

Though this was not the exact mode in which Captain King could have wished to visit Canton, yet as it was highly uncertain when the passport would arrive, and his presence might be of great service, in expediting the requisite supplies, he did not scruple to go on board the vessel, having left orders with Mr. Williamson to prepare the *Discovery* for sea with all convenient speed, and make such additions and improvements in her upper works, as might contribute to render her more defensible.

Mr. King and his attendants quitted the harbour of Macao on Saturday the 11th; and, reaching Canton in the evening of the 18th, disembarked at the English factory, where, though his arrival was wholly unexpected, he was received with every mark of civility and respect. Messrs. Fitzhugh, Bevan, and Rapiér, composed at this time the Select Committee; and the former of these gentlemen acted as President. They immediately gave Mr. King an inventory of those stores with which the East India ships were able to supply us; and though he did not entertain the smallest doubt, that the commanders were willing to assist us with whatever they could spare, consistently with a regard to the interest of their employers, as well as their own safety, yet it was a great disappointment to him to observe in their list scarcely any canvass or cordage, of both which articles we were chiefly in want. It afforded him, however, some consolation, to find that the stores were ready to be shipped, and that the provisions we had occasion for might be had at a day's notice.

On Sunday the 26th, in the evening, Captain King took his leave of the Supercargoes, after having returned them thanks for their many favours; among which must be mentioned a present of a considerable quantity of tea, for the use of the companies of both ships, and a copious collection of English periodical publications.

At one o'clock in the morning of the 27th, Messrs. King and Phillips, and the two English gentlemen, quitted Canton, and, about the same hour of the suc-