

Civil war, as has been said, was imminent. The chief aim of the prominent leaders was personal aggrandizement, at a time when the Turks were in possession of Athens, and indeed nearly all Attica from which the women were being transported by shiploads to supply the harems of Cairo and Constantinople, where not a few to this day languish.

This ~~calculation~~ expectation was however frustrated by the arrival of Lord C. Ibrahim gave up his attack on the Greek stronghold and the expedition, which shortly afterward sailed from the Dardanelles never approached the shores of Greece but joined Ibrahim at Navarino.

## Chapter

The political condition of Greece at the period of Lord Cochrane's arrival was deplorable. In place of order having been dominated during the prolonged struggle with their barbarian Turk masters, the want of administrative ability in the Government generally was alone conspicuous. The people of Greece were patriotic but their patriotism being without proper direction had produced little apparent result other than that of assuring the Turks, that after a few more months of sporadic effort, Greece would again become their prey. To secure this result, a number of troops had been assembled for embarkation on board a fleet, then on the point of quitting the Dardanelles and there together with the fleet in the Levant under the orders of Ibrahim pasha, were considered sufficient to accomplish the resubjugation of the islands. [1]

Lord Cochrane was well aware that, from the commencement of the Revolution, party had been the bane of Greece, and that nearly all foreigners who had preceded him, or who evinced an interest in Greek affairs had more or less involuntarily attached themselves to some particular party which - as then only available source of information had prepossessed them against the views of others opposed to that party; the result being that notwithstanding the talents possessed by many true friends of Greece, more internal misfortune had accrued from their well-intentioned interference, than advantage to the Greek cause in a national point of view.

It would not be difficult for a Greek historian to show that long previous to the arrival of Lord Cochrane, the Greeks would have nobly triumphed had not their chiefs been so bitterly opposed to each other. Many instances might be produced in which the Turk would have been trampled underfoot, had not the jealousy of the Klephts or mountain chiefs prevented them from uniting with the victorious leader of the regular forces. This, from a trivial fear of his acquiring too great a preponderance in the scale of authority, the most flattering prospects were rendered mandatory. From this previous knowledge Lord Cochrane determined that he would keep aloof from all party, continentals, ~~island~~ insular, or political; that he would as had ever been his rule [2] uphold the existing Government as the best means of diminishing the confusion which unhappily pervaded the Chiefs; that he would give to that Government the benefit of his experience exacting in return full power to act according to the dictates of that experience whenever any opposition to his plans might arise from party or other motives.

As regarded the Chiefs, it was his determination to have nothing to do with their trivial jealousies, whether they came from the islands, the Peloponnesus, Attica or the Archipelago, he would consider them all in one national light and treat them with the same degree of interest. Wise resolves, but difficult of execution. From causes which will presently appear, one powerful faction was impressed with the idea that the arrangements made with Lord Cochrane in London had for their object the consolidation of all power and authority in the hands of the faction with whom those arrangements were supposed to have originated, the party in question making it no secret that such were their expectations. His advent therefore failed to satisfy one section of the

Greek leaders, and it was not long before he had to inform the opposite interest that he had not come to Greece in order to convert his name into an instrument for party purposes.

Care must here be taken not to confound the [3] faction with the Greek nation, the patriots of which looked upon the advent of Lord Cochrane as their refuge scarcely less from friends than foes, which in fact it was. Even the expectation of his coming saved Greece from despair. Had it not been for this, many influential men weary of the disasters which the jealous helplessness of those in power office was inflicting on then unhappy country - were ready to make terms with Ibrahim; deeming even Turkish rule preferable to that of men, who, whilst the spoiler was ravaging the fairest portions of Greece, and carrying off the women and children into slavery, had no higher object than the miserable contest for imaginary power.

If the prestige of Lord Cochrane saved Greece from despair, his arrival on her shores saved her in reality. He found the country from causes already detailed, on the point of civil war, a circumstance of which the Turks, as has been said, were preparing to avail themselves, by renewed expeditions from the Dardanelles and Alexandria as a first step through without means and with no more impairing force than the little schooner which had conveyed him to Greece he compelled the contending factions to unite, but not until he had threatened to return to England.

