Karteria Scopulo.
19th April. NS.
1827

My Lord

Northerly winds prevented my passing Cape Doro until the 15th. Having spoken a Vessel from Skyro, that an Austrian Merchant Vessel loaded with corn & ammunition for Negrepont was laying at that island under Convoy of an Austrian Vessel of War, & that the Corvette of Toombasi was there watching the Merchant Vessel, I touched at Skyro the night of the 15th & found that the Austrian was gone, supposed for Syra, followed by a Hydriot Schooner of Koundouriottis, who is supposed to have made some arrangement with the Austrian to deliver the Cargo to him.

The Greek Corvette had sailed (as I was told) for this I arrived here the night of the 16th & found that the Brig & Schooner were zealously employed on the service they had been sent upon [1]

Having steamed more than I had at first intended, I was in want of fuel & set them at work her to obtain me wood which they have done with more alacrity than I expected during Easter holydays. The Engine of course required repair. I sent off the Schooner to inform the vessels of the blockade when I should join them & appointing a rendezvous- I sail immediately I hope to take or destroy the Vessels at Tricheri & Volo tomorrow- I send this by the Primates of this island who carry a letter to your Lordship offering their services - they have been apparently much oppressed in all these islands by the heroes of the earth, & are anxious to obtain protection from the Naval force. This island is fertile & could (& could be made to pay) well for protection: the others have claims equally strong for protection-

St George de Skyro- Scopulo- Skiatho &c &c have more than 2,000 Liapis quartered upon them at [2] this moment. If Athens is relieved, these worthies might be turned into Negropont with much effect. I am told the Turkish Transports are still at Tricheri & Volo not doubting to clear the Gulph of Greeks à force d'argent - however I hope to be with them tomorrow.

I suspect fuel could be obtained cheaper here than at Megara - & I see no reason for incurring the expense of transport of wood to Poros for construction of gun boats when a great majority of the Greek Vessels are constructed here - The wood does not grow here, it is brought from agora on the main. The Deputees - tout bêtes comme ils sont - can inform your Lordship of these things.

I have the honor to be
My Lord
Your very obedient
very humble servant
Frank Abney Hastings
Captain. Karteria

His Excellence
Admiral
Lord Cochrane
&&& [3]

PS. Having taken the coal out from between the boilers & side of the Ship I am anxious to fill this space with wool as a protection against shot. The coals & stoves there are an inconvenience for many reasons & something is necessary to replace them as a protection for the boilers - If your Lordship would be good enough to order Toombasi to procure me wool for that purpose I think you would be ultimately satisfied of stability.