

of a speedy departure were even now somewhat damped, by a subsequent order which Mr. *Anson* received on the 12th of *September*; for by that he was required to take under his convoy the *St. Albans* with the *Turkey* fleet, and to join the *Dragon*, and the *Wincheſter*, with the *Streights* and the *American* trade at *Torbay* or *Plymouth*, and to proceed with them to ſea as far as their way and ours lay together: This incumbrance of a convoy gave us ſome uneaſineſs, as we feared it might prove the means of lengthening our paſſage to the *Maderas*. However, Mr. *Anſon*, now having the command himſelf, reſolved to adhere to his former determination, and to tide it down the Channel with the firſt moderate weather; and that the junction of his Convoy might occaſion as little a loſs of time as poſſible, he immediately ſent directions to *Torbay*, that the fleets he was there to take under his care, might be in a readineſs to join him inſtantly on his approach. And at laſt, on the 18th of *September*, he weighed from *St. Helens*; and though the wind was at firſt contrary, had the good fortune to get clear of the Channel in four days, as will be more particularly related in the enſuing chapter.

Having thus gone through the reſpective ſteps taken in the equipment of this ſquadron, it is ſufficiently obvious how different an aſpect this expedition bore at its firſt appointment in the beginning of *January*, from what it had in the latter end of *September*, when it left the Channel; and how much its numbers, its  
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