

received him with every external mark of friendship. But when he began to discuss matters with him, relative to the interests of his nation, he pretended that he had not authority to agree to some of the most important articles; and, notwithstanding the national honour pledged by the two officers, he sent Bowles to the Havannah, and shortly after to Spain.

On his arrival at Madrid, the Spanish government endeavoured to seduce him by a large fortune, and a brilliant post in the army, both which Bowles rejected with indignation. To this Spain added a new artifice. An alcaide informed him, that the king had appointed two commissaries at Cadiz, to treat with him, and that to end all difficulties, he must repair thither immediately. After a detention of eight months in the capital, he arrived at Cadiz, where he was confined for a whole year. During this interval, a proposal was made to him as follows:—“A messenger,” says he, in a letter to one of his friends, “came one day and informed me, that if I would write to the Duke of Alcerdia, and accuse the Counts of Aranda and Florida Blanca, of ill treatment to me, I should be brought back to court, and my business finished to my satisfaction. The indignation that I felt on hearing this, cannot be easily expressed; I commanded the messenger not to repeat it on pain of feeling my displeasure. ‘In that case,’ replied he, ‘you must prepare to visit the Philippines.’

“A few days subsequent to this infamous proposal,” adds he, “I was conducted on board of a vessel, without knowing whither I was bound: I was sent to Lima by Cape Horn, without any preparation for my voyage, almost naked, and in the coldest season of the year.” Here the same propositions were renewed which had been made in Spain. They were rejected, and he was embarked for Manilla; where he arrived on the 27th of November, 1795. In 1797, he was again embarked for Europe; but, at the isle of Ascension, he eluded the vigilance of his guards, and escaped to Sierra Leone, where he procured a passage to London.

On his arrival in England, Bowles was destitute of articles of the first importance; but being informed that Mr. Pitt was at Walmer Castle, he went thither, and remained there many days, during which he recovered from his fatigues. Being provided with a letter written by Mr. Pitt, he waited on the Duke of Portland, who kindly received him, and who supplied all his wants. Loaded with the kindness of government, which afforded him all the aid that he required for his nation, he departed, after a long residence in England, with the design of wreaking his vengeance on a deceitful government, that had imprisoned and ill treated him.