 20th of *June*, O. S. being just a month from their arrival on their station, they were relieved from this state of uncertainty; when, at sun-rise, they discovered a sail from the mast-head, in the S. E. quarter. On this, a general joy spread through the whole ship; for they had no doubt but this was one of the galeons, and they expected soon to see the other. The Commodore instantly stood towards her, and at half an hour after seven they were near enough to see her from the *Centurion's* deck; at which time the galeon fired a gun, and took in her top-gallant sails, which was supposed to be a signal to her consort, to hasten her up; and therefore the *Centurion* fired a gun to leeward, to amuse her. The Commodore was surprized to find, that in all this time the galeon did not change her course, but continued to bear down upon him; for he hardly believed, what afterwards appeared to be the case, that she knew his ship to be the *Centurion*, and resolved to fight him.

About noon the Commodore was little more than a league distant from the galeon, and could fetch her wake, so that she could not now escape; and, no second ship appearing, it was concluded that she had been separated from her consort. Soon after, the galeon haled up her fore-sail, and brought too under top-sails, with her head to the northward, hoisting *Spanish* colours, and having the standard of *Spain* flying at the top-gallant mast-head. Mr. *Anson*, in the mean time, had prepared all things for an engagement on board the *Centurion*, and had taken all possible care, both for the most effectual exertion of his small strength, and for the avoiding the confusion and tumult, too frequent in actions of this kind. He picked out about thirty of his choicest hands and best marksmen, whom he distributed into his tops, and who fully answered

his expectation, by the signal services they performed. As he had not hands enough remaining to quarter a sufficient number to each great gun, in the customary manner, he therefore, on his lower tire, fixed only two men to each gun, who were to be solely employed in loading it, whilst the rest of his people were divided into different gangs of ten or twelve men each, which were constantly moving about the decks, to run out and fire such guns as were loaded. By this management he was enabled to make use of all his guns; and instead of firing broad-sides with intervals between them, he kept up a constant fire without intermission, whence he doubted not to procure very signal advantages; for it is common with the *Spaniards* to fall down upon the decks when they see a broadside preparing, and to continue in that posture till it is given; after which they rise again, and, presuming the danger to be for some time over, work their guns and fire with great briskness, till another broad-side is ready: But the firing gun by gun, in the manner directed by the Commodore, rendered this practice of theirs impossible.

The *Centurion* being thus prepared, and nearing the galeon apace, there happened, a little after noon, several squalls of wind and rain, which often obscured the galeon from their sight; but whenever it cleared up, they observed her resolutely lying to; and, towards one o'clock, the *Centurion* hoisted her broad pendant and colours, she being then within gun-shot of the enemy. And the Commodore observing the *Spaniards* to have neglected clearing their ship till that time, as he then saw them throwing over-board cattle and lumber, he gave orders to fire upon them with the chace-guns, to embarass them in their work, and prevent them from compleating it, though his general directions had been not to engage till they were within pistol shot. The galeon returned the fire with two of her stern-chace; and, the *Centurion* getting her sprit-sail-yard fore and aft, that if necessary she might be ready for boarding, the *Spaniards* in a bravado rigged their sprit-sail-yard fore and aft likewise. Soon after, the *Centurion* came abreast of the enemy

within pistol-shot, keeping to the leeward with a view of preventing them from putting before the wind, and gaining the port of *Jalapay*, from which they were about seven leagues distant. And now the engagement began in earnest, and, for the first half hour, Mr. *Anson* over-reached the galeon, and lay on her bow; where, by the great wideness of his ports he could traverse almost all his guns upon the enemy, whilst the galeon could only bring a part of hers to bear. Immediately, on the commencement of the action, the mats, with which the galeon had stuffed her netting, took fire, and burnt violently, blazing up half as high as the mizen-top. This accident (supposed to be caused by the *Centurion's* wads) threw the enemy into great confusion, and at the same time alarmed the Commodore, for he feared least the galeon should be burnt, and least he himself too might suffer by her driving on board him: But the *Spaniards* at last freed themselves from the fire, by cutting away the netting, and tumbling the whole mass which was in flames into the sea. But still the *Centurion* kept her first advantageous position, firing her cannon with great regularity and briskness, whilst at the same time the galeon's decks lay open to her topmen, who, having at their first volley driven the *Spaniards* from their tops, made prodigious havock with their small arms, killing or wounding every officer but one that ever appeared on the quarter-deck, and wounding in particular the General of the galeon himself. And though the *Centurion*, after the first half hour, lost her original situation, and was close along-side the galeon, and the enemy continued to fire briskly for near an hour longer, yet at last the Commodore's grape-shot swept their decks so effectually, and the number of their slain and wounded was so considerable, that they began to fall into great disorder, especially as the General, who was the life of the action, was no longer capable of exerting himself. Their embarrassment was visible from on board the Commodore. For the ships were so near, that some of the *Spanish* officers were seen running about with great assiduity, to prevent the desertion of their men from their quarters: But all their endeavours were in

vain ; for after having, as a last effort, fired five or six guns with more judgment than usual, they gave up the contest ; and, the galeon's colours being singed off the ensign staff in the beginning of the engagement, she struck the standard at her main-top-gallant mast-head, the person, who was employed to do it, having been in imminent peril of being killed, had not the Commodore, who perceived what he was about, given express orders to his people to desist from firing.

Thus was the *Centurion* possessed of this rich prize, amounting in value to near a million and half of dollars. She was called the *Nostra Signora de Cabadonga*, and was commanded by the General *Don Feronimo de Montero*, a *Portuguese* by birth, and the most approved officer for skill and courage of any employed in that service. The galeon was much larger than the *Centurion*, had five hundred and fifty men and thirty-six guns mounted for action, besides twenty-eight pidreroes in her gunwale, quarters and tops, each of which carried a four pound ball. She was very well furnished with small arms, and was particularly provided against boarding, both by her close quarters, and by a strong net-work of two inch rope, which was laced over her waist, and was defended by half pikes. She had sixty-seven killed in the action, and eighty-four wounded, whilst the *Centurion* had only two killed, and a Lieutenant and sixteen wounded, all of whom but one recovered : Of so little consequence are the most destructive arms in untutored and unpractised hands.

The treasure thus taken by the *Centurion* having been for at least eighteen months the great object of their hopes, it is impossible to describe the transport on board, when, after all their reiterated disappointments, they at last saw their wishes accomplished. But their joy was near being suddenly damped by a most tremendous incident : For no sooner had the galeon struck, than one of the Lieutenants coming to Mr. *Anson* to congratulate him on his prize, whispered him at the same time, that the *Centurion* was dangerously on fire near the powder-room. The Commodore received this

dreadful news without any apparent emotion, and, taking care not to alarm his people, gave the necessary orders for extinguishing it, which was happily done in a short time, though its appearance at first was extremely terrible. It seems some cartridges had been blown up by accident between decks, whereby a quantity of oakum in the after-hatch way, near the after powder-room, was set on fire; and the great smother and smoke of the oakum occasioned the apprehension of a more extended and mischievous fire. At the same instant too, the galeon fell on board the *Centurion* on the star-board quarter, but she was cleared without doing or receiving any considerable damage.

The Commodore made his first Lieutenant, Mr. *Saumarez*, Captain of this prize, appointing her a post-ship in his Majesty's service. Captain *Saumarez*, before night, sent on board the *Centurion* all the *Spanish* prisoners, but such as were thought the most proper to be retained to assist in navigating the galeon. And now the Commodore learnt, from some of these prisoners, that the other ship, which he had kept in the port of *Acapulco* the preceding year, instead of returning in company with the present prize as was expected, had set sail from *Acapulco* alone much sooner than usual, and had, in all probability, got into the port of *Manila* long before the *Centurion* arrived off *Espiritu Santo*; so that Mr. *Anson*, notwithstanding his present success, had great reason to regret his loss of time at *Macao*, which prevented him from taking two rich prizes instead of one.

