

GREAT BRITAIN & C.

LONDON, SEPT. 22.

GREECE.—Mr. Blaquiere has addressed the following Letter to a Greek bondholder:—

“ Dear Sir.—I hasten to offer you all the information in my power, relative to the actual state and future prospects of Greece, as they relate to the interests of the bondholders. I am the more anxious to satisfy your inquiries on this subject, from having been among the first of those who asserted, that notwithstanding the innumerable difficulties which have beset Greece during her eventful struggle, her cause must ultimately triumph. My opinion was founded on the facilities for defence which the Greeks possessed—their firm determination not to submit to their old tyrants under any circumstances, and above all, on the inevitable moral influence which such a cause, interwoven as it is with all the best feelings of our nature, was calculated to produce on the whole European family. What has been the result of my conjectures, thus formed amidst the prejudices of some, and opposition, if not the obloquy of others? Why, that the Greeks, with the most inadequate means and amid appalling privations, have continued the war nearly seven years, without there being an instance of a disposition to submit; and that impressed with the justice of their claims, and the moral necessity of the case, the three Great Powers of Europe have concluded a Treaty, which, as I have already stated, gives a political existence to Greece, and thus realizes all that her best friends could wish in the present state of the contest.

“ Were it not for the hitherto unprofitable result of the South American loans, and the fatal spirit which induced so many individuals to embark capital in the joint stock bubbles, having such a tendency to destroy public confidence, the ratification of such a treaty must have struck the Greek bondholders at once, as furnishing a guarantee, infinitely stronger than any afforded by the loans of the New World; since it consists in a solemn covenant between the three great arbiters of Europe. I am indeed astonished that it should have been overlooked for a moment. With respect to the execution of the treaty, I am willing to stake my existence on it. What is more, I have no hesitation in repeating, that the Porte can no more resist its being carried into effect, than could one of the minor states of the continent, wage war against England, France, or Russia. In the first place, the promulgation of the treaty has given new vigour and animation to all classes of the Greeks, as evinced by the late operations; in the next, neither Ibrahim Pacha nor the Seraskier, possesses the means of carrying on hostilities even for ten days, if their supplies are cut off; and lastly, the fleets of the High Contracting Parties are on the spot and acting in obedience to the positive orders of their respective courts. But I shall advert to another fact, as entirely setting the fears of any resistance at rest. There is a Russian army of 100,000 men ready to cross the Pruth, the instant Turkey holds up a finger to resist. My conviction is, that if a single act of violence takes place at Constantinople, or Smyrna, this army will invade Turkey. The consequences in such a case may be easily anticipated! But I repeat there will be no resistance. You will, perhaps, wish to know the grounds on which I speak so confidently of the non-resistance of the Sultan. Is it likely, I would ask, that those who projected and signed the treaty, did not calculate all the chance of opposition before hand, and felt

assured that nothing but a decisive policy would induce the Divan to acquiesce?

Those who are acquainted with the personal character of Sultan Mahmoud, do not require to be informed, that however impetuous he may at first appear, there is no doubt of his yielding the moment he sees the Great Powers, but more especially England, determined to carry the Treaty into effect. On the other hand, the Sultan, who is confessedly a man of some talent, must perceive that, while the intervention of the Powers furnishes him with a plausible motive for putting an end to one of the most expensive contests in which he has been engaged, the British Cabinet has consulted the best interests of Turkey, and perhaps adopted the only means of prolonging the existence of that tottering edifice, by proposing the Treaty in question. This is not the place to develop a subject, which involves consequences of the highest importance to the Ottoman Empire, while they are not less closely connected with the general interests of Europe. Here, it may be proper to state a fact which is unknown in this country. Whatever may be the feelings and wishes of the Sultan with regard to Greece, the war is not popular in Turkey, it has continued too long, and cost the Turks too dearly to be so; added to these considerations, I had from various sources of the best information during my late visit, that the Mussulman population attribute all the recent calamities of the Empire to the cruelties exercised in Greece. I need hardly add, that the Turkish soldiery have always entered the field against the Greeks with the utmost reluctance. The war has, in fact, been principally carried on by the Albanian mercenaries, and the Delhis or Turkish cavalry. The former would fight for any party by which they are best paid, while the latter, besides being extremely well treated on the score of pay, know that there is comparatively little risk in attacking irregular infantry without bayonets.

“ If you ask me what is my opinion with regard to the particular march of events in consequence of the treaty of intervention; my reply is that I think there is no doubt but Ibrahim Pacha will evacuate the Morea in the course of the winter, and that Kutahia, the Seraskier, will be under the necessity of separating his army, already not more than 15,000 men, into small parties, if he does not retreat to Larissa or Zetouni. In every case, where the determination of the Cabinet is so firmly fixed, it is natural to expect that no unnecessary delay will take place in establishing the future stipulations of the Treaty.

“ Having stated my conviction as to the result of the Treaty of Intervention, it remains for me to touch on another important point—I alluded to the situation of Lord Cochrane and General Church, and to the unanswerable claims which these two gallant officers have to the support of their countrymen of every party in England, as the champions not merely of freedom and humanity, but the men in whose hands the Greeks by a most flattering act of confidence, have placed their destinies! And yet, what is the fact? While societies are formed all over the Continent to succour Greece, the matter is treated with an unaccountable apathy here. I admit that there may be some reason for this, in the gross mismanagement of the Loans, and wanton extravagancies in their application. Nor will I deny that the disunion of the Greeks themselves, have been most injurious to their cause. But I can never persuade myself, that when the case is fairly submitted to the public, and its real merits made known, the people of England, distinguished through all time for their gene-

rosity to the oppressed and unfortunate, will abandon Greece just as she has reached the threshold of her independence. Nor let it be any longer said by our neighbours, that while they are ministering to the wants of the Greek people, we are looking on with indifference! It is truly humiliating to reflect, that the principal aid by which two British officers are keeping the fleets and armies of Greece together, should be derived from the Continental subscriptions, while not an effort has been made to assist them from this country.

