Karteria Dec 8th 1827
Dragomestie

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform you that I have passed over the army of General Church to this Port, amounting to about twelve hundred men with six pieces of artillery & about sixty horses, mules etc. The General has been joined by Maci & some other Captains which may have increased his force to two thousand men. He is in hourly expectation of being joined by Tzonga and even Varnachioti is expected to come over. The Monastery of Ligovitza on the road from Arta to Lepanto & Missolongi is said to have been possessed by the troops of the General. This Post is of importance. The troops have all marched [1] from Patras to Navarino, and nothing remains but some Albanians & the inhabitants - Lepanto is thinly peopled - all have little provisions as well as Missolongi. From what I know of Lepanto & the Castles I am confident that if your Lordship was to attack it with the squadron you command, and General Church was to make even a demonstration of attack by hand it must fall in forty-eight hours' time - Lepanto lies on the face of a hill open to the sea. Every shot & shell & rocket must tell somewhere, & they would readily capitulate. We must not take the monastery of the Piraeus as an example. At Lepanto the Turks have their families - This particular always operates upon them - but whether [2] it did or not - the place would be taken & I am not one who overrates the capabilities of the Greeks - I fear however that Gen. Church has other projects, and such as according to my opinion are very unlikely to succeed- so much so that if your Lordship does not arrive or send one order I shall return to the Archipelago rather than lend myself to measures which appear to me worse than useless. I must again beg of your Lordship not to forget us in the way of money provision, ammunition, provisions, coal etc etc - We are now more than three months absent from Poros.

I have the honor to be
my Lord
Your very obedient
very humble servant,
Frank Abney Hastings
Captain of G.N.V.
Karterina

His Excellency
Admiral Cochrane
etc etc etc