To the Government. - Pireus 16/28 April 1827.

Gentlemen

Since I had the honour of addressing your exc. the frigate Hellas, & at times other smaller vessels have been battering the convent in the harbour of the Pireus & on the twenty sixth the wall had been beaten down & a considerable portion of the building destroyed in order to prevent the effusion of blood, I judge it proper to offer terms of Capitulation, & with this view I sent a boat belonging to a neutral vessel in the bay, with her national flag displayed together with a white flag in order to indicate the purpose for which she approached. No sooner however had the boat drawn near than a valley of musketry was discharged at the boat, by which one of the seamen was (I fear) mortally wounded. The firing recommenced & on the day following his excellency Gen. Church having arrived, another attempt was made, notwithstanding the treacherous & infamous conduct of the Turks on the day before, offering that they should embark with their arms & ensigns which they should deliver when in security under my protection. On this occasion Gen. Karaiskaki had an interview with the Turks, but the terms were again rejected. The firing again recommenced & the convent being balled to the ground the well & provisions buried in the ruins the feeble garrison on being blockaded by a few hundred men must of course have surrendered & might have [1] been embarked and exchanged under the guarantee of that faith which in civilized & European nations is ever unsullied. I had no intention to offer further terms until considering it more becoming the situation I hold, that the enemy under the circumstances before described should have made such proposal. I however received a message about eleven o'clock this morning to report that the ships might cease firing while General Kar. had a communication with the enemy. The firing was accordingly suspended & shortly afterward I observed the Turks gathering together without the bounds of the convent, & a procession proceeded, under a capitulation to which if in such a moment ~~I can be permitted~~, whilst my blood runs cold ~~friezes with horror~~ I feel some satisfaction that I was no party for a monstrous ~~and disgraceful~~ atrocity. Scarcely had the ill confiding garrison proceeded a few hundred yards when they were set on and destroyed.

I am sick with ~~shame and~~ grief & shame that Greeks should thus disgrace themselves and degrade their cause ~~a good cause~~ in the mind of every honourable man so as to raise doubt whether it is not a disgrace to save it.