

The information now received by Mr. King and his attendants, being communicated to those who remained on board, we continued, for several days, to question each other with respect to the truth of it, as if desirous of seeking, in doubt and suspense, for that consolation, which the reality of our misfortunes seemed entirely to exclude. To these sensations the most poignant regret succeeded, on finding ourselves cut off, at so great a distance, from the scene, where, we supposed, the fate of contending fleets and armies was continually deciding.

The intelligence we had gained concerning the state of affairs in Europe, rendered us the more anxious to accelerate our departure as much as we possibly could. Captain King, therefore, renewed his endeavours to procure a passage to Canton, but did not meet with success at present ; and finding there was no prospect of his proceeding to Canton, dispatched a letter to the Committee of the English Super-cargoes, to request their assistance in procuring him a passport, as well as in forwarding the stores we had occasion for, (of which Mr. King sent them a list) with all possible expedition.

On Thursday the 9th, Captain Gore received an answer from the English Super-cargoes at Canton, in which they promised to exert their most strenuous endeavours in procuring the supplies of which we were in want, with all possible dispatch, and assured him, that a passport should be sent for one of our officers, expressing their hopes, at the same time, that we were sufficiently acquainted with the character of the Chinese administration, to impute any delays that might occur, to their true cause.

The next day, an English merchant, from one of our settlements, made application to Captain Gore, for the assistance of a few of his people, to navigate as far as Canton, a vessel which he had purchased at Macao. Captain Gore, considering this as a good opportunity for Mr. King to repair to that city, gave orders, that he should take with him his second lieutenant, the lieutenant of marines, and ten sailors.