



To the HONOURABLE

William Gyfford, *Esq;*

*President of Coast* Cormandell, Bengall, &c.

AND

*Governour of Fort St. George.*

HONOURED SIR,

THIS is but a rough draught of what is in a more clear and lively manner impress'd in your honour's memory; I mean, the state and constitution of the kingdom of *Tonqueen*, since yourself was the first *English* man that, entering the country, open'd that trade, and settled there a factory for the honourable company; in effecting which your patience appear'd no less exemplary (having suffer'd strange rudeness and harsh usages from the natives, their usual welcome to new-comers) than your prudence and dexterity was eminent in that negotiation, wherein (I can say without incurring the imputation of flattery) your generosity respected the honour of your nation and common benefit much more than your particular interest, and with a liberal spirit bestow'd your wax and honey most freely on others, thinking, as that heroick *German* express'd himself to the emperor *Charles V.* *If my Labour is not for myself, 'tis for Posterity.* Equal to this was your honour's deportment, affable, courteous and complaisant to the humours of those people, wherein your condescending temper was very conspicuous; which, tho' it had been accustomed to live in other parts of *India* after another rate and splendor than the *Tonquenesse*, *Chinese* or *Japanese* willingly tolerate any stranger or foreigner to do in their country, did yet know readily how to please them, by your conformity and seasonable receding to their pride, whereby you presently so gain'd the good-will of courtiers and merchants (of which they are otherwise great niggards to new-comers, yet very loving to them that know their country and customs) as prov'd no small means to uphold afterwards the *English* name,