

information, relative to his further pursuits and researches in Greece. But it is in contemplation with a few Members of the Dilettanti Society, to whom I have communicated Lord Elgin's letter, to make a handsome remittance to Signor Lusieri, and to engage him to make some researches, and execute some plans and drawings of monuments, which shall be indicated to him.

The meeting of the Society will be on Sunday next. Should any determinations be entered into, worthy of being communicated to you, you shall know them: at the same time let me entreat you to put down on paper any hints you can suggest, relative to objects in Greece, that are particularly requisite to be investigated.

My health is still in a very weak state. I will conclude this sheet by repeating my thanks for your kind communication, and expressing my hopes of receiving from you your thoughts upon the chief objects in Greece, that yet remain, and ought to be investigated and drawn by Lusieri.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your most faithful and obedient Servant,

C. TOWNLEY.

No. 8.—*Translation of a LETTER from the Cavalier CANOVA to the Earl of ELGIN.*

MY LORD,

London, 10th Nov. 1815.

PERMIT me to express the sense of the great gratification which I have received from having seen in London the valuable antique Marbles, which you have brought hither from Greece. I think that I can never see them often enough: and although my stay in this great capital must be extremely short, I dedicate every moment that I can spare to the contemplation of these celebrated remains of ancient art. I admire in them the truth of nature united to the choice of the finest forms. Every thing here breathes life, with a veracity, with an exquisite knowledge of art, but without the least ostentation or parade of it, which is concealed by consummate and masterly skill. The naked is perfect flesh, and most beautiful in its kind.—I think myself happy in having been able to see with my own eyes these distinguished works; and I should feel perfectly satisfied if I had come to London only to view them. Upon which account, the admirers of art, and the artists, will owe to your Lordship a lasting debt of gratitude, for having brought amongst us these noble and magnificent pieces of sculpture; and for my own part I beg leave to return you my own most cordial acknowledgments; and

I have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

CANOVA.

No. 9.—*Extract of a DESPATCH from his Excellency the Earl of ELGIN to Lord HAWKESBURY, dated Constantinople.*

January 13th, 1803.

"I do not demand any allowances corresponding with those of the late extraordinary embassies from Russia, although the honours and public disbursements of mine have been equally extraordinary; nor can I have a wish to make a charge of the many unusual expenses to which I have been subjected. Still, I confess that the private expense which I have incurred to the extent of many thousand pounds, in improving the advantages before me, towards procuring a knowledge of the arts of Greece, and rescuing some of their remains from ruin; and the loss of a valuable vessel of mine solely employed in that service, would make any defalcation of the appointments affixed to my rank a matter of serious inconvenience to me."

No. 10.—*TRANSLATION from the Italian of a Fermàin, or Official Letter from The Caimacan Pasha, (who filled the Office of Grand Vizier at The Porte, during that Minister's absence in Egypt,) addressed to The Cadi, or Chief Judge, and to The Vavode, or Governor of Athens, in 1801.*

AFTER the usual introductory compliments, and the salutation of Peace,—“It is hereby signified to you, that our sincere Friend, his Excellency Lord Elgin, Ambassador Extraordinary from the Court of England to the Porte of Happiness, hath represented to us, that it is well known that the greater part of the Frank (i. e. Christian) Courts are anxious to read and investigate the books, pictures, or figures, and other works of science of the ancient Greek philosophers: and that, in particular, the ministers, or officers of state, philosophers, primates, and other individuals of England, have a remarkable taste for the drawings, or figures, or sculptures, remaining ever since the time of the said Greeks, and which are to be seen on the shores of the Archipelago, and in other parts; and have, in consequence, from time to time, sent men to explore and examine the ancient edifices, and drawings or figures. And that some accomplished Dilettanti of the Court of England, being desirous to see the ancient buildings and the curious figures in the City of

Athens, and the old walls remaining since the time of the Grecians, which now subsist in the interior part of the said *place*; his Excellency the said Ambassador hath therefore engaged five English painters, now dwelling at Athens, to examine and view, and also to copy the figures remaining there, *ab antiquo*: And he hath also at this time expressly besought us, that an Official Letter may be written from hence, ordering that as long as the said painters shall be employed in going in and out of the said citadel of Athens, which is the place of their occupations; and in fixing scaffolding round the ancient Temple of the Idols there; and in moulding the ornamental sculpture and visible figures thereon, in plaster or gypsum; and in measuring the remains of other old ruined buildings there; and in excavating, when they find it necessary, the foundations, in order to discover inscriptions which may have been covered in the rubbish; that no interruption may be given them, nor any obstacle thrown in their way by the Disdar (or commandant of the citadel), or any other person: that no one may meddle with the scaffolding or implements they may require in their works; and that *when they wish to take away any pieces of stone with old inscriptions or figures thereon, that no opposition be made thereto.*

“ We therefore have written this Letter to you, and expedited it by Mr. Philip Hunt, an English gentleman, Secretary of the aforesaid Ambassador, in order that, as soon as you shall have understood its meaning, namely, that it is the explicit desire and engagement of this Sublime Court, endowed with all eminent qualities, to favour such requests as the above mentioned, in conformity with what is due to the friendship, sincerity, alliance, and good will subsisting *ab antiquo* between the Sublime and ever durable Ottoman Court and that of England, and which is on the side of both those Courts manifestly increasing; particularly as there is no harm in the said figures and edifices being thus viewed, contemplated, and designed. Therefore, after having fulfilled the duties of hospitality, and given a proper reception to the aforesaid Artists, in compliance with the urgent request of the said Ambassador to that effect, and because it is incumbent on us to provide that they meet no opposition in walking, viewing, or contemplating the figures and edifices they may wish to design or copy; or in any of their works of fixing scaffolding, or using their various implements; It is our desire that, on the arrival of this Letter, you use your diligence to act conformably to the instances of the said Ambassador, as long as the said five Artists, dwelling at Athens, shall be employed in going in and out of the said citadel of Athens, which is the place of their occupations; or in fixing scaffolding around the ancient Temple of the Idols, or in modelling with chalk or gypsum the said ornaments and visible figures thereon; or in measuring the fragments and vestiges of other ruined edifices; or in excavating, when they find it necessary, the foundations, in search of inscriptions among the rubbish; that they be not molested by the said Disdar (or commandant of the citadel), nor by any other persons, nor even by you (to whom this letter is addressed); and that no one meddle with their scaffolding or implements, *nor hinder them from taking away any pieces of stone with inscriptions or figures.* In the above-mentioned manner, see that ye demean and comport yourselves.

(Signed with a signet.)

“ SEGED ABDULLAH KAIMACAN.”

N. B. The words in Italian rendered in two places “any pieces of stone,” are “qualche pezzi di pietra.”