

flame to a great distance. He ordered his people to begin with tearing away that cornice: this was presently attempted, and would have been soon executed; but in the



mean time he was told that as there was no Mandarin there, who alone has a power to direct on these occasions, the Chinese would make him, the Commodore, answerable for whatever should be pulled down by his command. Hereupon Mr. Anson and his attendants desisted; and he sent them to the English factory, to assist in securing the Company's treasure and effects, as it was easy to foresee that no distance was a protection against the rage of such a fire, where so little was done to put a stop to it: since all the while the Chinese contented themselves with viewing it, and now and then holding one of their idols near it, which they seemed to expect should check its progress. Indeed, at last a Mandarin came out of the city, attended by four or five hundred firemen: these made some feeble