

ders, and was understood by the Mandarin. After a little previous conversation, he declared that he was a christian, and had been baptized by the name of Luco; that he had been sent hither in August last, from Sai-gon, the capital of Cochin China, and had since waited in expectation of some French ships, which he was to pilot to a safe port, not more than a day's sail hence, upon the coast of Cochin China. Captain Gore acquainted him, that we were not French, but English, and asked him, whether he did not know that those two nations were not at war with one another. He made answer in the affirmative; but at the same time signified that it was indifferent to him to what nation the ships he was instructed to wait for belonged, provided their object was to trade with the people of Cochin China.

He now produced another paper which he requested them to peruse. This was a letter sealed up and addressed "To the Captains of any European ships that may touch at Condore." Though this letter was particularly intended for French vessels, yet as the direction comprehended all European captains, and as Luco was desirous of their reading it, Captain Gore broke the seal, and perceived that it was written by the same bishop who wrote the certificate.

Its contents were to the following purport:—"That he had reason to expect, by some intelligence lately received from Europe, that a ship would in a short time come to Cochin China; in consequence of which news, he had prevailed on the Court to dispatch a Mandarin (the bearer) to Pulo Condore, to wait his arrival: that if the vessel should touch there, the Captain might either send to him, by the bearer of this letter, an account of his having arrived, or trust himself to the direction of the Mandarin, who would pilot the ship into a commodious port in Cochin China, not exceeding a day's sail from Pulo Condore: that if he should be inclined to continue at this island till the return of the messenger, proper interpreters should be sent back, and any other assistance, which might be pointed out in a letter, should be furnished: that there was no occasion for being more particular, of which the commander himself must be sensible." This epistle had the same date with the certificate, and was returned to Luco, without taking any copy of it.

Captain Gore inquired, what supplies could be procured from this island. Luco replied, that there were two buffaloes belonging to him, which were at his service; and that there were considerable numbers of those animals on the island, which might be purchased for four or five dollars each; but Captain Gore thinking that sum very moderate, and appearing inclined to give a much greater for them, the price was speedily augmented to seven or eight dollars.

On the 23rd, early in the morning, the launches of both the ships were dispatched to the town, to bring away the buffaloes