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ness with which the officers of the East India Company had intrusted him, he entered on his own affairs; acquainting the Viceroy that the proper season was already set in for returning to Europe, and that he wanted only a licence to ship off his provisions and stores, which were all ready; and that as soon as this should be granted him, and he should have gotten his necessaries on board, he intended to leave the river of Canton, and to make the best of his way for England. The Viceroy replied to this, that the licence should be immediately issued, and that everything should be ordered on board the following day. And finding that Mr. Anson had nothing further to insist on, the Viceroy continued the conversation for some time, acknowledging in very civil terms, how much the Chinese were obliged to him for his signal services at the fire, and owning that he had saved the city from being destroyed: then observing that the Centurion had been a long while on their coast, he closed his discourse by wishing the Commodore a prosperous voyage to Europe. After which the Commodore, thanking him for his civility and assistance, took his leave.

As soon as the Commodore was out of the hall of audience, he was much pressed to go into a neighbouring apartment, where there was an entertainment provided; but finding on inquiry that the Viceroy himself was not to be present, he declined the invitation, and departed, attended in the same manner as at his arrival: only on his leaving the city he was saluted by three guns, which are as many as in that country are ever fired on any ceremony. Thus the Commodore, to his great joy, at last finished this troublesome affair, which for the preceding four months had given him much disquietude. Indeed he was highly pleased with procuring a licence for the shipping off his stores and provisions, as thereby he was enabled to return to Great Britain with the first of the monsoons, and to prevent all intelligence of his being expected; but this, though a very important point, was not the circumstance which gave him the greatest satis-