

voyage to China, and will afford gratification to those who take an interest in the history and progress of American Commerce.

The policy of the navigation laws of the mother country had been to restrict our commerce, while we were colonies or provinces: the first fruits of our Independence were a free trade with all the world. The rights of persons and of property had been as sacred and secure before, as after the Revolution; BUT THE BLESSINGS OF A FREE COMMERCE AND UNRESTRICTED ENTERPRIZE SOON WROUGHT A MANIFEST AND WONDERFUL CHANGE IN OUR COUNTRY.

Major Shaw undertook this commercial enterprize soon after the disbandment of our Revolutionary Army. He had served his country as a Captain in Col. Crane's Continental Massachusetts Regiment of Artillery, and his conduct and character were so distinguished that he had acquired the confidence and esteem of Major General Knox, and had been appointed Aid-de-camp to that admired and gallant officer.

In January, 1786, *Major Shaw* was elected by the Continental Congress, *United States' Consul* to reside at Canton, having been nominated by Mr. Pinckney, of South Carolina. He was the first Consul appointed by this nation. Mr. Thomas Randall was two days afterwards elected Vice Consul at the same place.

Major S. died in 1794, off the Cape of Good Hope, when on his return to his native land.—[*Salem Gazette.*

New-York, 19th May, 1785.

SIR: The first vessel that has been fitted out by the inhabitants of the United States of America, for essaying a commerce with those of the Empire of China, being by the favor of Heaven, safe returned to this port, it becomes my duty to communicate to you, for the information of the fathers of the country, an account of the reception their citizens have met with, and the respect with which their flag has been treated in that distant region; especially as some circumstances have occurred which had a tendency to attract the attention of the Chinese towards a people of whom they have hitherto had but very confused ideas, and which served, in a peculiar manner, to place the Americans in a more conspicuous point of view than has commonly attended the introduction of other nations in that ancient and extensive empire.

The ship employed on this occasion, is about three hundred and sixty tons burthen, built in America, and equipped with forty three persons, under the command of John Green, Esq. The subscriber had the honour of being appointed agent for their commerce, by the gentlemen at whose risk the first experiment has been undertaken.

On the 22d of February, 1784, the ship sailed from New-York, & arrived the 21st of March at St. Jago, the principal of the Cape de Verd Islands. Having paid our respects to the Portuguese Viceroy, and, with his permission, taken such refreshments as were necessary, we left those Islands on the 27 and pursued our voyage. After a pleasant passage, in which nothing extraordinary occurred, we came to anchor in the streights of Sunda on the 18th of July. It was no

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