

to the Mandarin who attended the Centurion, to inform him, that he, the commodore, intended, on the 1st 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. This message being delivered to the Mandarin, he 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: the boat's crew which Mr. Anson proposed to take with him, were clothed in an uniform resembling that of the watermen on the Thames; they were in number eighteen and a cockswain; they had scarlet jackets and blue silk waistcoats, the whole trimmed with silver buttons, besides 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 their granting a permission to victual the ship for our 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 unseasonable pretensions, by having him in their power at Canton. And therefore, the better to secure 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, if he, the commodore, should be detained at Canton on account of the duties in dispute. These necessary steps being taken, which were not unknown to the Chinese, it should seem as if their deliberations were in some sort perplexed thereby; and some dirty cunning arts were made use of to obstruct his going up to Canton.

On the 13th of October, however, the commodore continuing firm to his resolution, all the supercargoes of the English, Danish, and Swedish ships came