

and scaled the guns, which, on board the *Discovery* amounted at this time to ten; so that her people, by means of four additional ports, could fight seven on a side. In the *Resolution*, likewise, the number of guns had been augmented from twelve to sixteen; and, in each of the vessels, a strong barricade had been carried round the upper works, and all other precautions taken to give this inconsiderable force a respectable appearance.

It was considered a duty to furnish these means of defence, though there was some reason to believe, that they had, in a great measure, been rendered superfluous by the generosity of our enemies. Captain King had been informed at Canton, that in the public prints, which had last arrived from Great Britain, mention was made of the instructions having been found on board all the French ships of war that had been taken in Europe, importing, that their commanders, if they should happen to fall in with the ships which had sailed from England under the command of Captain Cook, should suffer them to proceed unmolested on their voyage. It was also reported that the American Congress had given similar orders to the vessels employed in their service. This intelligence being further confirmed by the private letters of some of the supercargoes, Captain Gore deemed it incumbent on him, in return for the liberal exceptions made in their favour, to refrain from embracing any opportunities of capture which these might afford, and to maintain the strictest neutrality during the whole of his voyage.

Having got under sail, about two o'clock in the afternoon, the *Resolution* saluted the fort of Macao with eleven guns; and the salutation was returned with an equal number. The wind failing at five, the ship missed stays, and drove into shallow water: but an anchor being quickly carried out, she was hauled off without sustaining any damage.

Strong gales arose and continued for some days. On the 19th, about four in the afternoon, the island of Sapata was twelve or fourteen miles distant, bearing north-west by west. This island which is denominated Sapata from its resembling a shoe, in figure, is small, elevated, and unfertile. According to observations, it is situated in the latitude of 10 deg. 4 min. north, and the longitude of 109 deg. 10 min. east.

The fury of the gale was now so much augmented, and the sea ran so high, that they were obliged to close-reef the top-sails. The ships, during the three last days, had out-run their reckoning at the rate of twenty miles in a day; and as this could not be wholly attributed to the effects of a following sea, they partly ascribed it to a current, which, according to Captain King's calculations, had set between the noon of the 19th, and the 20th, forty-two miles to the south-south-westward; and is taken into the account in fixing the position of Sapata.

At four o'clock in the afternoon of the 20th, the extremes of Pulo Condore, and the islands that are situated off it, bore south-