The Commodore, when the action was ended, resolved to make the best of his way with his prize for the river of *Canton*, being in the mean time fully employed in securing his prisoners, and in removing the treasure from on board the galeon into the *Centurion*. The last of these operations was too important to be postponed; for as the navigation to *Canton* was through seas but little known, and where, from the season of the year, much bad weather might be expected, it was of great consequence that the treasure should be sent on board the *Centurion*, which ship, by the presence of the  
Commander

Commander in Chief, the greater number of her hands, and her other advantages, was doubtless much safer against all the casualties of winds and seas than the galeon: And the securing the prisoners was a matter of still more consequence, as not only the possession of the treasure, but the lives of the captors depended thereon. This was indeed an article which gave the Commodore much trouble and disquietude; for they were above double the number of his own people; and some of them, when they were brought on board the *Centurion*, and had observed how slenderly she was manned, and the large proportion which the striplings bore to the rest, could not help expressing themselves with great indignation to be thus beaten by a handful of boys. The method, which was taken to hinder them from rising, was by placing all but the officers and the wounded in the hold, where, to give them as much air as possible, two hatchways were left open; but then (to avoid all danger, whilst the *Centurion's* people should be employed upon the deck) there was a square partition of thick planks, made in the shape of a funnel, which enclosed each hatch-way on the lower deck, and reached to that directly over it on the upper deck; these funnels served to communicate the air to the hold better than could have been done without them; and, at the same time, added greatly to the security of the ship; for they being seven or eight feet high, it would have been extremely difficult for the *Spaniards* to have clambered up; and still to augment that difficulty, four swivel guns loaded with musquet-bullets were planted at the mouth of each funnel, and a centinel with lighted match constantly attended, prepared to fire into the hold amongst them, in case of any disturbance. Their officers, which amounted to seventeen or eighteen, were all lodged in the first Lieutenant's cabin, under a constant guard of six men; and the General, as he was wounded, lay in the Commodore's cabin with a centinel always with him; and they were all informed, that any violence or disturbance would be punished with instant death. And that the *Centurion's* people might be at all times prepared, if, notwithstanding these regulations,

tions, any tumult should arise, the small arms were constantly kept loaded in a proper place, whilst all the men went armed with cutlasses and pistols ; and no officer ever pulled off his cloaths, and when he slept had always his arms lying ready by him.

These measures were obviously necessary, considering the hazards to which the Commodore and his people would have been exposed, had they been less careful. Indeed, the sufferings of the poor prisoners, though impossible to be alleviated, were much to be commiserated ; for the weather was extremely hot, the stench of the hold loathsome beyond all conception, and their allowance of water but just sufficient to keep them alive, it not being practicable to spare them more than at the rate of a pint a day for each, the crew themselves having only an allowance of a pint and an half. All this considered, it was wonderful that not a man of them died during their long confinement, except three of the wounded, who died the same night they were taken ; though it must be confessed, that the greatest part of them were strangely metamorphised by the heat of the hold ; for when they were first taken, they were fightly robust fellows ; but when, after above a month's imprisonment, they were discharged in the river of *Canton*, they were reduced to mere skeletons ; and their air and looks corresponded much more to the conception formed of ghosts and spectres, than to the figure and appearance of real men.

Thus employed in securing the treasure and the prisoners, the Commodore, as hath been said, stood for the river of *Canton* ; and, on the 30th of *June*, at six in the evening, got sight of *Cape Delangano*, which then bore West ten leagues distant ; and, the next day, he made the *Baskee Islands*, and the wind being so far to the northward, that it was difficult to weather them, it was resolved to stand through between *Grafton* and *Monmouth Islands*, where the passage seemed to be clear ; but in getting through, the sea had a very dangerous aspect, for it rippled and foamed, as if it had been full of breakers, which was still more terrible, as it was then night. But the ships got through very safe, (the prize always keep-

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ing a head) and it was found that the appearance which had alarmed them had been occasioned only by a strong tide. I must here observe, that though the *Bashee Islands* are usually reckoned to be no more than five, yet there are many more lying about them to the westward, which, as the channels amongst them are not at all known, makes it adviseable for ships, rather to pass to the northward or southward, than through them; and indeed the Commodore proposed to have gone to the northward, between them and *Formosa*, had it been possible for him to have weathered them. From hence the *Centurion* steering the proper course for the river of *Canton*, she, on the 8th of *July*, discovered the Island of *Supata*, the westernmost of the *Lema Islands*, being the double peaked rock, particularly delineated in the view of the Islands of *Lema*, formerly inserted. This Island of *Supata* they made to be a hundred and thirty-nine leagues distant from *Grafton's Island*, and to bear from it North  $82^{\circ} 37'$  West: And, on the 11th, having taken on board two *Chinese* Pilots, one for the *Centurion*, and the other for the prize, they came to an anchor off the city of *Macao*.

By this time the particulars of the cargoe of the galeon were well ascertained, and it was found that she had on board 1,313,843 pieces of eight, and 35,682 oz. of virgin silver, besides some cochineal, and a few other commodities, which, however, were but of small account, in comparison of the specie. And this being the Commodore's last prize, it hence appears, that all the treasure taken by the *Centurion* was not much short of 400,000 *l.* independent of the ships and merchandise, which she either burnt or destroyed, and which, by the most reasonable estimation, could not amount to so little as 600,000 *l.* more; so that the whole loss of the enemy, by our squadron, did doubtless exceed a million sterling. To which, if there be added the great expence of the Court of *Spain*, in fitting out *Pizarro*, and in paying the additional charges in *America*, incurred on our account, together with the loss of their men of war, the total of all these articles will be a most exorbitant sum, and is the strongest conviction of the utility of this expedition, which,  
with



with all its numerous disadvantages, did yet prove so extremely prejudicial to the enemy. I shall only add, that there were taken on board the galeon several draughts and journals, from some of which many of the particulars recited in the 10th chapter of the second book are collected. Among the rest there was found a chart of all the Ocean, between the *Philippines* and the coast of *Mexico*, which was what was made use of by the galeon in her own navigation. A copy of this draught, corrected in some places by our own observation, is here annexed, together with the route of the galeon traced thereon from her own journals, and likewise the route of the *Centurion*, from *Acapulco* through the same Ocean. This is the chart formerly referred to, in the account of the *Manila* trade: And to render it still more compleat, the observed variation of the needle is annexed to several parts both of the *Spanish* and *English* track; which addition is of the greatest consequence, as no observations of this kind in the northern parts of the *Pacific* Ocean have yet to my knowledge been published, and as the quantity of the variation so nearly corresponds to what *Dr. Halley* predicted from his Theory above fifty years ago. And with this digression I shall end this chapter, leaving the *Centurion* with her prize, at anchor off *Macao*, preparing to enter the river of *Canton*.

## C H A P. IX.

Transactions in the river of *Canton*.

THE Commodore, having taken Pilots on board, proceeded with his prize for the river of *Canton*; and, on the 14th of *July*, came to an anchor short of the *Bocca Tigris*, which is a narrow passage forming the mouth of that river: This entrance he proposed to stand through the next day, and to run up as far as *Tiger Island*, which is a very safe road, secured from all winds. But whilst the *Centurion* and her prize were thus at anchor, a boat with an officer came off from the *Mandarine*, commanding the forts at *Bocca Tigris* to examine what the ships were, and whence they came. Mr. *Anson* informed the officer, that his ship was a ship of war, belonging to the King of *Great-Britain*; and that the other in company with him was a prize he had taken; that he was going into *Canton* river to shelter himself against the hurricanes which were then coming on; and that as soon as the monsoon shifted, he should proceed for *England*. The officer then desired an account of what men, guns, and ammunition were on board, a list of all which he said was to be sent to the Government of *Canton*. But when these articles were repeated to him, particularly when he was told that there were in the *Centurion* four hundred firelocks, and between three and four hundred barrels of powder, he shrugged up his shoulders, and seemed to be terrified with the bare recital, saying, that no ships ever came into *Canton* river armed in that manner; adding, that he durst not set down the whole of this force, lest it should too much alarm the Regency. After he had finished his enquiries, and was preparing to depart, he desired to leave two Custom-house officers behind him; on which the Commodore told him, that though as a man of war he

he was prohibited from trading, and had nothing to do with customs or duties of any kind, yet, for the satisfaction of the *Chinese*, he would permit two of their people to be left on board, who might themselves be witnesses how punctually he should comply with his instructions. The officer seemed amazed when Mr. *Anson* mentioned being exempted from all duties, and told him, that the Emperor's duty must be paid by all ships that came into his ports: And it is supposed, that on this occasion, private directions were given by him to the *Chinese* Pilot, not to carry the Commodore through the *Bocca Tigris*; which makes it necessary, more particularly, to describe that entrance.

