Karteria Dec 27, 1824
off Vasiladhi

My Lord,

I have now been twelve days before Vasiladhi & since our arrival I have every reason to believe they have neither received provisions nor water. The weather has usually been so bad, that I have only been able to bombard it twice & the gunboat having few shot I have exchanged her 32 for one of our 68 with shells, since which I have not been able to batter it owing to the weather. I am satisfied they are now at their last shifts in the fort & if I could remain before it a week longer & bombard it for a couple of days, I doubt not it would fall into our hands. I regret of all things not having the flat-bottomed gun boat here. With her we would have had the fort by before this. General Church was to have attacked Anatoliko & might have taken it in the first instance with little or no resistance, but he delayed till too late & then came without one ounce of [1] provisions & returned the day after to Dragomestie - Their man is such an insufferable Quacte that I cannot act any longer with him. He affects to command the Navy as well as the army & although I have given him one or two rather rough lessons- he the other day captured with a boat of his, a spy of mine on his way to me & caused him off without mentioning a word of it to me. The man merely came here the other day supposing Vasiladhi about to surrender that he might say he took it- God knows there is no merit due unless to the boats blockading inside. I have received letters today from the Gulf, & I find the expedition at Trisonia is in alarm of being blockaded by the Turkish Fleet at Lepanto. The loss of the gun boat from the Gulf is almost irreparable. If your Lordship could send [2] them round here with a Brig, it would be of infinite service. I am so in want of ammunition, provisions fuel etc that I hardly know what to do but if possible, I will reenter the Gulf to assist them there - I wrote by Mr. Finlay announcing to your Lordship that if the whole squadron was to come round here I am satisfied that Missolongi, Patras Lepanto & the Castles might be taken. They are much straightened for provisions at all – but particularly at Missolongi & Lepanto & the Castles could be taken by force. Patras is now provisioned daily by one of Church's, General Nikolo from Zante via Clarence. Dr Goss informs me how much you are in want of money. I trust however if you obtain any I shall not be forgotten- I have only received 600 dollars from General Church & my expenses have been enormous for fuel provisions etc etc [3]

I have the honor to be
My Lord
Your very obedient
very humble servant,
Frank Abney Hastings
Capitaine di B.N.
Karteria

to His Excellency
Admiral Lord Cochrane
etc etc etc