

than by barking them, and lopping off their branches. Each mast has only two shrouds made of twisted rattan, which are often both shifted to the weather-side; and the halyard, when the yard is up, serves instead of a third shroud. The sails are made of matt, strengthened every three feet by an horizontal rib of bamboo; they run upon the mast with hoops, as is represented in the figure, and when they are lowered down, they fold upon the deck. These merchantmen carry no cannon; and it appears, from this whole description, that they are utterly incapable of resisting any *European* armed vessel. Nor is the State provided with ships of considerable force, or of a better fabric, to protect them: For at *Canton*, where doubtless their principal naval power is stationed, we saw no more than four men of war junks, of about three hundred tons burthen, being of the make already described, and mounted only with eight or ten guns, the largest of which did not exceed a four pounder. This may suffice to give an idea of the defenceless state of the *Chinese* Empire. But it is time to return to the Commodore, whom I left with his two ships without the *Bocca Tigris*; and who, on the 12th of *December*, anchored before the town of *Macao*.

Whilst the ships lay here, the Merchants of *Macao* finished their agreement for the galeon, for which they had offered 6000 dollars; this was much short of her value, but the impatience of the Commodore to get to sea, to which the merchants were no strangers, prompted them to insist on so unequal a bargain. Mr. *Anson* had learnt enough from the *English* at *Canton* to conjecture, that the war betwixt *Great-Britain* and *Spain* was