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scenably ask. For as they well knew the Commodore's sentiments, it would have been a piece of imprudence not consistent with their refined cunning, to admit him to audience only to contest with him. Being therefore himself perfectly easy about the result of his visit, he made the necessary preparations against the day ; and engaged Mr. Flint, whom I have mentioned before, to act as interpreter in the conference ; and Mr. Flint, in this affair as in all others, acquitted himself much to the Commodore's satisfaction ; repeating with great boldness, and doubtless with exactness, whatever was given him in charge ; a part which no Chinese linguist would have performed with any tolerable fidelity.

At ten o'clock in the morning on the day appointed, a Mandarin came to the Commodore, to let him know that the Viceroy was prepared and expected him ; on which the Commodore and his retinue immediately set out. As soon as he entered the outer gate of the city, he found a guard of two hundred soldiers ready to receive him ; these attended him to the great parade, before the Emperor's palace, where the Viceroy then resided. In this parade, a body of troops, to the number of ten thousand, were drawn up under arms, who made a very fine appearance, they being all of them new-clothed for this ceremony. Mr. Anson with his retinue having passed through the middle of them, he was then conducted to the great hall of audience, where he found the Viceroy seated under a rich canopy in the Emperor's chair of state, with all his council of Mandarins attending. Here there was a vacant seat prepared for the Commodore, in which he was placed on his arrival. He was ranked the third in order from the Viceroy, there being above him only the two chiefs of the law and of the treasury, who in the Chinese government have precedence of all military officers. When the Commodore was seated, he addressed himself to the Viceroy by his interpreter, and began with reciting the various methods he had formerly taken to get an audience ; adding that he imputed the delays he had met with to the insincerity of those he