The *Bocca Tigris* is a narrow passage, little more than musquet-shot over, formed by two points of land, on each of which there is a fort, that on the starboard-side being a battery on the water's edge, with eighteen embrasures, but where there were no more than twelve iron cannon mounted, seeming to be four or six pounders; the fort on the larboard-side is a large castle, resembling those old buildings which here in *England* we often find distinguished by that name; it is situated on a high rock, and did not appear to be furnished with more than eight or ten cannon, none of which were supposed to exceed six pounders. These are the defences which secure the river of *Canton*; and which the *Chinese* (extremely defective in all military skill) have imagined were sufficient to prevent any enemy from forcing his way through.

But it is obvious, from the description of these forts, that they could have given no obstruction to Mr. *Anson's* passage, even if they had been well supplied with gunners and stores; and therefore, though the Pilot, after the *Chinese* officer had been on board, refused at first to take charge of the ship, till he had leave from the forts, yet as it was necessary to get through without any delay, for fear of the bad weather which was hourly expected, the Commodore weighed on the 15th, and ordered the Pilot to carry him by the forts, threatening him that, if the ship ran aground, he would instantly hang him up at the yard-arm. The Pilot, awed

by these threats, carried the ship through safely, the forts not attempting to dispute the passage. Indeed the poor Pilot did not escape the resentment of his countrymen, for when he came on shore, he was seized and sent to prison, and was rigorously disciplined with the bamboo. However, he found means to get at Mr. *Anson* afterwards, to desire of him some recompence for the chastisement he had undergone, and of which he then carried very significant marks about him ; and Mr. *Anson*, in commiseration of his sufferings, gave him such a sum of money, as would at any time have enticed a *Chinese* to have undergone a dozen bastinadings.

Nor was the Pilot the only person that suffered on this occasion ; for the Commodore soon after seeing some royal junks pass by him from *Bocca Tigris* towards *Canton*, he learnt, on enquiry, that the *Mandarine* commanding the forts was a prisoner on board them ; that he was already turned out, and was now carrying to *Canton*, where it was expected he would be severely punished for having permitted the ships to pass ; and the Commodore urging the unreasonableness of this procedure, from the inability of the forts to have done otherwise, explaining to the *Chinese* the great superiority his ships would have had over the forts, by the number and size of their guns, the *Chinese* seemed to acquiesce in his reasoning, and allowed that their forts could not have stopped him ; but they still asserted, that the *Mandarine* would infallibly suffer, for not having done, what all his judges were convinced, was impossible. To such indefensible absurdities are those obliged to submit, who think themselves concerned to support their authority, when the necessary force is wanting. But to return :

On the 16th of *July* the Commodore sent his second Lieutenant to *Canton*, with a letter to the Viceroy, informing him of the reason of the *Centurion's* putting into that port ; and that the Commodore himself soon proposed to repair to *Canton*, to pay a visit to the Viceroy. The Lieutenant was very civilly received, and was promised that an answer should be sent to the Commodore the next day.

day. In the mean time Mr. *Anson* gave leave to several of the officers of the galeon to go to *Canton*, they engaging their parole to return in two days. When these prisoners got to *Canton*, the Regency sent for them, and examined them, enquiring particularly by what means they had fallen into Mr. *Anson's* power. And on this occasion the prisoners were honest enough to declare, that as the Kings of *Great-Britain* and of *Spain* were at war, they had proposed to themselves the taking of the *Centurion*, and had bore down upon her with that view, but that the event had been contrary to their hopes: However, they acknowledged that they had been treated by the Commodore, much better than they believed they should have treated him, had he fallen into their hands. This confession from an enemy had great weight with the *Chinese*, who, till then, though they had revered the Commodore's power, had yet suspected his morals, and had considered him rather as a lawless freebooter, than as one commissioned by the State for the revenge of public injuries. But they now changed their opinion, and regarded him as a more important person; to which perhaps the vast treasure of his prize might not a little contribute; the acquisition of wealth being a matter greatly adapted to the estimation and reverence of the *Chinese* Nation.

In this examination of the *Spanish* prisoners, though the *Chinese* had no reason in the main to doubt of the account which was given them, yet there were two circumstances which appeared to them so singular, as to deserve a more ample explanation; one of them was the great disproportion of men between the *Centurion* and the galeon; the other was the humanity, with which the people of the galeon were treated after they were taken. The *Mandarines* therefore asked the *Spaniards*, how they came to be overpowered by so inferior a force; and how it happened, since the two nations were at war, that they were not put to death when they came into the hands of the *English*. To the first of these enquiries the *Spaniards* replied, that though they had more hands than the *Centurion*, yet she being intended solely for war had a  
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great superiority in the size of her guns, and in many other articles, over the galeon, which was a vessel fitted out principally for traffic: And as to the second question, they told the *Chinefe*, that amongst the nations of *Europe*, it was not customary to put to death those who submitted; though they readily owned, that the Commodore, from the natural bias of his temper, had treated both them and their countrymen, who had formerly been in his power, with very unusual courtesy, much beyond what they could have expected, or than was required by the customs established between nations at war with each other. These replies fully satisfied the *Chinefe*, and at the same time wrought very powerfully in the Commodore's favour.

On the 20th of *July*, in the morning, three *Mandarines*, with a great number of boats, and a vast retinue, came on board the *Centurion*, and delivered to the Commodore the Viceroy of *Canton's* order for a daily supply of provisions, and for Pilots to carry the ships up the river as far as the second bar; and at the same time they delivered him a message from the Viceroy, in answer to the letter sent to *Canton*. The substance of the message was, that the Viceroy desired to be excused from receiving the Commodore's visit, during the then excessive hot weather; because the assembling the *Mandarines* and soldiers, necessary to that ceremony, would prove extremely inconvenient and fatiguing; but that in *September*, when the weather would be more temperate, he should be glad to see both the Commodore himself, and the *English* Captain of the other ship, that was with him. As Mr. *Anson* knew that an express had been dispatched to the Court at *Pekin*, with an account of the *Centurion* and her prize being arrived in the river of *Canton*, he had no doubt, but the principal motive for putting off this visit was, that the Regency at *Canton* might gain time to receive the Emperor's instructions, about their behaviour on this unusual affair.

When the *Mandarines* had delivered their message, they began to talk to the Commodore about the duties to be paid by his ships; but

but he immediately told them, that he would never submit to any demand of that kind ; that as he neither brought any merchandize thither, nor intended to carry any away, he could not be reasonably deemed to be within the meaning of the Emperor's orders, which were doubtless calculated for trading vessels only, adding, that no duties were ever demanded of men of war, by nations accustomed to their reception, and that his Master's orders expressly forbid him from paying any acknowledgement for his ships anchoring in any port whatever.

The *Mandarines* being thus cut short on the subject of the duty, they said they had another matter to mention, which was the only remaining one they had in charge ; this was a request to the Commodore, that he would release the prisoners he had taken on board the galeon ; for that the Viceroy of *Canton* apprehended the Emperor, his Master, might be displeas'd, if he should be inform'd, that persons, who were his allies, and carried on a great commerce with his subjects, were under confinement in his dominions. Mr. *Anson* was himself extremely desirous to get rid of the *Spaniards*, having, on his first arrival, sent about an hundred of them to *Macao*, and those who remained, which were near four hundred more, were, on many accounts, a great incumbrance to him. However, to inhance the favour, he at first rais'd some difficulties ; but permitting himself to be prevail'd on, he at last told the *Mandarines*, that to show his readiness to oblige the Viceroy, he would release the prisoners, whenever they, the *Chinese*, would send boats to fetch them off. This matter being thus adjust'd, the *Mandarines* departed ; and, on the 28th of *July*, two *Chinese* junks were sent from *Canton*, to take on board the prisoners, and to carry them to *Macao*. And the Commodore, agreeable to his promise, dismissed them all, and order'd his Purser to send with them eight days provision for their subsistence, during their sailing down the river ; this being dispatch'd, the *Centurion* and her prize came to her moorings, above the second bar, where they propos'd to continue till the monsoon shifted.

