

of which we were in want, with all possible dispatch, and assured him, that a passport should be lent for one of our officers, expressing their hopes, at the same time, that we were sufficiently acquainted with the character of the Chinese administration, to impute any delays that might occur, to their true cause.

The next day, an English merchant, from one of our settlements, made application to Captain Gore, for the assistance of a few of his people, to navigate as far as Canton, a vessel which he had purchased at Macao. Captain Gore, considering this as a good opportunity for Mr. King to repair to that city, gave orders, that he should take with him his second lieutenant, the lieutenant of marines, and ten sailors.

Though this was not the exact mode in which Captain King could have wished to visit Canton, yet as it was highly uncertain when the passport would arrive, and his presence might be of great service, in expediting the requisite supplies, he did not scruple to go on board the vessel, having left orders with Mr. Williamson to prepare the *Discovery* for sea with all convenient speed, and make such additions and improvements in her upper works, as might contribute to render her more defensible.

Mr. King and his attendants quitted the harbour of Macao on Saturday the 11th; and reaching Canton in the evening of the 13th, disembarked at the English factory, where, though his arrival was wholly unexpected, he was received with every mark of civility and respect. Messrs. Fitzhugh, Bevan, and Rapier, composed at this time the Select Committee; and the former of these gentlemen acted as President. They immediately gave Mr. King an inventory of those stores with which the East-India ships were able to supply us; and though he did not entertain the smallest doubt, that the commanders were willing to assist with whatever they could spare, consistently with a regard to the interest of their employers, as well as their own safety, yet it was a great disappointment to him to observe in their list scarcely any canvas or cordage, of both which articles we were chiefly in want. It afforded him, however, some consolation, to find that the stores were ready to be shipped, and that the provisions we had occasion for might be had at a day's notice.

On Sunday the 16th, in the evening, Captain King took his leave of the Supercargoes, after having returned them thanks for their many favours; among which must be mentioned a present of a considerable quantity of tea, for the use of the companies of both ships, and a copious collection of English periodical publications.

At one o'clock in the morning of the 17th, Messrs. King and Phillips, and the two English gentlemen, quitted Canton, and, about the same hour of the succeeding day, arrived at Macao, having passed down a channel situate to the west of that by which Mr. King had come up.