On the 16th of March the Unicorn accompanied by the Brig Sauveur arrived off Hydra, and there landed Mr. Orlando to whom Lord Cochrane had given a passage notwithstanding the accusations made against the conduct of that gentleman and various representations from different quarters as to the impropriety of his accompanying Lord Cochrane to Greece, and the prejudice it might occasion to his Lordship by apparently invalidating him with the opponents of the Conduriotti faction. Whether Lord acted well in exposing himself to the prejudices of an unenlightened people in compliance with the solicitation of Mr. Orlando remains to be seen; but his Lordship fell that he could not refuse the application of an individual who had occupied a high office, to be afforded an opportunity [1] of justifying before his own Government, the conduct of which he had been accused. Before Mr. Orlando debarked Lord furnished him with a copy of a letter which he had addressed to the Government on the subject of Mr. Orlando's return.

Lord Cochrane was surprised to observe that except the open batteries near the town of Hydra, the whole coast of the island remained unprotected, although in a smooth sea a landing might be affected in almost every part of its circumference. The town of Hydra is built is an irregular manner on the face of the mountain about the port, and presents a clean appearance, the houses being all whitewashed. There is not a tree on the island though there [2]

On entering the Bay of Egina, we stood over towards Athens, where we had a full view of the Acropolis, which with the whole scenery at sunset was beautiful. Alas! what a change - what melancholy recollections crowd on the mind! There was the seal of scenes of literature and the arts. At the instant at which we write the barbarian Turk is actually demolishing by the shells, that now are flying through the air, the scantly remains of the once magnificent temples on the acropolis. On passing Egina on the morning of the 17th Lord Cochrane sent his first communications to the Government of Greece by Major Urquhart [3]

There are a few struggling bushes; there is scarcely any land capable of cultivation, but there are some vineyards on the South side and a few small gardens near the town. The port is small, the water deep, and the vessels make fast by hawsers to the shore. It is evident that if Greece obtains independence this Island, to which the inhabitants fled to enjoy that species of precarious liberty that depends on eluding the view of tyranny must be abandoned. Even water is only to be had from tanks which are filled by the winter's rain.

Poros to which we proceeded immediately on forwarding these letters is a port about twelve miles distant from Hydra. The main entrance [4] is scarcely wide enough to work a ship in, if the wind is from off the land, the wale however is sufficiently deep, close to the shore, and the port when you have entered through this narrow channel is one of the finest in the world. There is another entrance towards the South, but it is shallow and crooked and consequently used only by small vessels. The town of Poros consists of a number of irregularly built houses on the side of a hill & merits that appellation of picturesque: There are remains of temples & monuments on the Island and the stone is get to be seen on which Demosthenes is said to have been siting when he was recalled by Antipatros to Athens & in consequence of which he took poison and died.

Lord Cochrane was visited on this day (18 April) by Tombasi [5] and the first of whom doubly merits the title of Admiral he having refused to accept it when awarded for his successes assigning as a reason that he considered that one admiral, (namely his senior admiral Miaulis) was enough under the circumstances of Greece.

On the 18th Colokotroni and several others sent onboard to say they would wait on Lord Cochrane but as his Lordship was much undisposed all this day, he declined seeing them until

the morning following. In the meantime, however Lord Cochrane received much useful information from various individuals regarding the unhappy differences [6] that prevailed amongst those who ruled and those who desired to place themselves at the head of affairs.

It appeared that the government named by the late assembly had its settings at the island of Egina and not on the Morea, and as the period fixed for their duration in power had expired, another National assembly had assembled at Hermione under the patronage of Colokotroni, to whom Conduriottis had united in order to replace himself in power - if not at the head of affairs.

It was reported, and there is reason to believe the fact, that had Lord Cochrane not arrived, a plot was to have been put in execution on the following day, to seize by force the government party at Egina and to dissolve the existing executive [7] authority. This might easily have been accomplished, but no doubt dissentions would thereby have originated which might have torn Greece to its center.