The advantage of his mere presence speedily began to manifest itself ~~did not end here~~. The terror of his name acted on the Turks as it had done on the Spaniards in Peru, and the Portuguese in Bahia. The armament destined [4] to crush Greece at a blow, no sooner learned his arrival, than it refrained from approaching her shores, though Attica was then full of Turkish troops, and an Ottoman force was in possession of Athens, in the vicinity of which the Turkish expedition might have landed before he could get together a naval force capable of preventing the movement, which never took place from fear of the probable destruction which his genius was expected to devise. Thus, did in presence alone suffice to avert a disaster, at the approach of which the patriots stood aghast.

The effect of Lord Cochrane's name even before he quitted England, produced an effect of which the Greek leaders were ignorant or for which they had not the candour to give him credits. No sooner had it become publicly known that, at the instigation of the London and Paris Committees, he had accepted the invitation of the Greek Government, than the great European powers were compelled to take steps for the partial emancipation of Greece, and the Duke of Wellington, was despatched by the British Government to Russia to arrange the necessary preliminaries.

At this time Lord Cochrane was residing in Brussels, whither he had gone to evade the operation of the Foreign Enlistment Act, which had some years before been passed it at the requisition of Spain in order to prevent him from aiding the revolt in her South American Colonies. This Act was once [5] more on the point of being enforced against him, when it was thought desirable by the London Committee, and acquiesced in by himself, that he should relinquish the superintendence of the armament fitting out in London for his use and place himself beyond reach of the Act.

A curious letter from Sir Francis Burdett will throw light on this subject.

(Small type)

Nov. 18. 1825.

My dear Lord Cochrane

I have taken four and twenty hours to consider of your last letter and have not one moment varied in my first opinion as to the propriety of you persevering in your glorious career.

According to Brougham's opinion you cannot be put in a worse situation- that is more in peril of Government here by continuing foreign service in the Greek cause than you already stand in by having served the Emperor of the Brazils.

In my opinion, your will be in a great deal less peril, for the greater your renown the less power will your enemies have whatever may be their inclination to meddle with you. Perhaps they only desist to look out for a better opportunity "reculer pour mieux sentir" - like the tiger. I don't mean to accuse [6] them of this bareness, but should it be the case, the less you do the more power they will have to injure you if so inclined.

Were they to prosecute you for having served the Brazilian Emperor, it would call forth no public sympathy, or hindsight in your favour. The case would be thought very hard but that could be all not so, should you triumph in the Greek cause. Transcendent glory would not only crown but protect you. No Ministry would dare to wag a finger. No! nor even a crown lawgee a tanque against you, and if they did, the feeling of the whole English public would surround you as with an impenetrable shield. Fines would be paid. Imprisonment protested and petitioned against. In short, I am convinced the nation would be in a flame, and you in far less danger of any attempt to your injury than at present.

This my dear Lord Cochrane is my firm conviction, which I forward to you by Mr Wright according to your direction.

I need scarcely add how sincerely I am, yours ever

F. Burdett

(Large type)

It was well known to the British Government with what intention Lord Cochrane had fixed his residence at Brussels; and it is a remarkable circumstance that when the Duke of Wellington [7] arrived at Brussels on his way to Saint Petersburg he gave directions to the hotelkeeper that no ~~one~~ person should see him except Lord Cochrane- who had no earthly pretext for calling on his Grace uninvited. The phlegmatic Netherlander, innocent of diplomatic devices, and regarding the letter of his instruction only, omitted to inform Lord Cochrane of the exception in his favour, till the Duke had left on the following day, when the interview then indirectly sought became impossible.

Lord Cochrane's stipulations with the Committees of London and Paris were for six steamer and two frigates, with a sufficient number of English seamen to man them. Without these he had at first refused to go out, or with them under any other title than that of independent Commander of an auxiliary Greek fleet with full power to carry out his own views independently of the Greek Government. These terms were well known, and every Government of Europe felt satisfied with this force Lord Cochrane would emancipate Greece to an extent inconvenient to their general policy. It was on this ground that England had been pressed to enforce the Foreign Enlistment Act, and to make proclamation of neutrality. But the stipulated means were not forthcoming. The two frigates - ordered to be built in North America - had by some mysterious process dwindled into one, and that so ill adapted [8] to his work, as to induce the London Committee to recommend negotiations for her sale which was attempted in vain. The six steamers in like manner dwindled into one, the engines of which were of so inferior a character as to render her afterwards a source of infinite trouble but of little use.

