

going away leaving two pleasant Englishmen in our house, and both seem attached to Elgin—Lord William is an old friend of his. We yesterday received positive intelligence that the preliminary articles of peace are signed (we are croaking)!

Only think what the Internonce did last night. Elgin sent him a packet of letters from Paget that came by our courier; Pisani delivered them to the Internonce who immediately said: "Monsieur, ma lettre a'était diablement mal traité," and said E. had opened it.

E. put himself into a most violent passion, so did Lord William and Straton, and there were several people in the room who heard—Bromley for one!

E. sent old Dana to the Internonce to enquire what he meant, a pretty violent discussion ensued, and at last the Internonce said it shewed how foolish it was to employ so young a man as Paget, who did not know how to seal letters properly etc.

Many sharp things passed, and this morning the Internonce came to Elgin with his letter to prove he had reason to suppose it had been opened. I suppose the poor old man is so piqued at Straton's arrival, he would say or do anything. However they parted friends!

*Nov. 10th.*—At last Morier is arrived; he came last Sunday, he says you are at Pisa. You cannot think how happy I feel that I have got all your numbers right up to No 14. But you have omitted numbering one of your letters, and one that you wrote me on the 3rd August from Naples, you numbered 10. which is wrong. Poor MacLean. Lady Elgin writes me he is very ill. Doctor Scott suffers dreadfully from the rheumatism.

*Nov. 15th.*—I have written Bluey all the particulars about B; she will shew you my letters when you

arrive in England, as I dare not be too minute in my descriptions in these publick letters. What a quantity of my letters you will have to read when you get home.

We are just returned from a grand dinner given us by the Internonce, I suppose to make up for the letter-story. I never saw people so changed, they are now *overwhelming* us with civility. We have been very lucky! All our Porphyry is gone home for nothing, as Lord Keith etc. have taken it for ballast to their ships. I hope we shall not have to pay 3d a pound—upon its arrival!

The Turks are giving magnificent fireworks, this is the third day of it, I believe tomorrow is to be the last. They have placed tents for all the Corps, ours is the first, and they have put Tamara with us, which affronted the Internonce. It has been sad rainy weather, and the fireworks not going off well the first night, the man who directed them is banished. I was there last night; the taking of Alexandria was represented on the water, and all the English ships had men with hats on their heads. I rowed about and looked at everything; the Caimacam, etc. etc. who were all in separate tents, bowed to me as I passed; and going by the Green Kiosk (opposite this house), on the famous silver sofa, lay the Grand Signior, surrounded by an immense number of attendants.

I did not know that all boats were prevented passing near him, or I should not have been so impudent; I was in Captain Hilliar's boat, Elgin was in his tent, having a diplomatic conference with the Dragoman of the Porte. They let us row close to the kiosk, the Sultan looked amiable at us, and as soon as we had gone by, he took up his spying glass and looked at us.

Do you know positively, in going by some of the