On the 20th Lord Cochrane wrote again to beg General Colokotroni to delay coming off until ten o'clock as His Lordship was still much indisposed; On receiving this message Colokotroni left Egina and with his whale party rode down to the beach opposite the ship and sent off to say that he would there await until a boat should be sent for him & his followers the whole being about a hundred men armed according to the custom of the Country with pistols and daggers stuck in the left side of a dash or belt. The two boats being insufficient, not more than 20 came onboard [8] with the General. There were however in his retinue Count Metaxa.

All of which officers & gentlemen the General desired me to be informed were a deputation from the National assembly at Hermione. Colokotroni was the speaker man that appeared to be great energy in his gesticulations which did not correspond with the translation by count Metaxa, who seemed from a smile on his countenance to hold in no great respect the mental acquirements of Colokotroni. The [9] Count on the contrary appears to be a well-educated Greek. There were no observations made by any of the party interpreted to Lord Cochrane, but him Colokotroni "Greece required a government to bring order out of chaos - the functions of the commission appointed by the last legislative assembly ought to have ceased in last. Its continuance in power was not legal and consequently the members of the National assembly had met at Hermione to name their successors; to which place it was requested that Lord Cochrane would proceed in order to be present at their deliberation and a letter to this effect signed by the President of the assembly was put into Lord Cochrane's hands. [10] Lord Cochrane made answer verbally through Count Metaxa to the Deputation; "that he held in due estimation the honour they had done him by personally delivering the communication of the assembly as well as the very flattering terms used towards his Lordship by the members assembled at Hermione. He repeated the division that had taken place and recommended reconciliation - hoped the necessity of prompt exertion and the little good that the wisest legislative enactments could affect whilst the Turks overran their Country whilst they possessed three fourths of its strongholds and whilst the enemy aby besieged the capital of the state which was in danger daily of falling into their power. His Lordship expressed his regret that so many able and brave military officers as there he saw before him should occupy themselves with civil discussions in the present state of their country. [11]

Upon this being interpreted to Colokotroni he became exceedingly warm - and urged that the duty he was now occupied with was more essential than any other – he however cooled on seeing, as the presence, that no one seconded his opinion which he evidently expected by his glances towards his companions, who looked at each other. Colokotroni remained some time without saying a word and then rising took Lord Cochrane by the hand and assured him that he

would do his outmost to produce a reconciliation of parties. Lord Cochrane urged that the termination of the differences should be within the space of three days. Colokotroni requested five and afterwards caused his interpreter the Count Metaxa to say that possibly an answer might be received from Ermione even before the shortest period affixed. Count Metaxa was the last who left the cabin and as soon as the others were gone, he turned to Lord Cochrane and [12] and assured him that his utmost endeavours should not be wanting to accomplish so desirable an object. The Count has evidently the management of Colokotroni; to whom he probably adheres in order to arrive at real power, under the sanction of an individual on whose shoulders may be heaped all the evil measures to be anticipated in acquiring or upholding any authority over a multitude of rival chief, and their rude followers.

Lord Cochrane was informed after the conversation had terminated, that Colokotroni had caused two of his armed followers to attend at the cabin door - whilst the others amounting to twice the number of the Schooner crew remained on deck. Colokotroni's pistols dagger & arms as well as his dress were the least valuable of all his companions or followers. Those of Count Metaxa were the richest o his pistols &c were covered with gold as well as the sheaths of his daggers & alaghan. [13]

Colokotroni & his party left the schooner having just directed one of their soldiers to await Lord Cochrane's reply to the communication from the assembly. A deputation from Hydra and a crowd of other visitors however precluded Lord Cochrane despatching the courier until the following morning. In this response Lord Cochrane repeated to them the advice given by Demosthenes to his countrymen relative to union and energy; recommended the whole the first Philippic to be read aloud in the National assembly and that the advice there given should thereby be the rule whereby the Authorities of Greece should conduct then affairs.