Though the ships, in consequence of the Viceroy's permit, found no difficulty in purchasing provisions for their daily consumption, yet it was impossible for the Commodore to proceed to *England*, without laying in a large quantity both of provisions and stores for his use, during the voyage: The procuring this supply was attended with much embarrassment; for there were people at *Canton* who had undertaken to furnish him with biscuit, and whatever else he wanted; and his linguist, towards the middle of *September*, had assured him, from day to day, that all was ready, and would be sent on board him immediately. But a fortnight being elapsed, and nothing being brought, the Commodore sent to *Canton* to enquire more particularly into the reasons of this disappointment: And he had soon the vexation to be informed, that the whole was an illusion; that no order had been procured from the Viceroy, to furnish him with his sea-stores, as had been pretended; that there was no biscuit baked, nor any one of the articles in readiness, which had been promised him; nor did it appear, that the Contractors had taken the least step to comply with their agreement. This was most disagreeable news, and made it suspected, that the furnishing the *Centurion* for her return to *Great-Britain* might prove a more troublesome matter than had been hitherto imagined; especially too, as the month of *September* was nearly elapsed, without Mr. *Anson's* having received any message from the Viceroy of *Canton*.

And here perhaps it might be expected that some satisfactory account should be given of the motives of the *Chinese* for this faithless procedure. But as I have already, in a former chapter, made some kind of conjectures about a similar event, I shall not repeat them again in this place, but shall observe, that after all, it may perhaps be impossible for an *European*, ignorant of the customs and manners of that nation, to be fully apprized of the real incitements to this behaviour. Indeed, thus much may undoubtedly be asserted, that in artifice, falsehood, and an attachment to all kinds of lucre, many of the *Chinese* are difficult to be paralleled by any other people;



people ; but then the combination of these talents, and the manner in which they are applied in particular emergencies, are often beyond the reach of a Foreigner's penetration : So that though it may be safely concluded, that the *Chinese* had some interest in thus amusing the Commodore, yet it may not be easy to assign the individual views by which they were influenced. And that I may not be thought too severe in ascribing to this Nation a fraudulent and selfish turn of temper, so contradictory to the character given of them in the legendary accounts of the *Roman* Missionaries, I shall here mention an extraordinary transaction or two, which I hope will be some kind of confirmation of what I have advanced.

When the Commodore lay first at *Macao*, one of his officers, who had been extremely ill, desired leave of him to go on shore every day on a neighbouring Island, imagining that a walk upon the land would contribute greatly to the restoring of his health : The Commodore would have dissuaded him, suspecting the tricks of the *Chinese*, but the officer continuing importunate, in the end the boat was ordered to carry him. The first day he was put on shore he took his exercise, and returned without receiving any molestation, or even seeing any of the inhabitants ; but the second day, he was assaulted, soon after his arrival, by a great number of *Chinese*, who had been hoeing rice in the neighbourhood, and who beat him so violently with the handles of their hoes, that they soon laid him on the ground incapable of resistance ; after which they robbed him, taking from him his sword, the hilt of which was silver, his money, his watch, gold-headed cane, snuff-box, sleeve-buttons and hat, with several other trinkets : In the mean time the boat's crew, who were at some little distance, and had no arms of any kind with them, were incapable of giving him any assistance ; till at last one of them flew on the fellow who had the sword in his possession, and wresting it out of his hands drew it, and with it was preparing to fall on the *Chinese*, some of whom he could not have failed of killing ; but the officer, perceiving what he was about, immediately ordered him to desist, thinking it more prudent to sub-

mit to the present violence, than to embroil his Commodore in an inextricable squabble with the *Chinese* Government, by the death of their subjects; which calmness in this Gentleman was the more meritorious, as he was known to be a person of an uncommon spirit, and of a somewhat hasty temper: By this means the *Chinese* recovered the possession of the sword, which they soon perceived was prohibited to be made use of against them, and carried off their whole booty unmolested. No sooner were they gone, than a *Chinese* on horseback, very well dressed, and who had the air and appearance of a Gentleman, came down to the shore, and, as far as could be understood by his signs, seemed to censure the conduct of his countrymen, and to commiserate the officer, being wonderfully officious to assist in getting him on board the boat: But notwithstanding this behaviour, it was shrewdly suspected that he was an accomplice in the theft, and time fully evinced the justice of those suspicions.

When the boat returned on board, and reported what had passed to the Commodore, he immediately complained of it to the *Mandarine*, who attended to see his ship supplied; but the *Mandarine* coolly replied, that the boat ought not to have gone on shore, promising, however, that if the thieves could be found out, they should be punished; though it appeared plain enough, by his manner of answering, that he would never give himself any trouble in searching them out. However, a considerable time afterwards, when some *Chinese* boats were selling provisions to the *Centurion*, the person who had wrested the sword from the *Chinese* came with great eagerness to the Commodore, to assure him that one of the principal thieves was then in a provision-boat along-side the ship; and the officer, who had been robbed, viewing the fellow on this report, and well remembering his face, orders were immediately given to seize him; and he was accordingly secured on board the ship, where strange discoveries were now made.

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This thief, on his being first apprehended, expressed so much fright in his countenance, that it was feared he would have died upon the spot; the *Mandarine* too, who attended the ship, had visibly no small share of concern on the occasion. Indeed he had reason enough to be alarmed, since it was soon evinced, that he had been privy to the whole robbery; for the Commodore declaring that he would not deliver up the thief, but would himself order him to be shot, the *Mandarine* immediately put off the magisterial air, with which he had at first pretended to demand him, and begged his release in the most abject manner: And the Commodore appearing inflexible, there came on board, in less than two hours time, five or six of the neighbouring *Mandarines*, who all joined in the same entreaty, and with a view of facilitating their suit, offered a large sum of money for the fellow's liberty. Whilst they were thus solliciting, it was discovered that the *Mandarine*, who was the most active amongst them, and who seemed to be most interested in the event, was the very Gentleman, who came to the officer, just after the robbery, and who pretended to be so much displeas'd with the villany of his countrymen. And, on further inquiry it was found, that he was the *Mandarine* of the Island; and that he had, by the authority of his office, ordered the Peasants to commit that infamous action. And it seemed, as far as could be collected from the broken hints which were casually thrown out, that he and his brethren, who were all privy to the transaction, were terrified with the fear of being called before the tribunal at *Canton*, where the first article of their punishment would be the stripping them of all they were worth; though their judges (however fond of inflicting a chastisement so lucrative to themselves) were perhaps of as tainted a complexion as the delinquents. Mr. *Anson* was not displeas'd to have caught the *Chinese* in this dilemma; and he entertained himself for some time with their perplexity, rejecting their money with scorn, appearing inexorable to their prayers, and giving out that the thief should certainly be shot; but

as he then forefaw that he fhould be forced to take fhelter in their ports a fecond time, when the influence he might hereby acquire over the Magiftrates would be of great fervice to him, he at length permitted himfelf to be perfuaded, and as a favour releafed his prifoner, but not till the *Mandarine* had collected and returned all that had been ftolen from the officer, even to the minuteft trifle.

But notwithstanding this instance of the good intelligence between the magiftrates and criminals, the ftrong addiction of the *Chinefe* to lucre often prompts them to break through this awful confederacy, and puts them on defrauding the authority that protects them of its proper quota of the pillage. For not long after the above-mentioned tranfaction, (the former *Mandarine*, attendant on the fhip, being, in the mean time, relieved by another) the Commodore loft a top-maft from his ftern, which, after the moft diligent enquiry, could not be traced: As it was not his own, but had been borrowed at *Macao* to heave down by, and was not to be replaced in that part of the world, he was extremely defirous to recover it, and publifhed a confiderable reward to any who would bring it him again. There were fufpicions from the firft of its being ftolen, which made him conclude a reward was the likelielt method of getting it back: Accordingly, foon after, the *Mandarine* told him, that fome of his, the *Mandarine's*, people, had found the top-maft, defiring the Commodore to fend his boats to fetch it, which being done, the *Mandarine's* people received the promifed reward; but the Commodore told the *Mandarine*, that he would make him a prefent befides for the care he had taken in directing it to be fearched for; and accordingly, Mr. *Anfon* gave a fum of money to his Linguift, to be delivered to the *Mandarine*; but the Linguift knowing that the people had been paid, and ignorant that a further prefent had been promifed, kept the money himfelf: However, the *Mandarine* fully confiding in Mr. *Anfon's* word, and fufpecting the Linguift, he took occafion, one morning, to admire the fize of the *Centurion's* masts, and thence, on a pretended fudden recollection, he made a digreffion

digression to the top-mast which had been lost, and asked Mr. *Anson* if he had not got it again. Mr. *Anson* presently perceived the bent of this conversation, and enquired of him if he had not received the money from the Linguist, and finding he had not, he offered to pay it him upon the spot. But this the *Mandarine* refused, having now somewhat more in view than the sum which had been detained : For the next day the Linguist was seized, and was doubtless mulcted of all he had gotten in the Commodore's service, which was supposed to be little less than two thousand dollars ; he was besides so severely bastinadoed with the bamboo, that it was with difficulty he escaped with his life ; and when he was upbraided by the Commodore (to whom he afterwards came begging) with his folly, in risking all he had suffered for fifty dollars, (the present intended for the *Mandarine*) he had no other excuse to make than the strong bias of his Nation to dishonesty, replying, in his broken jargon, *Chinese man very great rogue truly, but have fashion, no can help.*

