To Mr Editor of the

Death is preferable to the anguish of false imputation when credited by the Public.

Sir

I send you an anecdote from my Greek Journal

I having the effect of hot shot even on Vessels of slender construction, and consequently the peril that would attend a Naval attack on Batteries prepared to lodge that comparatively tenfold destructive Missile in the storerooms on in the solid Scantling of Ships of War.

From which facts a discerning Public will draw a just inference in regard to the judicious forbearance of the gallant Sir Charles Napier.

I am sir

"Twenty three Greek armed vessels, equipped, provisioned and paid by the Hellenist Committee, together with seven fire ships, were nearly ready to proceed and attack the Turkish and Egyptian fleet in Navarino, in order to frustrate their intended invasion of the islands of Hydra and Spetzia [1] when in an evil hour (as it then appeared) the Greek Government at Egina granted a letter of Marque to an influential friend.

No sooner had the fierce "Sea Lions" commanding the National vessels, learnt the concession of this inestimable boon (which the Naval Commander in chief had stipulated should not be conferred on any person) than they manned and armed their Launches, and without leave asked or given, set off for Egina to intimidate the feeble Government to "do them equal justice". The consequence was the weakening of the Greek armament, so that crews for seven vessels, and their fireships could scarcely be collected.

Considering what course could be pursued under such untoward circumstances, it occurred that it might be well to follow the advice given in one of the Philippics – which I had read a few days before – whilst sitting on a stone (near the ruins of a Temple) whereon it is said the banished Orator was gone to meditate on the perils of his Country. [2]

In that oration Demosthenes warned his fellow citizens not to await the development, and then endeavour to counteract the enterprises of the Enemy, but promptly to adopt a course, whereby to distract his attention and frustrate his measures.

It was resolved to put this wise counsel in execution, therefore, having passed by Navarine, out of sight from its heights, and arrived off the Gulf of Lepanto the Steam vessel Enterprise, the Sauveur Brig, and three Gunboats were sent in-under the Command of the brave and Zealous Captain Hastings to destroy several small Turkish Vessels of war and some transports, all of which were speedily burnt by Sparkling white hot shot from the furnaces of the Boilers.

Intelligence of this unexpected attack was quickly conveyed to Navarine. The Ottoman fleet, as was anticipated, got under way to punish the aggressors, but on passing Zante, where the flag ship of my gallant friend Sir Edward Codrington lay, [3] Sir Edward, indignant at the breach of faith of which the Turks seemed guilty (for they had acquiesced in an armistice a few days before) made sail, and singly standing thwart the Turkish line fired across the headmost vessels.

The Ottoman Chief, to avoid hostilities with an all-powerful Maritime Nation, retraced his course- impressed with a belief that Sir Edward countenanced an aggression, of which he was as ignorant, as the Greek Expedition was of the existence of an armistice.

The decisive Battle of Navarine followed soon after. Thus, at the expiration of two thousand years, the counsel of the most celebrated of persecuted Patriots (so arrogantly rejected when given) may be said to have achieved the emancipation of his Country from a Yoke more cruel and degrading than the dreaded sway of the Macedonian Monarch.