Lord Cochrane caused copies of his communication with the assembly of Castri & his reply to the addresses of the inhabitants of Hydra & Spetzia to be made and in the course of the day the Schooner's anchor was weighed and on the same evening we anchored at Egina. [14] Colonel Gordon's brig entered the bay on the following morning & the Colonel came onboard. This zealous Philhellene though possessing an ample fortune has subjected himself during years to all kinds of hardships & dangers. He has at his own cost long maintained a military face in and of the Greek cause and has at this moment a number of Greeks under his command at the Piraeus. He perceives, however, that the position which the government have persisted in causing him to occupy is not that where he can prove most useful to the cause of Grece: and therefore, he endeavours to raise a force and proceed to the Eastern shore of Africa in order to cut off the provisions which the Turkish army now blockading Athens receives from the Euboea and the promontory of Attica. [15]

Lord Cochrane recommended the occupation of Euboea instead of landing on the shore of Attica and the blockade of the Northern Channel which separates that island from continental Greece. The latter measure was immediately acquiesced by the government in & Lord Cochrane furnished funds to equip & send forth three brigs & one corvette. Admiral Miaulis with the great American pirate had been for some weeks in the Southern channel and had captured two vessels laden with provisions! The channels however of Negroponte being too narrow for such a large ship she was recalled and the steam vessel Perseverance Captain Hastings ship had been acting with the admiral arrived at Egina in the course of this day. Captain Hastings informed Lord Cochrane that a joint Naval & Military attack had been made on but that it had [16] not succeeded – partly because the troops were not debarked on the evening of their arrival, which assuredly it might not have been prudent to do – and partly from the nature of the troops

employed, who are better inclined at all times to defend than to attack positions surrounded by walls, however insignificant the strength of such ramparts may be.

Colonel Gordon dined with Lord this day; the conversation turned of course on the measures necessary to be adopted for the relief of Athens on the number and state of the contending forces and on the state of the garrison of Athens.

The Turks were said to have in all 7000 men, 1000 of whom are cavalry – part are dispersed in positions around the fortress of the Acropolis, forming a kind of blockade; the rest occupy ruined houses, a convent, and [17] and temporary redoubts called by the Turks and Greeks "tambours". These are heaps of stones piled in circular or annular form having a ditch on the inside instead of around the work. This ditch is more for the purpose of securing the garrison of the tambour from the fire of the enemy than from a more close attack by well-armed assailants. The plan of the positions of the Turks and Greeks at the Piraeus is a curiosity in the art of military warfare and exemplifies in a shocking degree the total want of energy and resolution amongst the troops of both sides - especially on the part of the Greeks.

The force under Colonel Gordon at the Piraeus is about 3000 men as has been already noticed. That under [18] Karaiskaki amounts to about 2500 besides a corps under [] of nearly [].

The Government sent a deputation consisting of three of their members to Lord Cochrane to congratulate him on his arrival and acquaint him that his commission as Admiral would be drawn up and presented to him tomorrow in a form more satisfactory to his Lordship; for that which he had received on his arrival at Poros from Dr. Gosse was not expressed in the terms most usual in such documents. Lord Cochrane sent his best thanks to His Excellency the president Zaimis and the other members and assured them that whenever he should be enabled to act he would do his utmost for the service of Greece - but intimated at the same time that until harmony should be restored amongst the members of Government and especially a reconciliation between the contending parties At Hermione and Egina- he could perceive no hope of [19] his endeavours being of the least avail. Nor could he all whilst two factions claimed supreme authority over all Greece without compromising himself - either with the celyons of Greek as a partisan or with foreign powers as acting under an illegal commission.

Lord Cochrane breakfasted with Colonel Gordon on the 23 and offered to assist the Colonel with part of the money at his disposal in order to facilitate and expedite the Colonel's object of getting into the rear of the enemy to cut off his supplies.

