

efforts to pull down the neighbouring houses: but by that time the fire had greatly extended itself, and was got amongst the merchants' warehouses, and the Chinese firemen wanting both skill and spirit, were incapable of checking its violence; so that its fury increased upon them, and it was feared that the whole city would be destroyed. In this general confusion, the Viceroy himself came hither, and the Commodore was sent to, and was entreated to afford his assistance, being told that he might take any measures he should think most prudent in the present emergency. Upon this message he went thither a second time, carrying with him about forty of his people; who in the sight of the whole city, exerted themselves after so extraordinary a manner, as in that country was altogether without example. For, behaving with the agility and boldness peculiar to sailors, they were rather animated than deterred by the flames and falling buildings amongst which they wrought; whence it was not uncommon to see the most forward of them tumble to the ground off the roofs, and amidst the ruins of houses, which their own efforts brought down under them. By their resolution and activity, the fire was soon extinguished, to the amazement of the Chinese: and it fortunately happened, too, that the buildings being all on one floor, and the materials slight, the seamen, notwithstanding their daring behaviour, escaped with no other injuries than some considerable bruises.

The fire, though at last thus luckily extinguished, did great mischief during the time it continued: for it consumed a hundred shops and eleven streets full of warehouses, so that the damage amounted to an immense sum: and one of the Chinese merchants, well known to the English, whose name was Succoy, was supposed for his own share to have lost near two hundred thousand pounds sterling. It raged indeed with unusual violence: for in many of the warehouses there were large quantities of camphor, which greatly added to its fury, and produced a column of exceeding white flame, which blazed up into