

ease and politeness which indicated that he had been accustomed to pass his time in other company than what Condore afforded. He brought with him a sort of certificate, written in the French language, of which the following is a translation.

"Peter George, Bishop of Adran, Apostolic Vicar of Cochinchina, &c. The little Mandarin, who is the bearer hereof, is the real Envoy of the Court to Pulo Condore, to attend there for the reception of all European vessels, whose destination is to approach that place, &c. A Sai-Gon, 10 August, 1779."

He gave us to understand, that he was the Mandarin mentioned in it; and produced another paper, which was a letter sealed up, and addressed to the Captains of any European ships that may touch at Condore. From this letter, and the whole of Luco's conversation, the Mandarin, we had little doubt, that the vessel he expected was a French one. We found, at the same time, that he was desirous of not losing his errand, and was not unwilling to become our pilot. We could not discover from him the precise business which the ship he was waiting for designed to prosecute in Cochinchina. We shall only add, that he acquainted us, that the French vessels might perhaps have touched at Tinnon, and from thence sail to Cochinchina; and as no intelligence had been received, he imagined that this was most likely to have been the case. Captain Gore afterwards enquired, what supplies could be procured from this island. Luco replied, he had two buffaloes belonging to him, which were at our service, and that considerable numbers of those animals might be purchased for four or five dollars each. We had purchased eight of these animals; and on the 23d, early in the morning, the launches of both ships were dispatched to the town to bring them away, but our people were much at a loss to bring them on board. After consulting with the Mandarin, it was determined, that they should be driven through the wood, and over the hill, down to the bay, where our two Captains had landed. This plan was accordingly executed; but the untractableness, and amazing strength of the animals rendered it a slow and difficult operation. The mode of conducting them was, by putting ropes through their nostrils, and round their horns; but when they were once enraged at the sight of our people, they became so furious, that they sometimes tore asunder the cartilage of the nostril, through which the ropes passed, and set themselves at liberty; at other times they broke the trees, to which it was found necessary to fasten them. On such occasions, all the endeavours of our men, for the recovery of them, would have been unsuccessful, without the aid of some little boys, whom the buffaloes would suffer to approach, and by whose puerile managements their rage was quickly appeased; and when brought down to the beach, it was by their assistance, in twisting ropes about their legs, in the manner they were directed, that our people were enabled to throw them down, and, by that means, to get them into the boats; and, a circumstance very singular, they had not been a whole day on board, before they were as tame as possible. Captain King kept a male and a female for a considerable time, which became great favourites with the seamen. Thinking a breed of these animals, some of which weighed, when dressed, 700 pounds, would be an acquisition of some value, he intended to have brought them with him to England; but that design was frustrated by an incurable hurt which one of them received at sea. Besides the buffaloes, of which there are several large herds in this island, we purchased from the natives some remarkably fine fat hogs, of the Chinese breed. We procured three or four of the wild fow; several of whose tracks were seen in the woods; which also abound with monkeys and squirrels, but so shy, that it was difficult to shoot them. Here we found the cabbage-tree, and other succulent greens, with which our people made very free without asking questions. Two wells of excellent water had been discovered, in consequence of which part of the companies of both ships had been employed in providing a competent supply of it. Our numerous subscribers will

be pleased to recollect, that in our history of Captain Cook's first and second voyages, we have given a concise, though comprehensive account of Pulo Condore, Celebes, Sumatra, Java, the Philippine, Ladrones, and, in short, all the principal islands in the Indian Sea; it therefore only now remains, during the remainder of our passage home, with a view of establishing the credit and reputation of this work, and of rendering it the most complete undertaking of the kind extant, to mention a few particulars that came under our own observation, and which may be reckoned as improvements since the labours of former compilers, or the expeditions of prior navigators.

Pulo Condore signifies the island of Calabashes, its name being derived from two Malay words, Pulo, implying an island, and Condore, a Calabash, great quantities of which fruit are produced here. Among the vegetable improvements of this island, may be reckoned the fields of rice that we observed; also cocoa-nuts, pomegranates, oranges, shaddockes, and various sorts of pomponies. We continued at this harbour till the 28th, when the little Mandarin took leave of us; at which time the Commodore gave him, at his request, a letter of recommendation to the Commanders of any other vessels that might put in here. He also bestowed on him a handsome present, and gave him a letter for the bishop of Adrian, together with a telescope, which he desired might be presented to him as a compliment for the favours we had received, through his means, at Pulo Condore. The latitude of the harbour is 8 deg. 40 min. N. and its longitude, deduced from many lunar observations, 106 deg. 18 min. 46 sec. E. At full and change of the moon it was high water at 4 h. 15 m. apparent time; after which the water continued for 12 hours, without any perceptible alteration. The transition from ebbing to flowing was very quick, being in less than five minutes. The water rose and fell seven feet four inches perpendicular.

On Friday, the 28th, we unmoored, and cleared the harbour. On the 30th, at one o'clock, P. M. we had sight of Pulo Timoon, and at five, Pulo Puilang was seen in the direction of S. by E. three quarters E. At nine o'clock, we had, from the effect of some current, out-run our reckoning, and found ourselves close upon Pulo Aor, in the lat. of 2 deg. 46 min. N. long. 104 deg. 37 min. E. in consequence of which we hauled the wind to the E. S. E. This course we prosecuted till midnight, and then steered S. S. E. for the Straits of Banca.

On Tuesday, the 1st of February, we observed in lat. 1 deg. 20 min. N. and our long. by a number of lunar observations, we found to be 105 deg. E. Towards sun-set, we had a view of Pulo Panjang; at which time our lat. was 53 min. N. On the 2d, we passed the Straits of Sunda; and, at noon, we came in sight of the small islands known by the name of Dominis, lying off the eastern part of Lingien. At one o'clock, P. M. Pulo Taya made its appearance in the direction of S. W. by W. distant 7 leagues. On the 3d, at day-break, we had sight of the three islands; and, not long afterwards, saw Monopin Hill, in the island of Banca. Having got to the W. of the shoal, named Frederic Endric; we entered the Straits of Banca, and bore away towards the S. On the 4th, in the morning, we proceeded down the Straits with the tide; and, at noon, the tide beginning to make against us, we cast anchor, at the distance of about one league from what is denominated the Third Point, on the Sumatra shore; Monopin Hill bearing N. 54 deg. W. and our lat. being 2 deg. 22 min. S. long. 105 deg. 38 min. E. At three in the afternoon we weighed, and continued our course through the Straits with a gentle breeze. In passing these Straits, ships may make a nearer approach to the coast of Sumatra than to that of Banca. On Sunday, the 6th, in the morning, we passed to the W. of Lusepara; and at five o'clock, P. M. we deflected the Sisters, in the direction of S. by W. half W. At seven we cast anchor three leagues to the northward of those islands. On the 7th, at five o'clock, A. M. we weighed, and in three hours afterwards we were in sight of the Sisters. These are two islands of very small extent, plentifully stocked with wood, and situated in 50 deg.