The manufacturer of the engines had been entrusted to a London Engineer named Gallaway, and it was afterwards ascertained that this person had a son who held a lucrative post under the pasha of Egypt. Notwithstanding that Mr Gallaway had received considerably more than £20,000

from the United Committees, all efforts were in vain to induce him to second their views in the preparation of the engines. The subjoined letter from Mr Hobhouse, now the venerable Lord Broughton, will show the difficulties with which the Committee had to contend even on the eve of Lord Cochrane's departure for Greece.

(Small type)

London. Feb 5. 1826.

My dear lord

I have received your letter and am happy to perceive that you have good heart and hope for the great cause. We have been doing all we can to induce the parties concerned to second your wishes in every respect and I hope that on the whole you will be satisfied that all has been done which circumstances would permit. [9]

You see our House is opened. Not a word of Greece in the speeches. I spoke to Haine and Wilson and begged them not to touch on the subject. It is much better to keep all quiet, in order to prevent angry words from ministers, who, if nothing is said, will, I think, shut their eyes to what we are doing.

There is a prevalent notion here, that the Alliance (Holy) has resolved to recommend something to Turkey in favour of the Greeks. Whether this be true or not signifies nothing. The Turks will promise anything and do just what suits them. They have for more than a hundred years always lost by war, and as uniformly gamed by diplomacy. They will never abandon the hope of reconquering Greece until themselves driven out of Europe, which they ought to be.

The Greeks really appear to have been doing a little better lately, but I still fear these disciplined Arabians. I have written a very strong letter to Maurocordato, telling them to hold out. No surrender on any terms. I have not mentioned your name but have stated vaguely that they may expect the promised assistance in the Spring. I hope you write every now and then to Gallaway, in whose hands is the fate of Greece - the worse luck for us for he is the great cause of the said delay. [10]

We have done nothing yet about the frigates in New York, except getting the Deputies and the Ricardos to consent to their sale, when a purchase as found; but no one here will buy without seeing the vessels.

We will do our best to put as much money into your hands at starting as we can possibly get from the Deputies and the Ricardos. The Deputies seem inclined to do all we require, but the Ricardos are overcautious. I trust they will in the end do what is proper.

It would, indeed, be a fine thing if you could commence operations during the Rhamadan, but I fear that is impossible. Any time, however, will do against the stupid besotted Turks. Were they not led by Frenchmen, even the Greeks would beat them.

Farewell Dear Lord Cochrane, and believe me yours faithfully

J. C. Hobhouse

(Large type)

The fact was, that Lord Cochrane, when he found that Greece was in actual and immediate peril, as well from internal discord as from the external advantage about to be taken of it by the Turks, chivalrously offered to go to Greece without any fleet at all, and at once to proceed to his destination. He felt that single handed he had allayed worse discord in Brazil, where it [12] accompanied by positive treachery; whilst his confidence in the prestige of his name, assured

him that his mere presence in Greece would cause the Turks to hesitate before placing their vessels within his reach. Indeed, he rather hoped they would do so, as if he found the Greeks ready to second his efforts in their behalf, this would give him the opportunity of providing a squadron at the enemy's expense, as he had done for Peru. At any rate, time would be gained and might be employed in organising a naval force on the spot, which would secure Greece from disaster till more efficient means could be provided.

In these views Mr. Hobhouse participated, but Sir Francis Burdett endeavoured to dissuade Lord Cochrane from risking his naval name, on the ground that no such sacrifice could conceivably be required of him. This will be apparent from the subjoined letter.

(Small type)

Bath Jan. 15. 1826

My dear Lord Cochrane

I received Capt. Hasting's letter and immediately wrote to Hobhouse to promote its views in every way possible, but it is a sad thing having to do with slippery folk<sup>1</sup> and an exhausted treasury. I shall endeavour to give effect to all your [12] well considered suggestions. I may possibly be compelled to go to town for an account before parliament meets, otherwise I shall remain here till that time.

I would by no means have you proceed to Greece in the first vessel nor at all without adequate means; for beside thinking of the Greeks - for whom I am greatly interested - I must think and certainly not with less interest of you. I may add some degree of myself too for I am placed under much responsibility. I don't mean to be a party to making shipwreck of you and your great naval reputation. Nor will I ever consent to your going upon a forlorn or desperate attempt - that is, without the means necessary for the fair chance of success, in other words-adequate means. Although you have worked miracles, we can never be justified in expecting them still less in requiring them. Ever sincerely yours

F. Burdett

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<sup>1</sup> The Greek Governments of whom Capt. Hastings was complaining. This gallant officer, brother of the late Sir Thomas Hastings was in Greece, to whose service he was devoting his time and fortune.