It were endless to recount all the artifices, extortions and frauds which were practised on the Commodore and his people, by this interested race. The method of buying all things in *China* being by weight, the tricks made use of by the *Chinese* to encrease the weight of the provision they sold to the *Centurion*, were almost incredible. One time a large quantity of fowls and ducks being bought for the ship's use, the greatest part of them presently died : This alarmed the people on board with the apprehensions that they had been killed by poison ; but on examination it appeared, that it was only owing to their being crammed with stones and gravel to encrease their weight, the quantity thus forced into most of the ducks being found to amount to ten ounces in each. The hogs too, which were bought ready killed of the *Chinese* Butchers, had water injected into them for the same purpose ; so that a carcass, hung up all night for the water to drain from it, hath lost above a stone of its weight ; and when, to avoid this cheat, the hogs were

bought alive, it was found that the *Chinese* gave them salt to encrease their thirst, and having by this means excited them to drink great quantities of water, they then took measures to prevent them from discharging it again by urine, and sold the tortured animal in this inflated state. When the Commodore first put to sea from *Macao*, they practised an artifice of another kind; for as the *Chinese* never object to the eating of any food that dies of itself, they took care, by some secret practices, that great part of his live sea-store should die in a short time after it was put on board, hoping to make a second profit of the dead carcasses which they expected would be thrown overboard; and two thirds of the hogs dying before the *Centurion* was out of sight of land, many of the *Chinese* boats followed her, only to pick up the carrion. These instances may serve as a specimen of the manners of this celebrated Nation, which is often recommended to the rest of the world as a pattern of all kinds of laudable qualities. But to return:

The Commodore, towards the end of *September*, having found out (as has been said) that those, who had contracted to supply him with sea-provisions and stores, had deceived him, and that the Viceroy had not sent to him according to his promise, he saw it would be impossible for him to surmount the embarrassment he was under, without going himself to *Canton*, and visiting the Viceroy; and therefore, on the 27th of *September*, he sent a message to the *Mandarine*, who attended the *Centurion*, to inform him that he, the Commodore, intended, on the first of *October*, to proceed in his boat to *Canton*; adding, that the day after he got there, he should notify his arrival to the Viceroy, and should desire him to fix a time for his audience; to which the *Mandarine* returned no other answer, than that he would acquaint the Viceroy with the Commodore's intentions. In the mean time all things were prepared for this expedition: And the boat's crew in particular, which Mr. *Anson* proposed to take with him, were clothed in an uniform dress, resembling that of the Watermen on the *Thames*; they were

in number eighteen and a Coxswain ; they had scarlet jackets and blue silk waistcoats, the whole trimmed with silver buttons, and with silver badges on their jackets and caps. As it was apprehended, and even asserted, that the payment of the customary duties for the *Centurion* and her prize, would be demanded by the Regency of *Canton*, and would be insisted on previous to the granting a permission for victualling the ship for her future voyage ; the Commodore, who was resolved never to establish so dishonourable a precedent, took all possible precaution to prevent the *Chinese* from facilitating the success of their unreasonable pretensions, by having him in their power at *Canton* : And therefore, for the security of his ship, and the great treasure on board her, he appointed his first Lieutenant, Mr. *Brett*, to be Captain of the *Centurion* under him, giving him proper instructions for his conduct ; directing him, particularly, if he, the Commodore, should be detained at *Canton* on account of the duties in dispute, to take out the men from the *Centurion's* prize, and to destroy her ; and then to proceed down the river through the *Bocca Tigris*, with the *Centurion* alone, and to remain without that entrance, till he received further orders from Mr. *Anson*.

These necessary steps being taken, which were not unknown to the *Chinese*, it should seem as if their deliberations were in some sort embarrassed thereby. It is reasonable to imagine, that they were in general very desirous of getting the duties to be paid them ; not perhaps solely in consideration of the amount of those dues, but to keep up their reputation for address and subtlety, and to avoid the imputation of receding from claims, on which they had already so frequently insisted. However, as they now foresaw that they had no other method of succeeding than by violence, and that even against this the Commodore was prepared, they were at last disposed, I conceive, to let the affair drop, rather than entangle themselves in an hostile measure, which they found would only expose them to the risque of having the whole navigation of their port destroyed, without any certain prospect of gaining their favourite point thereby.

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However, though there is reason to imagine that these were their thoughts at that time, yet they could not depart at once from the evasive conduct to which they had hitherto adhered. For when the Commodore, on the morning of the first of *October*, was preparing to set out for *Canton*, his Linguist came to him from the *Mandarine*, who attended his ship, to tell him that a letter had been received from the Viceroy of *Canton*, desiring the Commodore to put off his going thither for two or three days: But in the afternoon of the same day, another Linguist came on board, who, with much seeming fright, told Mr. *Anson*, that the Viceroy had expected him up that day, that the Council was assembled, and the troops had been under arms to receive him; and that the Viceroy was highly offended at the disappointment, and had sent the Commodore's Linguist to prison chained, supposing that the whole had been owing to the Linguist's negligence. This plausible tale gave the Commodore great concern, and made him apprehend that there was some treachery designed him, which he could not yet fathom; and though it afterwards appeared that the whole was a fiction, not one article of it having the least foundation, yet (for reasons best known to themselves) this falsehood was so well supported by the artifices of the *Chinese* Merchants at *Canton*, that, three days afterwards, the Commodore received a letter signed by all the supercargoes of the *English* ships then at that place, expressing their great uneasiness at what had happened, and intimating their fears that some insult would be offered to his boat, if he came thither before the Viceroy was fully satisfied about the mistake. To this letter Mr. *Anson* replied, that he did not believe there had been any mistake; but was persuaded it was a forgery of the *Chinese* to prevent his visiting the Viceroy; that therefore he would certainly come up to *Canton* on the 13th of *October*, confident that the *Chinese* would not dare to offer him an insult, as well knowing it would be properly returned.



On the 13th of *October*, the Commodore continuing firm to his resolution, all the supercargoes of the *English*, *Danish*, and *Swedish* ships came on board the *Centurion*, to accompany him to *Canton*, for which placé he set out in his barge the same day, attended by his own boats, and by those of the trading ships, which on this occasion came to form his retinue ; and as he passed by *Wampo*, where the *European* vessels lay, he was saluted by all of them but the *French*, and in the evening he arrived safely at *Canton*. His reception at that city, and the most material transactions from henceforward, till his arrival in *Great-Britain*, shall be the subject of the ensuing chapter.

## C H A P. X.

Proceedings at the city of *Canton*, and the return of the *Centurion* to *England*.

WHEN the Commodore arrived at *Canton*, he was visited by the principal *Chinese* Merchants, who affected to appear very much pleased that he had met with no obstruction in getting thither, and who thence pretended to conclude, that the Viceroy was satisfied about the former mistake, the reality of which they still insisted on; they added, that as soon as the Viceroy should be informed that Mr. *Anson* was at *Canton*, (which they promised should be done the next morning) they were persuaded a day would be immediately appointed for the visit, which was the principal business that had brought the Commodore thither.

