

the boat. Captain King observed, when they were in the house before, and now remarked it the more, that a man who seemed to be the principal person of the company, frequently retired into one of the end rooms, and staid there some little time, before he answered the questions that were put to him; which led him to suspect that the captain was all the time there, though, for reasons best known to himself, he did not choose to appear; he was confirmed in this opinion, by being stopped as he was attempting to go into the room. At length it clearly appeared that his suspicions were well-founded; for on preparing to depart, the person who had so often passed in and out, came from the room with a paper in his hand, and gave it to Captain King to read; and he was not a little surprised to find it a sort of certificate in French, as follows:—

PIERRE JOSEPH GEORGE, Evêque d'Adran, Vicaire Apost. de Cochon China, &c. &c.

Le petit *Mandarin*, porteur de cet écrit, est véritablement Envoyé de la cour à Pulo Condore, pour y attendre et recevoir tout vaisseau Européen qui auroit sa destination d'approcher ici. Le Capitaine, en conséquence, pourroit se fier pour conduire le vaisseau au port, ou pour faire passer les nouvelles qu'il pourroit croire nécessaire.

A SAI-GON. 10 d'Août, 1779.

PIERRE JOSEPH GEORGE,
Evêque d'Adran.

Captain King returned the paper, with many protestations of being the *Mandarin's* good friend, begging he might be informed that he hoped he would do them the favour to visit the ships, that he might convince him of it. On returning, Captain Gore felt peculiar satisfaction at seeing them; for as they had exceeded their time near an hour, he began to be alarmed for their safety, and was preparing to march after them. He and his party had, during their absence, been profitably employed in loading the boat with the cabbage-palm, which abounds in this bay.

At two in the afternoon they joined the ships, and several of the shooting parties returned about the same time from the woods, having had little success, though they saw a great variety of birds and animals.

At five, a *proa*, with six men, rowed up to the ship, from the upper end of the harbour, and a decent-looking personage introduced himself to Captain Gore, with an ease and good breeding, which convinced him his time had been spent in other company than what this island afforded. He brought with him the French paper above transcribed, and said he was the *Mandarin* mentioned in it. He spoke a few Portuguese words, but as none of their men were acquainted with this language, they were obliged to have recourse to a black man on board, who could speak the Malay, which is the general language of these island-