In reply to your letters on a subject which I did not anticipate would require explanation I shall state facts and lave you to judge of my motives and intentions.

Being at Scio with a view to aid the unfortunate natives of that island in re-establishing themselves in their rightful inheritance, the frigate Junon, commanded by Capt. Le Blanc passed through the inner channel, & the Captain having come on board the Hellas & acquainted me that it was the intention of the Admirals of the allied powers, that all Greek ships armed for war should retire within 4 leagues of the coast comprised between Volo & Lepanto; that admiral De Rigni with several vessels under his command was off Ipsara with authority to see the determination of the Admirals obeyed. I enquired of Captain Leblanc if he had brought me a written document, [1] which he replied that he was directed to communicate verbally with whoever might command the Greek naval forces at Scio. To this I replied that he and every other officer must be perfectly aware that I could not consider his verbal communication as official. The Cambrian, however followed in the course of the Junon, & Capt. Hamilton on the 2nd Nov. delivered to me a copy of the document transmitted by the Admirals to the Leg. Body. On this document I must briefly remark that besides the restriction imposed upon the Greek ships before alluded to, the admirals state that the Turkish fleet was destroyed for refusing to accede to an armistice de facto, they assert that an armistice now exists de facto by sea, on the part of the Turks & they caution the Greek government to take care of their fleet, or they will destroy it likewise.

Leaving an official copy of this document in my possession, I could no longer doubt that it was my duty whilst I left the transports to obey such order as they might receive from the neutral powers to proceed with the ships of war where they would not be exposed to interruption in their operations. The weird wind was unfavourable for proceeding to Volo, but being led near to Samos, I sent the enclosed proclamation [2] marked (A) to the local government in the hope to awaken them to the danger of being placed under the Turkish yoke, which, as I had learnt from several Samiots various intriguers were endeavouring to affect. The wind still continuing unfavourable, I sent a copy of the proclamation to the authorities at Patmos, and also to the authorities of Naxos, where we anchored to receive on board the Marine detachment which had been formed, for the maintenance of order and discipline in the ships of war. That proclamations contained my sentiments not only in regard to Turkish authority but as to their using every exertion to maintain their independence free from foreign domination.

Whilst Mr. Masson, the Secretary, was ashore to hasten the embarkation of the marine detachment, two persons from Naxos came on board the Hellas, & the conversation turned on the letter of the admirals to the Leg. Body. It seemed to be as indistinctly understood by them as by myself. I remarked however that if the views of any of the European powers should cause Greece [3] to be circumscribed within the narrow bounds from Volo to Lepanto, with the adjoining islands of Salamis, Egina, Hydra & Spezzia, it would be well for them to take care that they were not again placed under the Turkish yoke unawares & that deputies of the various islands if prohibited from using the flag of Greece, ought to take measures for the maintenance of their independence, under any other banner than that of the crescent.

I have since understood that this advice has been tortured by intriguing and disingenuous individuals, into no less than a desire on my part to separate these islands from Greece, whereas in truth it was a caution & suggestion of a remedy in the event of being compelled to separate. On this subject I trust I have said enough. I may however add that at my earnest solicitation of the Naxiots, though to the great inconvenience of the service, I agreed to leave the marines for three weeks longer, & that I urged the Naxiots ~~in conjugation with the other isl~~ as well as the other islanders to train a militia, for the maintenance of order, & well as for their security, & to adopt the most speedy & efficacious means for that end, as it appeared to me by the ~~proclamation~~ letter of the admirals, that the Greek naval force could no longer afford them protection.