The next day the Merchants returned to Mr. *Anson*, and told him, that the Viceroy was then so fully employed in preparing his dispatches for *Pekin*, that there was no getting admittance to him for some days; but that they had engaged one of the officers of his Court to give them information, as soon as he should be at leisure, when they proposed to notify Mr. *Anson's* arrival, and to endeavour to fix the day of audience. The Commodore was by this time too well acquainted with their artifices, not to perceive that this was a falsehood; and had he consulted only his own judgment, he would have applied directly to the Viceroy by other hands: But the *Chinese* Merchants had so far prepossessed the supercargoes of our ships with chimerical fears, that they (the supercargoes) were extremely apprehensive of being embroiled with the Government, and of suffering in their interest, if those measures were taken, which appeared to Mr. *Anson* at that time to be the most prudent :

prudential: And therefore, lest the malice and double dealing of the *Chinese* might have given rise to some sinister incident, which would be afterwards laid at his door, he resolved to continue passive, as long as it should appear that he lost no time, by thus suspending his own opinion. With this view, he promised not to take any immediate step himself for getting admittance to the Viceroy, provided the *Chinese*, with whom he contracted for provisions, would let him see that his bread was baked, his meat salted, and his stores prepared with the utmost dispatch: But if by the time when all was in readiness to be shipped off, (which it was supposed would be in about forty days) the Merchants should not have procured the Viceroy's permission, then the Commodore proposed to apply for it himself. These were the terms Mr. *Anson* thought proper to offer, to quiet the uneasiness of the supercargoes; and notwithstanding the apparent equity of the conditions, many difficulties and objections were urged; nor would the *Chinese* agree to them, till the Commodore had consented to pay for every article he bespoke before it was put in hand. However, at last the contract being past, it was some satisfaction to the Commodore to be certain that his preparations were now going on, and being himself on the spot, he took care to hasten them as much as possible.

During this interval, in which the stores and provisions were getting ready, the Merchants continually entertained Mr. *Anson* with accounts of their various endeavours to get a licence from the Viceroy, and their frequent disappointments; which to him was now a matter of amusement, as he was fully satisfied there was not one word of truth in any thing they said. But when all was completed, and wanted only to be shipped, which was about the 24th of *November*, at which time too the N. E. monsoon was set in, he then resolved to apply himself to the Viceroy to demand an audience, as he was persuaded that, without this ceremony, the procuring a permission to send his stores on board would meet with great difficulty. On the 24th of *November*, therefore, Mr. *Anson* sent one of his officers to the *Mandarine*, who commanded the

guard of the principal gate of the city of *Canton*, with a letter directed to the Viceroy. When this letter was delivered to the *Mandarine*, he received the officer who brought it very civilly, and took down the contents of it in *Chinese*, and promised that the Viceroy should be immediately acquainted with it ; but told the officer, it was not necessary for him to wait for an answer, because a message would be sent to the Commodore himself.

On this occasion Mr. *Anson* had been under great difficulties about a proper interpreter to send with his officer, as he was well aware that none of the *Chinese*, usually employed as Linguists, could be relied on : But he at last prevailed with Mr. *Flint*, an *English* Gentleman belonging to the factory, who spoke *Chinese* perfectly well, to accompany his officer. This person, who upon this occasion and many others was of singular service to the Commodore, had been left at *Canton* when a youth, by the late Captain *Rigby*. The leaving him there to learn the *Chinese* language was a step taken by that Captain, merely from his own persuasion of the great advantages which the *East-India* Company might one day receive from an *English* interpreter ; and though the utility of this measure has greatly exceeded all that was expected from it, yet I have not heard that it has been to this day imitated : But we imprudently choose (except in this single instance) to carry on the vast transactions of the port of *Canton*, either by the ridiculous jargon of broken *English*, which some few of the *Chinese* have learnt, or by the suspected interpretation of the Linguists of other Nations.

Two days after the sending the above-mentioned letter, a fire broke out in the suburbs of *Canton*. On the first alarm, Mr. *Anson* went thither with his officers, and his boat's crew, to assist the *Chinese*. When he came there, he found that it had begun in a sailor's shed, and that by the slightness of the buildings, and the awkwardness of the *Chinese*, it was getting head apace : But he perceived, that by pulling down some of the adjacent sheds it might easily be extinguished ; and particularly observing that it was running along a wooden cornish, which would soon communicate it  
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to a great distance, he ordered his people to begin with tearing away that cornish; this was presently attempted, and would have been soon executed; but, in the mean time, he was told, that, as there was no *Mandarine* there to direct what was to be done, the *Chinese* would make him, the Commodore, answerable for whatever should be pulled down by his orders. On this his people desisted; and he sent them to the *English* factory, to assist in securing the Company's treasure and effects, as it was easy to foresee that no distance was a protection against the rage of such a fire, where so little was done to put a stop to it; for all this time the *Chinese* contented themselves with viewing it, and now and then holding one of their idols near it, which they seemed to expect should check its progress: However, at last, a *Mandarine* came out of the city, attended by four or five hundred firemen: These made some feeble efforts to pull down the neighbouring houses; but by this time the fire had greatly extended itself, and was got amongst the Merchants warehouses; and the *Chinese* firemen, wanting both skill and spirit, were incapable of checking its violence; so that its fury increased upon them, and it was feared the whole city would be destroyed. In this general confusion the Viceroy himself came thither, and the Commodore was sent to, and was entreated to afford his assistance, being told that he might take any measures he should think most prudent in the present emergency. And now he went thither a second time, carrying with him about forty of his people; who, upon this occasion, exerted themselves in such a manner, as in that country was altogether without example: For they were rather animated than deterred by the flames and falling buildings, amongst which they wrought; so that it was not uncommon to see the most forward of them tumble to the ground on the roofs, and amidst the ruins of houses, which their own efforts brought down with them. By their boldness and activity the fire was soon extinguished to the amazement of the *Chinese*; and the buildings being all on one floor, and the materials slight; the sea-

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men, notwithstanding their daring behaviour, happily escaped with no other injuries, than some considerable bruises.

The fire, though at last thus luckily extinguished, did great mischief during the time it continued; for it consumed an hundred shops and eleven streets full of warehouses, so that the damage amounted to an immense sum; and one of the *Chinese* Merchants, well known to the *English*, whose name was *Succoy*, was supposed, for his own share, to have lost near two hundred thousand pound sterling. It raged indeed <sup>so</sup> with unusual violence, for in many of the warehouses, there were large quantities of camphire, which greatly added to its fury, and produced a column of exceeding white flame, which shot up into the air to such a prodigious height, that the flame itself was plainly seen on board the *Centurion*, though she was thirty miles distant.

Whilst the Commodore and his people were labouring at the fire, and the terror of its becoming general still possessed the whole city, several of the most considerable *Chinese* Merchants came to Mr. *Anson*, to desire that he would let each of them have one of his soldiers (for such they stiled his boat's crew from the uniformity of their dress) to guard their warehouses and dwelling houses, which, from the known dishonesty of the populace, they feared would be pillaged in the tumult. Mr. *Anson* granted them this request; and all the men that he thus furnished to the *Chinese* behaved greatly to the satisfaction of their employers, who afterwards highly applauded their great diligence and fidelity.

By this means, the resolution of the *English* at the fire, and their trustiness and punctuality elsewhere, was the general subject of conversation amongst the *Chinese*: And, the next morning, many of the principal inhabitants waited on the Commodore to thank him for his assistance; frankly owning to him, that they could never have extinguished the fire of themselves, and that he had saved their city from being totally consumed. And soon after a message came to the Commodore from the Viceroy, appointing the 30th of *November*

*vember* for his audience; which sudden resolution of the Viceroy, in a matter that had been so long agitated in vain, was also owing to the signal services performed by Mr. *Anson* and his people at the fire, of which the Viceroy himself had been in some measure an eye-witness.

The fixing this business of the audience, was, on all accounts, a circumstance which Mr. *Anson* was much pleased with; as he was satisfied that the *Chinese* Government would not have determined this point, without having agreed among themselves to give up their pretensions to the duties they claimed, and to grant him all he could reasonably ask; for as they well knew the Commodore's sentiments, it would have been a piece of imprudence, not consistent with the refined cunning of the *Chinese*, to have admitted him to an audience, only to have contested with him. And therefore, being himself perfectly easy about the result of his visit, he made all necessary preparations against the day; and engaged Mr. *Flint*, whom I have mentioned before, to act as interpreter in the conference: Who, in this affair, as in all others, acquitted himself much to the Commodore's satisfaction; repeating with great boldness, and doubtless with exactness, all that was given in charge, a part which no *Chinese* Linguist would ever have performed with any tolerable fidelity.

