Brief outline of observations on Greek affairs

The sympathy of civilized nations having been aroused by the cruelties inflicted on a European and Christian people; and the Governments of three of the most powerful Nations having combined to terminate a war shocking to humanity: a few observations at the present moment may not be unacceptable relative to the most speedy, cheap, and efficacious means of accomplishing their pious humane and glorious undertaking.

Our remarks will be better understood, if those personally unacquainted with the character of the Modern Greeks, shall be persuaded of the fact, that they are unlike any other people in the same state of civilization: – That the mind, even of the unlettered inhabitant of the meanest hovel, is filled with proud sentiments regarding the glory of his ancestors; attested by the noble monuments of art; the incumbered Ports; the remains of cities and sepulchres; without the [] of these [] contrast with his humbler [1] abode, suggesting even that knowledge may [] the slightest suspicion, that he may be deficient in any requirement ~~knowledge~~ useful to man. Hence the difficulty of inducing those who have arrived at the age of maturity to adopt Naval or Military habits; or to submit to the least restraint on their inclinations. Hence, the Corps of Fabier has been abandoned by nine tenths of those who composed it - and the ships of war are regularly evacuated by the needless and fickle seamen at the expiration of every month: a period, under any circumstances, too short to teach them even the rudiments of their duty. Deeply rooted prejudices must cease to operate, and new ideas must be instilled into the rising generation, before any regular force can be formed, capable either to face an enemy or willing to support the civil authorities in the administration of justice. It is evident then that if good institutions are to be introduced into Greece, they must, for a time, be upheld otherwise than by the irregular bands [2], who have no notion of that peaceful and happy state of Society, wherein men, unarmed, are safe in the enjoyment of their property under the protection of law.

To remedy this evil it has been suggested that the great pacificating powers ought to take the task of regulating Greece on themselves, but assuredly such interference would produce other effects than those anticipated – false rumours would be circulated regarding the military occupation of the country, and distrust, and hatred, would prevent a willing conformity to useful changes, or abandonment of ancient prejudicial habits. Declarations of disinterested intentions would be discredited; men rendered suspicious by immemorial oppression and unacquainted with any mode of governing except by force and falsehood, would give no faith to protestations. It would be vain to urge that Russia would be rendered more vulnerable by the possession of a quarter so remote; - that France, happy in her institutions, and having free commerce with the world require [3] requires not colonies to provide honorable exile for the junior branches of influential families; and that England is already overburdened by the dead weight of foreign establishments. Such reasoning would not gain the confidence of men, unacquainted with everything but the objects that surround them, and who consider their country to be the most important and desirable portion of the globe!

If neither the Greeks themselves nor troops in foreign pay can give effect to the laws and prevent dissention; it is clear that these services must be performed by foreigners in the pay of the Greek Government; and that the only difficulty to be overcome is of pecuniary nature. Russia has furnished some assistance - can it then be doubted that France and England will unhesitatingly adopt the best and least costly means to accomplish their humane small object? especially, as the small amount of one quarter percent on their annual revenue, during three years would prove sufficient [4] ought a trifling aid like this to be estimated otherwise than as

the cost of a bridge, road, or canal which will soon repay both capital and interest? especially when it is considered that an hundred Islands and a contiguous continent restored to civilization will require from these commercial nations whatever is necessary to relieve the wants, or essential to the comforts of man.

If it shall be asked, what amount of auxiliary force would prove sufficient, it may be stated that 6000 soldiers and one thousand seamen could teach the young men their duty, and restrain the old ones of Turkish habits; who are so totally unfit for free institutions, that it may be laid down as an invariable rule, that the opinion of the minority of their National Assemblies should be followed, as emanating from the most enlightened and disinterested view of any subject. A Republican or free government can only exist when there is an excess of virtue, and diffusion of knowledge, amongst all classes of the people! These qualifications were useless and prejudicial under the Turkish sway and existed only as seed, to government in a free sail. Surely as it is the interest of all Europe to extend civilization, Greece should not be circumscribed by narrow bounds [5] under the false notion that the President (even were he inclined) could, during the period of his life, make it subservient to the views of Russia. Were Russia in possession of Constantinople itself there is nothing to fear, but much to be gained. Austria instead of a doubtful policy would become linked by indissoluble bonds to the Western Nations, whilst the unwieldy Russian Empire, long before its new territory could be rendered available would divide into a Northern and a Southern State. Away with the unchristian cold and selfish policy which inculcates that England should be cautious not to allow feelings of humanity to lead to a dispute with the chief of the religion prevalent in India. Surely the diminution of Infidel power, and extension of Christian authority will on the contrary have the most beneficial effects. The British possessions in India are as secure as the balance of power in Europe which all the great events of modern times have proved to be founded on bases not to be shaken by partial changes.

Glorious will be the results of a magnanimous policy. [6] The gross insult offered to all Europe by the deportation of 4000 unfortunate women and innocent children to slavery in defiance of the remonstrances of three of the most powerful nations, will be avenged by the occupation of the Turkish provinces; whilst France and England will demand and obtain the restitution of the captives themselves, together with indemnity (if such can be had on earth) for the horrors committed on their violated persons, by the monsters who dragged them to captivity.

Shall the Greeks be compelled to pay tribute to the Turks, and value for the land of their forefathers, after sufferings such as these, and must the veto be reserved on the choice of their president, to perpetuate the intrigues of the Turks and the debasement of character and of disposition so essential to those who aspire to favor under despotic rule. No such terms of peace are illusive; they contain cause of perpetual hatred and of war. If this were all that can be done for Greece, the sufferings she has endured, the philanthropic aid afforded by the community of Europe, and the intervention of these governments will complete the anarchy & ruin of that unfortunate country. [7]

The catastrophe must he avoided; the honor of the allied powers is engaged as they have taken upon themselves the exclusive arrangement of affairs.

Let as hope that the task will be performed in a manner indelible and beneficial to the cause of religion humanity & Mankind.