

Pireus, 28 April 1827.

My dear Sir Richard,

The convent and its walls have been levelled to the ground, the rubbish alone remains on the southern side towards the shipping; and it appears that not one hundred of those it contained, or who fled within its walls for safety, now remain to oppose an assault, or threaten the rear of the Greek army, should you be able to prevail on its leaders to advance.

I should remind those leaders that independently of the army, I have full fifteen hundred men under my command, a thousand of whom being on shore now, at this port, are more than sufficient to blockade these ruins, or destroy all within – which last event might have taken place yesterday, had not been that the seamen were removed from the positions which they had stormed & taken, in the neighbourhood of the convent & soldiers placed in their stead a circumstance which seems to have given them offence, so that they leave the storming of the ruins of the convent to those thus placed, as they say, in the post of honour.

These feelings, in rude minds (however proper the proceeding may have been in a military point of view) I **must** prevent or remove. [1] Time, provisions & money are wasting in inaction. The enemy is concentrating troops & fortifying positions around Athens; each of which positions will be a pretext for delay; even were I not aware that abundant excuses of other kinds will not be wanting, such as the arrival, of a few hundred of cavalry from Negroponte or the like; so that I really begin to despair of one step being made in advance for the relief of the Acropolis.

I know the difficulties of your situation & I fear that they are more than even your energy can surmount. When you shall have done your utmost towards the end, we have to view I shall make one effort for the safety of the unfortunate women & children who are threatened with immediate death destruction or perpetual slavery. Pray, therefore, let me know if the army will or will not advance, and if that advance will take place before tomorrow evening. It will afford me the greatest pleasure to cooperate with you in all manner of ways, but if those who **refuse** to obey, will not conform to your wishes or execute your orders ~~commands~~, I am of course left **single** handed, but were thus I do not wholly despair.

Pray let me have a decisive ~~answer~~ reply-to what is to be done, & when, - so far as depends on your commands, & if they ~~will~~ shall not be obeyed, I shall act as it seems to my best for the interest of humanity & of Greece.