Villa Beaujon Paris
16 March 1828

My dear Sir

I feel highly gratified by the expression of your conviction that I have done all in my power to be serviceable to Greece. I may however not be favoured in like manner by such friends of the cause as possess not the means you have to look behind the scenes and detect the illusions practiced. Be this however as it may, I console myself that time will elicit truth, and place my conduct in the point of view in which it should be seen, and this is all I desire. For my own part, I do not regret any act I did, or left undone - not even my departure before the arrival of the President; because I know that six months at least must elapse before he can acquire a knowledge of the characters of these who will offer advice, and of the course he ought to pursue. This, my opinion, is confirmed by his recent nomination of three of the greatest knaves in Greece, as chiefs, of his three divisions of counsellors.

If the President has not attended to the cautions of Dr Gosse, regarding these men, what chance is there that he would have listened to anything I could have [1] have said? If, on the other hand these individuals have forced themselves upon the President by their influence, is it not a farther proof of what I have said, that, without foreign troops, in the pay of Greece, and foreign Seamen, Capo D'Istria can possess no more authority than the Governments that have preceded. Foreign Nations, assuredly, cannot support a Greek President personally, more than other individuals who, elsewhere, acquire ephemeral authority. Indeed, if the European Nations send troops to Greece, they will be involved in difficulties they do not foresee. The Greeks are credulous as children; intrigues and false rumours will give rise to parties; disputes will follow, and anarchy will ensue. If on the other hand One nation shall take on itself the task of regulating the internal affairs of Greece, that Nation, as the reward of its good intentions, will entail on itself the detestation of the whole population, who are too ignorant to know that objects which perhaps they most desire, are destructive of their liberty, prosperity, and happiness.

You recommend me to return to Greece with [2] two hundred men. I am ready to proceed the moment I shall have means to act in the Capacity of Commander in chief of the Naval forces; but to this end 450 or 500 men are necessary. Foreign seamen cannot be mixed with Greeks. Two hundred such men on board the Hellas would only add fuel to the flame; or, the result would be them instantly abandoning the service, as others, similarly circumstances have uniformly done.

With these facts on my mind, and with all the weight of responsibility on my shoulders, I must await the reply of the President, or obtain means to get the seamen I require. One of the Steamboats is now fitting, but two are required for the suppression of piracy.

Were the three Great powers pleased to aid the President with funds to a small amount they would accomplish more for them own benefit, and that of Greece, than by great fleets and armies. Four thousand troops, under the Greek Government, and five hundred seamen would terminate the affair; but never, will anarchy cease; nor piracy be put down; nor will Capo D' Istria be secure, if he shall not have, under his own authority [3] the means of enforcing obedience onshore and at sea.

You may rest persuaded of the fact that Capo D'Istria himself is not more interested in the success of the cause of Greece Than I am. But, if means are not placed in my hands, I should bring myself into utter contempt were I again to endeavour impossibilities ~~like Church~~ or be led by delusion missionary notions to commit myself.

Hitherto (if ever I shall be compelled to disclose truths in my own defence) I can show where the fault has lain, and that it has not been mine.

I shall see the Paris Committee tomorrow evening. I shall tell them what course I think ought to be pursued to save Greece; and as many of them are persons of influence,

perhaps, my observations may reach a quarter whence a remedy may be applied to the evils we deplore.

Lady Cochrane joins me in sincerest regards to Madame Eynard, and Monsieur Madam Lulle.

Believe me, Yours very truly and faithfully.

Cochrane