Syra, 30th May / 11th June 1854

Revd Sir,

Though ever desirous to cultivate with my attentions that kindness which both you & Mrs Hill have always shown to me, still unprofitious circumstances clip the wings even to that wish, & compel me to apply to Hope & Futurity, & perhaps remote Futurity, for the realization of that wish at least.

However, what we now may be done must not be neglected. A dry & uninteresting letter, and as such, I am sorry to say, I must view mine, I will not permit myself to write to you, who are so successfully occupied in making to your friends & acquaintances a useful & entertaining interest. The only part that my letter may be permitted to perform is to accompany the only produce

political suicide - and a suicide undoubtedly would be to aid unawares the Russians & the Austrians, while they are forging the chains & hunting the chaost to bind & scourge with the simple inhabitants of this unhappy land as their future thralls.

A few days ago we had the Cumberland & an American war steamer here - It would be difficult to describe how charmed the people of Syra were with the beauty of the ship, & the courtesy of the Officers & the crew. I went on board myself, as I had never before seen an American man of war; but as two other gentlemen were with me I did not approach any of the officers, caughting the officer of the day on board of the steamer. As far as I can judge, nothing is calculated to typify ~~[illegible]~~ more correctly & more vividly the two opposite ideas of order & liberty than the sight of your men of war. An English man of war is of a thread superior

to an American a point of order; but in point of liberty, which gives so much elasticity to both mind & body, it is not little inferior. The poor French have no chance whatever to compete anyhow with the Anglo-Normans in their twofold aspect of English & Americans.

And as to the Germans, I saw the "Dantzic" here the other day, & I thought that they are, at least, just as far from the right sign as the French are, but with this difference, that the former are backward from clumsiness; the latter are over-strained from affectation.

I am sorry I have no news to give you from Syra. The people, who as you know are the most phanatically attached to Russia, are still grumbling. And it is very natural for even the leading men are doing worse, though

how is an underhand way, for they are afraid of the consequences. The greatest efforts should be made to rectify the public opinion, which has been purposely misled by those very men, who are now bowing & scraping, only outwardly, to be spared. Such favorable circumstances, as the present, will never again visit Greece, & if they are not turned to good account, this nation is doomed to perish.

And now wishing to all of your family health & happiness, & requesting you to remember me kind & respectful to Mrs Hill & the ladies, I avail myself also of this opportunity to sign myself Revd Sir,

Your devoted Servant & sincere friend

J. G. Capsimalis.

P. S. It would be trespassing upon Mr. Stockett's kindness if I requested him to deliver another parcel for Mrs. Merlin & Mrs. Wearing - but when an opportunity offers I shall not forget to let taste the improvements of the Syriote artist.

Kaspárek
Leon
1854