Captain Hastings dined with Lord Cochrane, and it was arranged that the Perseverance should weigh with the schooner Unicorn; proceed to Hydra take in coals and join the brig Sauveur off Candia. The fires were lighted in the steam vessel, at [20] at eight o'clock on the morning of the 24 but it was one o'clock before the steam was up sufficiently to move the vessel. By that time the Unicorn though then was little wind had got a dozen of miles ahead – and the Perseverance popped on towards Hydra unobserved in the dusk of the evening. On the following day the Unicorn stood into the bay between Hydra and the main.

Mr. Orlando came off accompanied by Major Urquhart who had been sent by Lord Cochrane to that island to inquire what number of seamen could be procured from the islands who would be willing to debark and act as marines or soldiers in any desultory expeditions for the annoyance of the Ennemy. The Major's report was that 1500 or two thousand could be procured on a few days warning [21] and the same amount was given in a letter from Conduriottis the Call President of the Government of Greece and present president of the local government of Hydra.

On this evening Lord Cochrane embarked onboard the steam vessel Perseverance and was proceeding through the western channel towards Candia, when the injection pipe blew, and

the connecting rods got out of order, and the engines which had never performed well ceased to move the vessel!

It was obvious that the valves were out of adjustment and did not close tight at the proper times. In fact, it was impossibles to move the vessel by steam or even by sails as the masts were by no means calculated for that purpose. Lord Cochrane therefore requested Captain Hastings to return to Poros. The 25 was spent in [22] 23 in creeping along as far as the East end of the island and the morning of the 26 found us just where we were on the evening before. About midday a gall of wind sprang up from the north. The slender chains which supported the mast next to the funnel gave way; tacks, wheels and halliards broke; the sails were split in various places, and the Perseverance bore up into the bay of Hydra where protection was found in a roadstead on the main land round to point of Termesa, an excellent anchorage, surrounded on all rides by land and islands; but of which the charts give no information.

On the 27 the weather moderated but the Engines were not yet ready to work; besides the repairs of other kind the engineers were employed [23] packing the cylinders & air pumps; both of which are awkward operations, by reason of the pistons not lifting high enough to enable the packing & to be done in a proper manner.

Lord Cochrane examined the engines minutely and discovered defects which appeared to him fully to account for the defective performance of these engines without ascribing of to the causes assessed by the engineers, namely that steam sufficient is not generated to supply the demand occasioned by the vacuum – and that the moment the engine is set to work the index is at 0 and perhaps below it. [24] On the 10th of April Lord Cochrane hoisted his flay onboard the Hellas National frigate and forwarded a letter to the President and members of the legislative assembly announcing that he would wait on them at three o'clock of that was convenient. He accordingly proceeded towards the small port of Damala at the end of the harbour of Poros accompanied by Mr. Mason and several others. Horses had been provided by the Government to carry the party to Damala and a quad of 12 men were in attendance. The Admiral's horse was led, after the custom of the great Turkish authorities by a black – the whole cavalcade was sufficiently grotesque in appearance. The band, as all roads are said to be in Greece, was abominable.

When the procession had proceeded halfway towards the assembly it was met be General Nicketas and the National guard who endeavoured to present arms on our passing. The General is one of these who bear the highest character for [25] probity and love of his Country.

On arriving within a hundred paces of the town General Colokotroni accompanied by Count Metaxa came to meet the Admiral. Colokotroni embraced him on his disamenity and taking his arm accompanied Lord to the Assembly, which was setting in an orange garden to the left of the road leading up the hill.

The scene on enliving was very picturesque. The novelty of the dress, the gravity of the countenances of the deputies, who were seated in a cercle around the President, looking inwards and clustered in groups between the trees which were full of fruit had a striking effect.

Lord Cochrane was conducted to the President together with the Gentlemen who accompanied him [26] he was desired to sit down and was addressed by the President in a few words to say that the assembly were happy to see him amongst them and that they were ready to proceed to the business of swearing his lordship according to his desire by letter which they received.