

Vessels, to fetch Rice from the Neighbouring Provinces, both for their own use and to supply the Markets: and they never go in single Vessels, for fear of Pirates, who infest the Coasts with their Canoas, and shelter themselves among several little Islands, lying at the edge of the East-Province, and bordering upon the Province of *Tenag*, whither these Merchants were bound.

Captain *Weldon* was one who concern'd himself in this expedition, hiring a Vessel and Seamen of the *Tonquinese*, and sending some of his own men with them as a Guard, among whom I would very fain have gone, had I not been indisposed. Mr. *Ludford*, who had liv'd some time at *Cachao* before our arrival, was another Undertaker, and went himself on board the Bark he had hired; but Captain *Weldon* staid behind at the City, yet took care to get a Commission from the Governour of the East-Province for his Vessel. In the Commission 'twas exprest, that his Boat should be armed with Guns, or other Weapons, and that his men should resist any that came to oppose them, or any Vessels in their company; and that they might kill and destroy any Robbers that they met with. The passage to *Tenan* lay most within Land, thro Creeks and narrow Channels, among the Islands before-mentioned, which are so many, and lye on the East-side of the Bay so thick together, and so nigh the shoar, that at a small distance off at Sea they appear to be part of the main. This little *Archipelago* lies within the precincts of the Governour of the East-Province, from whom Captain *Weldon* had his Commission, and who was a very great man in the Court of *Tonquin*. When the Fleet came to this place, some who lay here came forth; and they concluded they must be the Pirates, come to seize their prey as at other times. These always choose rather to take the outward