

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 invited him to an interview, according to his promise, he saw it would be impossible for him to surmount the difficulties he was under, without going to Canton, and visiting the Viceroy. And therefore, on the 27th of September, he sent a message 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; and the boat's crew 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 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 the 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, the better to secure his ship, and the great treasure on board her, against their projects, 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