At ten o'clock in the morning, on the day appointed, a *Mandarine* came to the Commodore, to let him know that the Viceroy was ready to receive him; on which the Commodore and his retinue immediately set out: And as soon as he entered the outer gate of the city, he found a guard of two hundred soldiers drawn up ready to attend him; these conducted him to the great parade before the Emperor's palace, where the Viceroy then resided. In this parade, a body of troops, to the number of ten thousand, were drawn up under arms, and made a very fine appearance, being all of them new clothed for this ceremony: And Mr. *Anson* and his retinue having passed through the middle of them, he was then conducted  
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to the great hall of audience, where he found the Viceroy seated under a rich canopy in the Emperor's chair of State, with all his Council of *Mandarines* attending: Here there was a vacant seat prepared for the Commodore, in which he was placed on his arrival: He was ranked the third in order from the Viceroy, there being above him only the Head of the Law, and of the Treasury, who in the *Chinese* Government take place of all military officers. When the Commodore was seated, he addressed himself to the Viceroy by his interpreter, and began with reciting the various methods he had formerly taken to get an audience; adding, that he imputed the delays he had met with, to the insincerity of those he had employed, and that he had therefore no other means left, than to send, as he had done, his own officer with a letter to the gate. On the mention of this the Viceroy stopped the interpreter, and bid him assure Mr. *Anson*, that the first knowledge they had of his being at *Canton*, was from that letter. Mr. *Anson* then proceeded, and told him, that the subjects of the King of *Great-Britain* trading to *China* had complained to him, the Commodore, of the vexatious impositions both of the Merchants and inferior Custom-house officers, to which they were frequently necessitated to submit, by reason of the difficulty of getting access to the *Mandarines*, who alone could grant them redress: That it was his, Mr. *Anson's*, duty, as an officer of the King of *Great-Britain*, to lay before the Viceroy these grievances of the *British* subjects, which he hoped the Viceroy would take into consideration, and would give orders, that for the future there should be no just reason for complaint. Here Mr. *Anson* paused, and waited some time in expectation of an answer; but nothing being said, he asked his interpreter if he was certain the Viceroy understood what he had urged; the interpreter told him, he was certain it was understood, but he believed no reply would be made to it. Mr. *Anson* then represented to the Viceroy the case of the ship *Hastingsfield*, which, having been dismasted on the coast of *China*,



had arrived in the river of *Canton* but a few days before. The people on board this vessel had been great sufferers by the fire ; the Captain in particular had all his goods burnt, and had lost besides, in the confusion, a chest of treasure of four thousand five hundred *Tabel*, which was supposed to be stolen by the *Chinese* boat-men. Mr. *Anson* therefore desired that the Captain might have the assistance of the Government, as it was apprehended the money could never be recovered without the interposition of the *Mandarines*. And to this request the Viceroy made answer, that in settling the Emperor's customs for that ship, some abatement should be made in consideration of her losses.

And now the Commodore having dispatched the business with which the officers of the *East-India* Company had entrusted him, he entered on his own affairs ; acquainting the Viceroy, that the proper season was now set in for returning to *Europe*, and that he waited only for a licence to ship off his provisions and stores, which were all ready ; and that as soon as this should be granted him, and he should have gotten his necessaries on board, he intended to leave the river of *Canton*, and to make the best of his way for *England*. The Viceroy replied to this, that the licence should be immediately issued, and that every thing should be ordered on board the following day. And finding that Mr. *Anson* had nothing farther to insist on, the Viceroy continued the conversation for some time, acknowledging in very civil terms how much the *Chinese* were obliged to him for his signal services at the fire, and owning that he had saved the city from being destroyed : And then observing that the *Centurion* had been a good while on their coast, he closed his discourse, by wishing the Commodore a good voyage to *Europe*. After which, the Commodore, thanking him for his civility and assistance, took his leave.

As soon as the Commodore was out of the hall of audience, he was much pressed to go into a neighbouring apartment, where there was an entertainment provided ; but finding, on enquiry, that the

Viceroy himself was not to be present, he declined the invitation, and departed, attended in the same manner as at his arrival; only at his leaving the city he was saluted by three guns, which are as many as in that country are ever fired on any ceremony. Thus the Commodore, to his great joy, at last finished this troublesome affair, which, for the preceding four months, had given him great disquietude. Indeed he was highly pleased with procuring a licence for the shipping of his stores and provisions; for thereby he was enabled to return to *Great-Britain* with the first of the monsoon, and to prevent all intelligence of his being expected: But this, though a very important point, was not the circumstance which gave him the greatest satisfaction; for he was more particularly attentive to the authentic precedent established on this occasion, by which his Majesty's ships of war are for the future exempted from all demands of duty in any of the ports of *China*.

In pursuance of the promises of the Viceroy, the provisions were begun to be sent on board the day after the audience; and, four days after, the Commodore embarked at *Canton* for the *Centurion*; and, on the 7th of *December*, the *Centurion* and her prize unmoored, and stood down the river, passing through the *Bocca Tigris* on the 10th. And on this occasion I must observe, that the *Chinese* had taken care to man the two forts, on each side of that passage, with as many men as they could well contain, the greatest part of them armed with pikes and match-lock musquets. These garrisons affected to shew themselves as much as possible to the ships, and were doubtless intended to induce Mr. *Anson* to think more reverently than he had hitherto done of the *Chinese* military power: For this purpose they were equipped with much parade, having a great number of colours exposed to view; and on the castle in particular there were laid considerable heaps of large stones; and a foldier of unusual size, dressed in very slightly armour, stalkt about on the parapet with a battle-ax in his hand, endeavouring to put on as important and martial an air as possible, though

though some of the observers on board the *Centurion* shrewdly suspected, from the appearance of his armour, that instead of steel, it was composed only of a particular kind of glittering paper.

The *Centurion* and her prize being now without the river of *Canton*, and consequently upon the point of leaving the *Chinese* jurisdiction, I beg leave, before I quit all mention of the *Chinese* affairs, to subjoin a few remarks on the disposition and genius of that extraordinary people. And though it may be supposed, that observations made at *Canton* only, a place situated in the corner of the Empire, are very imperfect materials on which to found any general conclusions, yet as those who have had opportunities of examining the inner parts of the country, have been evidently influenced by very ridiculous prepossessions, and as the transactions of Mr. *Anson* with the Regency of *Canton* were of an uncommon nature, in which many circumstances occurred, different perhaps from any which have happened before, I hope the following reflections, many of them drawn from these incidents, will not be altogether unacceptable to the reader.

That the *Chinese* are a very ingenious and industrious people, is sufficiently evinced, from the great number of curious manufactures which are established amongst them, and which are eagerly sought for by the most distant nations; but though skill in the handicraft arts seems to be the most important qualification of this people, yet their talents therein are but of a second rate kind; for they are much outdone by the *Japanese* in those manufactures, which are common to both countries; and they are in numerous instances incapable of rivalling the mechanic dexterity of the *Europeans*. Indeed, their principal excellency seems to be imitation; and they accordingly labour under that poverty of genius, which constantly attends all servile imitators. This is most conspicuous in works which require great truth and accuracy; as in clocks, watches, fire-arms, &c. for in all these, though they can copy the different parts, and can form some resemblance of the whole, yet they never could arrive at such a justness in their fabric, as was

necessary to produce the desired effect. And if we pass from their manufacturers to artists of a superior class, as painters, statuaries, &c. in these matters they seem to be still more defective, their painters, though very numerous and in great esteem, rarely succeeding in the drawing or colouring of human figures, or in the grouping of large compositions; and though in flowers and birds their performances are much more admired, yet even in these, some part of the merit is rather to be imputed to the native brightness and excellency of the colours, than to the skill of the painter; since it is very unusual to see the light and shade justly and naturally handled, or to find that ease and grace in the drawing, which are to be met with in the works of *European* artists. In short, there is a stiffness and minuteness in most of the *Chinese* productions, which are extremely displeasing: And it may perhaps be asserted with great truth, that these defects in their arts are entirely owing to the peculiar turn of the people, amongst whom nothing great or spirited is to be met with.

