

THE
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plied evils which always accompany intestine commotion: a usurper, moreover, had obtained possession of the crown, and the whole system of government was disorganized. That the British envoy should have been ill-received at so unfavourable a conjuncture can occasion no surprise. Not only did he fail in every object for which his mission had been undertaken, but he was plundered in every possible way, and it was with the utmost difficulty that he ultimately succeeded in making his escape. Batteries were erected at the mouth of the Huè river, already sufficiently obstructed by a dangerous bar, and every expedient was resorted to to capture or destroy his vessel. Mr. Chapman's own account of his mission was published in several successive numbers of our Journal in the year 1817. The style in which it is written is bad, but the circumstances related are interesting.

In our number for August 1823, we furnished likewise an abridged account of Mr. Crawford's mission, which took place in the preceding year, as also certain particulars descriptive of the country and its inhabitants on the authority of an individual who visited Cochin China in 1819.—To these several articles we refer our readers, and proceed to the more copious and particular relation which is now before us.

Capt. White left the American port of Salem in January 1819, in command of the Franklin, with a cargo chiefly consisting of specie. The destination of the vessel was the port of Saigun, a city situated about fifty or sixty miles up the river Donnai, which empties itself into the China Sea at the southern extremity of Cambodia.

In passing the straits of Banka, off the north-eastern coast of Sumatra, they were attacked by Malay pirates, in three large proas, each with "two banks of oars, with a barricado built across their forecastles, above a man's height, and projecting out several feet beyond the gunwale, or top of the

vessel, on each side in the centre of which was a round perforation or embrasure, through which projected the muzzle of a large cannon. One of these vessels was larger than the others, and acted as commodore." She was rowed by seventy-two oars. The three proas approached the Franklin in the most determined manner, the oars moving "without the least regularity," and resembling "the legs of a centipede in rapid motion." The Franklin was a ship carrying very few guns; a broadside, however, of three six-pounders was given to the pirates as soon as they had advanced to within a proper distance. One of the shots struck the water a few yards short of the commodore, and bounded over her barricado. The damage occasioned by this shot caused the pirates to suspend their attack, and it was happy for the Franklin that it did, for the next broadside completely disabled her, by breaking the gun-carriages, which were made of too brittle a wood to bear the recoil of the guns. Her best course under existing circumstances was manifestly to take refuge in Mintow, a Dutch settlement in the island of Banka, which place she reached in safety.

After refitting at this port, and taking the best precautions against a similar adventure, Capt. White proceeded on his voyage to the coast of Cambodia without encountering further obstacle.

On reaching the Donnai river, and commencing their negotiations with the Cochin Chinese authorities at the village of Vungtau, a most ludicrous and provoking scene immediately took place, affording, however, a fair sample of the manners of the people with whom they had to deal. The vessel was boarded by a party of officers, at the head of which was an old mandarin named Heo.

After having visited every part of the ship, the old mandarin began to court my favour with the most unyielding pertinacity, hugging me round the neck, attempt-