

down by, and was not to be replaced in that part of the world, he was extremely desirous to recover it, and published a considerable reward to any who would bring it him again. There were suspicions from the first of its being stolen, which made him conclude a reward was the likeliest method of getting it back. Hereupon soon after the Mandarin informed him, that some of his, the Mandarin's, attendants had found the top-mast, desiring the Commodore to send his boats to fetch it, which being done, the Mandarin's people received the promised reward. It seems the Commodore had told the Mandarin that he would make him a present besides, on account of the care he had taken in directing it to be searched for; and, accordingly, Mr. Anson gave a sum of money to his linguist, to be delivered to the Mandarin; but the linguist, knowing that the Chinese had been paid, and ignorant that a further present had been promised, kept the money himself. However, the Mandarin fully confiding in Mr. Anson's word, and suspecting the linguist, he took occasion, one morning, to admire the size of the Centurion's masts, and thence, on a pretended sudden recollection, he made a digression to the top-mast which had been lost, and asked Mr. Anson if he had not got it again. Mr. Anson presently perceived the bent of this conversation, and inquired of him if he had not received the money from the linguist? and finding he had not, he offered to pay it him upon the spot; but this the Mandarin refused, having now somewhat more in view than the sum which had been detained; for the next day the linguist was seized, and was doubtless mulcted of whatever he had gotten in the Commodore's service, which was supposed to be little less than two thousand dollars; being besides so severely bastinadoed that it was wonderful he escaped with his life. And when he was upbraided by the Commodore, to whom he afterwards came a begging, with his folly in risking this severe chastisement, and the loss of all he was worth, for the lucre of fifty dollars, the present of which he defrauded the Mandarin,