If we next examine the *Chinese* literature, (taking our accounts from the writers, who have endeavoured to represent it in the most favourable light) we shall find, that on this head their obstinacy and absurdity are most wonderful: For though, for many ages, they have been surrounded by nations, to whom the use of letters was familiar, yet they, the *Chinese* alone, have hitherto neglected to avail themselves of that almost divine invention, and have continued to adhere to the rude and inartificial method of representing words by arbitrary marks; a method, which necessarily renders the number of their characters too great for human memory to manage, makes writing to be an art that requires prodigious application, and in which no man can be otherwise than partially skilled; whilst all reading, and understanding of what is written, is attended with infinite obscurity and confusion; for the connexion between these marks, and the words they represent, cannot be retained in books, but must be delivered down from age to age by oral tradition: And how uncertain this must prove in such a complicated

plicated subject, is sufficiently obvious to those who have attended to the variation which all verbal relations undergo, when they are transmitted through three or four hands only. Hence it is easy to conclude, that the history and inventions of past ages, recorded by these perplexed symbols, must frequently prove unintelligible; and consequently the learning and boasted antiquity of the Nation must, in numerous instances, be extremely problematical.

But we are told by some of the Missionaries, that though the skill of the *Chinese* in science is indeed much inferior to that of the *Europeans*, yet the morality and justice taught and practised by them are most exemplary. And from the description given by some of these good fathers, one should be induced to believe, that the whole Empire was a well-governed affectionate family, where the only contests were, who should exert the most humanity and beneficence: But our preceding relation of the behaviour of the Magistrates, Merchants and Tradesmen at *Canton*, sufficiently refutes these jesuitical fictions. And as to their theories of morality, if we may judge from the specimens exhibited in the works of the Missionaries, we shall find them solely employed in recommending ridiculous attachments to certain immaterial points, instead of discussing the proper criterion of human actions, and regulating the general conduct of mankind to one another, on reasonable and equitable principles. Indeed, the only pretension of the *Chinese* to a more refined morality than their neighbours is founded, not on their integrity or beneficence, but solely on the affected evenness of their demeanor, and their constant attention to suppress all symptoms of passion and violence. But it must be considered, that hypocrisy and fraud are often not less mischievous to the general interests of mankind, than impetuosity and vehemence of temper: Since these, though usually liable to the imputation of imprudence, do not exclude sincerity, benevolence, resolution, nor many other laudable qualities. And perhaps, if this matter was examined to the bottom, it would appear, that the calm and patient turn of the *Chinese*, on which they so much va-

lue themselves, and which distinguishes the Nation from all others, is in reality the source of the most exceptionable part of their character; for it has been often observed by those who have attended to the nature of mankind, that it is difficult to curb the more robust and violent passions, without augmenting, at the same time, the force of the selfish ones: So that the timidity, dissimulation, and dishonesty of the *Chinese*, may, in some sort, be owing to the composure, and external decency, so universally prevailing in that Empire.

Thus much for the general disposition of the people: But I cannot dismiss this subject, without adding a few words about the *Chinese* Government, that too having been the subject of boundless panegyric. And on this head I must observe, that the favourable accounts often given of their prudent regulations for the administration of their domestic affairs, are sufficiently confuted by their transactions with Mr. *Anson*: For we have seen that their Magistrates are corrupt, their people thievish, and their tribunals crafty and venal. Nor is the constitution of the Empire, or the general orders of the State less liable to exception: Since that form of Government, which does not in the first place provide for the security of the public against the enterprizes of foreign powers, is certainly a most defective institution: And yet this populous, this rich and extensive country, so pompously celebrated for its refined wisdom and policy, was conquered about an age since by an handful of *Tartars*; and even now, by the cowardice of the inhabitants, and the want of proper military regulations, it continues exposed not only to the attempts of any potent State, but to the ravages of every petty Invader. I have already observed, on occasion of the Commodore's disputes with the *Chinese*, that the *Centurion* alone was an overmatch for all the naval power of that Empire: This perhaps may appear an extraordinary position; but to render it unquestionable, there is exhibited in the annexed plate the draught of two of the vessels made use of by the *Chinese*. The first of these marked (A), is a junk of about a hundred and twenty tuns burthen,

then, and was what the *Centurion* hove down by; these are most used in the great rivers, though they sometimes serve for small coasting voyages: The other junk marked (B) is about two hundred and eighty tuns burthen, and is of the same form with those in which they trade to *Cochinchina*, *Manila*, *Batavia* and *Japan*, though some of their trading vessels are of a much larger size; its head, which is represented at (C) is perfectly flat; and when the vessel is deep laden, the second or third plank of this flat surface is oftentimes under water. The masts, sails, and rigging of these vessels are ruder than their built; for their masts are made of trees, no otherwise fashioned than by barking them, and lopping off their branches. Each mast has only two shrouds made of twisted rattan, which are often both shifted to the weather-side; and the hal-yard, when the yard is up, serves instead of a third shroud. The sails are made of matt, strengthened every three feet by an horizontal rib of bamboo; they run upon the mast with hoops, as is represented in the figure, and when they are lowered down, they fold upon the deck. These merchantmen carry no cannon; and it appears, from this whole description, that they are utterly incapable of resisting any *European* armed vessel. Nor is the State provided with ships of considerable force, or of a better fabric, to protect them: For at *Canton*, where doubtless their principal naval power is stationed, we saw no more than four men of war junks, of about three hundred tuns burthen, being of the make already described, and mounted only with eight or ten guns, the largest of which did not exceed a four pounder. This may suffice to give an idea of the defenceless state of the *Chinese* Empire. But it is time to return to the Commodore, whom I left with his two ships without the *Bocca Tigris*, and who, on the 12th of *December*, anchored before the town of *Macao*.

Whilst the ships lay here, the Merchants of *Macao* finished their agreement for the galeon, for which they had offered 6000 dollars; this was much short of her value, but the impatience of the Commodore to get to sea, to which the merchants were no  
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strangers,

strangers, prompted them to insist on so unequal a bargain. Mr. *Anson* had learnt enough from the *English* at *Canton* to conjecture, that the war betwixt *Great-Britain* and *Spain* was still continued; and that probably the *French* might engage in the assistance of *Spain*, before he could arrive in *Great-Britain*; and therefore, knowing that no intelligence could get to *Europe* of the prize he had taken, and the treasure he had on board, till the return of the merchantmen from *Canton*, he was resolved to make all possible expedition in getting back, that he might be himself the first messenger of his own good fortune, and might thereby prevent the enemy from forming any projects to intercept him: For these reasons, he, to avoid all delay, accepted of the sum offered for the galeon; and she being delivered to the Merchants the 15th of *December* 1743, the *Centurion*, the same day, got under sail, on her return to *England*. And, on the 3d of *January*, she came to an anchor at *Prince's Island* in the *Streights of Sunda*, and continued there wooding and watering till the 8th; when she weighed and stood for *The Cape of Good Hope*, where, on the 11th of *March*, she anchored in *Table-bay*.

*The Cape of Good Hope* is situated in a temperate climate, where the excesses of heat and cold are rarely known; and the *Dutch* inhabitants, who are numerous, and who here retain their native industry, have stock'd it with prodigious plenty of all sort of fruits and provisions; most of which, either from the equality of the seasons, or the peculiarity of the soil, are more delicious in their kind than can be met with elsewhere: So that by these, and by the excellent water which abounds there, this settlement is the best provided of any in the known world, for the refreshment of seamen after long voyages. Here the Commodore continued till the beginning of *April*, highly delighted with the place, which by its extraordinary accommodations, the healthiness of its air, and the picturesque appearance of the country, all enlivened by the addition of a civilized colony, was not disgraced in an imaginary comparison with the vallies of *Juan Fernandes*, and the lawns of *Tinian*. During



ring his stay he entered about forty new men; and having, by the 3d of *April* 1744, compleated his water and provision, he, on that day, weighed and put to sea; and, the 19th of the same month, they saw the Island of *Saint Helena*, which however they did not touch at, but stood on their way; and, on the 10th of *June*, being then in soundings, they spoke with an *English* ship from *Amsterdam* bound for *Philadelphia*, whence they received the first intelligence of a *French* war; the twelfth they got sight of the *Lizard*; and the fifteenth, in the evening, to their infinite joy, they came safe to an anchor at *Spithead*. But that the signal perils which had so often threatened them in the preceding part of the enterprize, might pursue them to the very last, Mr. *Anson*, learnt on his arrival, that there was a *French* fleet of considerable force cruising in the chops of the Channel, which, by the account of their position, he found the *Centurion* had run through, and had been all the time concealed by a fog. Thus was this expedition finished, when it had lasted three years and nine months, after having, by its event, strongly evinced this important truth, That though prudence, intrepidity, and perseverance united, are not exempted from the blows of adverse fortune; yet in a long series of transactions, they usually rise superior to its power, and in the end rarely fail of proving successful.

F I N I S.