“ Without dwelling on that part of our duties towards Greece, which is dictated by religion and christian charity, I am more anxious to convince you, as a bondholder, that as a mere question of interest, you are bound to second the magnanimous intentions of the High Contracting Parties, by enabling the provisional Government to perfect the system of naval and military organization commenced under the auspices of our gallant countrymen. Need I say, that a prompt measure to this effect, on the part of bondholders generally, would afford the likeliest means of an early dividend? It is evident that the three Cabinets cannot, in the actual state of things, come forward to the relief of the nation which they have virtually recognized; but I am convinced any measure adopted by the friends and creditors of Greece, would be viewed with indulgence if it did not receive their support. At all events, it is for you as a considerable holder of Greek Stock, and one who has already distinguished himself in behalf of the cause, to confer with your friends similarly situated, and decide on the propriety of a General Meeting, to consider on the best mode of securing the future interests of all parties.

“ In the event of a public Meeting of the Greek Bondholders, I need scarcely suggest the importance of there being a deputation appointed to wait on the Count Capodistria, who would, I am sure, most gladly give every information on the future prospects of the creditors. The nomination of his Excellency as Civil Governor of Greece, presents another and powerful guarantee for the fulfilment of her engagements in this country. I have thought it superfluous to dwell on the facilities which Greece will have for repaying her debts, this will be amply proved the moment the Treaty of Intervention is carried into effect.

“ My anxiety to perform the promises I made both to General Church and Lord Cochrane on leaving Greece, may probably induce me to address a copy of my letter to the Editors of the London papers; and through whose medium, I hope to make this appeal known throughout the kingdom. Indeed, I should be ungrateful, were I to omit this opportunity of declaring, that if my poor labours have been any use to Greece, it is altogether due to the generous support of the press.

“ Relying on your taking this subject into immediate consideration, believe me to be, your's ever truly,

EDWARD BLAQUIERE.

“Barton's Coffee-House, Sept. 10, 1827.

SEPTEMBER 29.

DREADFUL CONFLAGRATION

ABO, Sept. 7. At 9 o'clock in the evening of the 4th inst. this town was visited by a dreadful conflagration, which, after raging for 24 hours, ended in the almost total destruction of the place. The fire broke out in the house of M. Hellman, a merchant, whose people were engaged in melting tallow, and, to escape the penalty attached to the carrying on such business

in the town, endeavoured to conceal the fire, as long as they could, and closed the doors. In five minutes the whole was reduced to ashes. The fire spread in three directions, and was soon universal. The Cathedral is totally destroyed, and every thing it contained. Of our celebrated University nothing remains but the observatory; all the buildings of the academy, with the valuable collections, the library of 40,000 volumes, the cabinet of medals, the collections of instruments, the custom-house, the court of justice, with the archives, the town hall, and above 900 houses are destroyed. The bridge has fallen in. Only about 30 houses have escaped, and the inhabitants, 11,000 in number, have lost every thing.

Stockholm, Sept. 14. Private letters from Abo, say, that above 100 persons perished in the flames. The General Insurance Company in this city has to pay 300,000 dollars to the inhabitants of Abo on this occasion.

From the Morning Herald of Sept. 29.

Extract of a letter, dated Lisbon, Sept. 7.

“ There has been a change in the Ministry. The viscount de Santarem has been dismissed, and rather suddenly; as it is rumoured. Yesterday morning he was giving audience to the various applicants in his twofold capacity as Minister of the Home Department, and of the Marine, when a man walked into the office and presented him with two decrees, containing his dismissal, and the other's nomination. The new member of the Cabinet is named Carlos Honorio de Gouvea Durao—he is a Desembargador, (a Judge) and appointed solely, ad interim, to those situations. It is rumoured also, that the Conde da Ponte has been dismissed this evening—and that General J. C. de Saldanha has been re-appointed to his old situation. Bastos, the intriguing Intendant of Police, has, as report states, been also dismissed—as also, the notorious Maria de Resgoe, the female Councillor, through whose schemes the mind of the Princess has been prejudiced so much against the friends of the Constitution. These changes have excited the greatest satisfaction among the Constitutionists; but they require to be positively affirmed in the Gazette, before one can place implicit reliance on them. It is further rumoured, that the Princess has declared that she was altogether deceived by those who surrounded her. This movement of the Government has raised the spirit of the Constitution, who, though they now doubt very much of the arrival of the Emperor, begin to think, that England finds it to be useful to her to support them in the possession of liberty here. There are, but few persons here who regret the dismissal of the Viscount de Santarem, for he had signed decrees which put down the newspapers, and they even have become too much a matter of necessity to be suppressed with impunity.”

OCTOBER 2.

Since the death of Mr. Canning, and the re-formation of the Ministry, domestic politics appear to have excited but little attention; and were it not for the state of involvement in which we are placed by that Gentleman's policy with regard to Portugal and Turkey, scarcely any interest would be felt by the majority of the country with regard to foreign affairs. As it is, the latter is much less considerable than could be imagined; and were it not for the turmoil which the good people of the Stock Exchange keep up (for the good of their country no doubt) the country would be in that truly happy and enviable state... but one to which she has been almost for ages a stran-