

E7.15

Missolonghi 7th Aug^r. 1864

My dear Mr. Hill

First & foremost I beg to acknowledge rec^d. of your delightful epistle dated 27th July: I am charmed with the description you give me of our new Minister, for there never was a moment when poor Greece required more than ever an active, energetic and firm British minister, otherwise all our past labour & expence will be all thrown away and Prussia will reap the benefit, besides His Excellency having had the good taste to marry a Philadelphian lady speaks volumes in his favor for I must

must confess that the majority
of American ladies whom it
has been my good fortune to have
met with, in different parts of the
world, have been most charming
persons.

Missolonghi is, although highly
interested in Athenian politics,
rather dull just now from the
great heat of these last few days,
which whilst ripening the currants,
keeps the non currant producers
in a melting mood which inclines
them to be any thing but amusing,
therefore to fill up my paper I
will tell you we have just returned
from a short excursion in the inter-
rior, since my appointment here I
have continually promised myself
a trip to visit my District, but
whenever it became known, either
I was to start
the

the Nomarch or some of the people here requested me not to leave as the presence of a British Authority was thought necessary to keep things quiet, but since Theagenes has been here the province has been quieter, so Caroline & I one fine afternoon took a priari for Aitoliko which as you know is as vile a hole as any in Greece, but a commission is doing wonders in improving the place (despairing of any assistance from Gov^t) they have made two good but narrow bridges to join the main land, on each side they have knocked down an old mosque, enlarged the place round the church, made a macadamized street to the Eastern bridge from the centre of the town and given more air to the streets generally, for all which I gave them great credit, as we already knew the gardens we did not stop longer than necessary, to take shelter from the heat

heat and make preparations for continuing our trip, which is no easy matter, as one is obliged to send messengers for horses & and messengers do not, as you know, in Greece always fulfil their orders as Greeks always know better than their masters or employers what they want.

From Aitoliko we again took boat for Stamma or rather to the landing place (port there is none) whence we had an hour's ride up to Stamma, (Caroline who has seen little more ^{of Greece} than barren Attica & adjacent islands, was delighted with the view from Stamma which standing on a conical hill about 1000 feet above the sea commands an extensive panorama of well wooded mountains, hill & dale, sea, ^{some of the} Ionian islands and of the Achelous winding its way through the plain so as to appear several different streams, and she felt quite rewarded for all her fatigue and the broiling of the sun, Murray though giving a historic sketch of the sufferings of the inhabitants in 1770 does not do justice to the scenery, but

but, he probably had not lived years
in a barren country, and consequently
could not appreciate the sight of verdure
under a broiling sun, so he may be excused
for paying so bad a compliment to
acarnania. Thence we wound
our way to Angelokastro, a place
little known out of our province
I dare say, about a quarter of a
mile from Stamma we entered
a wood ~~which~~ through which the
road leads to Angelokastro it was
something new to Caroline to ride
such a distance completely shaded
from the sun, it reminded me of
the ride from Bouyoukdere to
Belgrade only the latter road
is wider, and the trees of Etolia
more varied and the green more
diversified, what are mere shrubs
in Attica here are fine large trees,
as to Angelokastro itself, the village
is

is built in a ravine which strongly recalled to our recollection the ravine in the rear of Beglerbey, which we used to pass in our daily rides from Soutari to Kullalee, here we quartered ourselves on George Goulemis, well known to the General, who is quite the feudal lord, inhabiting an old chateau, though still partly in ruins, bearing marks of having past through Roman & Frank hands, there is here on a steep hill the remains of an old fortress with a ruined Greek church bearing an inscription in red bricks *αγγελου*. which our friend Goulemis pretends was intended to show that it was presented by Angelo the then Despot to his wife, inducing us to believe he was in some way a descendant of the same Angelo, be that as it may, we are all the sons of Adam.

Travelling in Roumelia is much more difficult than in the Morea as you know, people here from the want of roads live in a much more primitive state, ~~than~~ however they make up in real hospitality I think for their want of, I will not call them the luxuries but rather the necessaries of civilized life. Nowhere in Greece have I seen such fine soil and when it pleases the Greek Gov^t. to make roads throughout this province the Revenue will amply repay it for all expences.

Tricoupis' brother has just rec^d. a Telegram announcing Canaris P.M. & Komoundouros for Interior much to the disgust of the majority of Missolonghi.

(Count Sponneck seems no favorite with any of the parties here.)

Manolato is again in mourning

mourning by the sudden death
of Panayotti Sideris, well known
as an old 'ajonodis, husband to his
only sister.

Young Negri just stepped in, so
I was obliged to cut the thread of
my discourse he is looking better
than last year, but

Mrs. B & Caroline beg to be
kindly remembered to you and
yours and I remain ever

Yours sincerely.

J Black

Black
7 Dec 1854
Mrs. B. Sideris
Mrs. S. Sideris