

Arbuthnot, that even when the Squadron had arrived before Constantinople, the Door to Pacification should remain open, and that he would be willing to negotiate on Terms of Equality and Justice. In consideration of this Promise, and as it would convince the Porte of His Majesty's earnest Desire to preserve Peace, as well as possess her Ministers with a Confidence of the Sincerity of our Professions, it was the Opinion of Mr. Arbuthnot, in which I concurred, that it was fortunate we had anchored at a little Distance from the Capital, as a nearer Approach might have given Cause for Suspicion and Alarm, and have cut off the Prospect of an amicable Adjustment of the Differences which had arisen.

At Noon of the 21st, Ysak Bey, a Minister of the Porte, came off; from whose Expressions Mr. Arbuthnot thought it impossible not to believe that, in the Head of the Government (for in the present Instance every Circumstance proved that, between him and the Armed Populace a great Distinction is to be made) there really existed a sincere Desire for Peace; and the Negotiation was carried on, as will appear by the Documents transmitted to your Lordship, till the 27th; but from the Moment of our Anchorage till we weighed, on the Morning of the 1st of March, such was the unfortunate State of the Weather, that it was not at any Time in our Power to have occupied a Situation which would have enabled the Squadron to commence offensive Operations against Constantinople. On Sunday the 22d alone, for a few Hours, the Breeze was sufficient to have stemmed the Current where we were placed; but such was the Rapidity on Shore where the Endymion was at Anchor, that Captain Capel thought it very doubtful whether the Squadron could have obtained an Anchorage, though it had been held in preparative Readiness, by Signal, from Day-break; but the peculiarly unsettled State of the Weather, and the Minister's Desire that I should give a few Hours for an Answer to his Letter, through Yska Bey, prevented me from trying. Before Five o'Clock, P. M. it was nearly calm; and in the Evening the Wind was entirely from the Eastward, and continued light Airs or calm till the Evening of the 28th, when it blew fresh from the N. E. and rendered it impossible to change our Position.

Two Days after our Arrival near Constantinople, the Ambassador found himself indisposed, and has been ever since confined with a fit of Illness, so severe as to prevent him from attending to Business. Under these Circumstances he had delivered in the 22d to the Turkish Minister a Project, as the Basis on which Peace might be preserved, and at his Desire the subsequent Part of the Negotiation was carried on in my Name, with his Advice and Assistance; and while I lament most deeply that it has not ended in the re-establishment of Peace, I derive Consolation from the Reflection that no Effort has been wanting on the Part of Mr. Arbuthnot and myself to obtain such a Result, which was soon seen from the State of the Preparations at Constantinople could be effected by Negotiation only, as the Strength of the Current from the Bosphorus, with the circuitous Edges of the Port, rendered it impracticable to place Ships for an Attack without a commanding Breeze; which, during the Ten Days I was off the Town, it was not my good Fortune to meet with.

I now come to the Point of explaining to your Lordship the Motives which fixed me to decide in repassing the Channel of the Dardanelles, and relinquishing every Idea of attacking the Capital, and I feel confident it will require no Argument to convince your Lordship of the utter Impracticability of our Force having made any Impression, as at this Time the whole Line of the Coast presented a Chain of Batteries: That Twelve Turkish Line of Battle Ships, Two of them Three Deckers, with Nine Frigates, were with their Sails bent, and apparently in Readiness, filled with Troops: add to this near Two Hundred Thousand were said to be in Constantinople, to march against the Russians; besides there were an innumerable Quantity of small Craft, with Boats; and Fire Vessels had been prepared to act against us. With the Batteries alone we might have coped, or with the Ships, could we have got them out of their strong Hold; but your Lordship will be aware, that after combating the Opposition which the Resources of an Empire had been many Weeks employed in preparing, we should have been in no State to have defended ourselves against them as described, and then repass the Dardanelles. I know it was my Duty, in Obedience to your Lordship's Orders, to attempt every Thing (governed by the Opinion of the Ambassador) that appeared within the Compass of Possibility; but when the unavoidable Sacrifice of the Squadron committed to my Charge (which must have arisen, had I waited for a Wind to have enabled me to cannonade the Town, unattended by the remotest Chance of obtaining any Advantage for His Majesty's Service) must have been the Consequence of pursuing that Object, it at once became my positive Duty, however wounded in Pride and Ambition, to relinquish it, and if I had not been already satisfied on the Subject, the increased Opposition in the Dardanelles would have convinced me I had done right, when I resolved on the Measure as indispensably necessary. I therefore weighed with the Squadron on the Morning of the first, and as it had been reported that the Turkish Fleet designed to make an effort against us, to give them an Opportunity, if such was really their Intention, I continued to stand on and off during the Day, but they shewed no Disposition to move.

I therefore, as every Hour was of Importance, bore up at Dusk with the Squadron; we arrived off Point Pesquies towards the Evening of the 2d Instant, but the Daylight would not admit of our attempting to pass the Castles, and the Squadron came to Anchor for the Night; we weighed in the Morning, and, when I add that every Ship was in Safety outside of the Passage, about Noon, it is not without the most lively sense of the good Fortune that has attended us.

The Turks had been occupied unceasingly in adding to the Number of their Forts, some had been already completed, and others were in a forward State. The Fire of the Two inner Castles had, on our going up been severe, but, I am sorry to say, the Effects they have had on our Ships returning, has proved them to be doubly formidable: In short, had they been allowed another Week to complete their Defences throughout the Channel, it would have been a very doubtful Point, whether a Return lay open to us at all. The Manner in which they employed the Interval of our Absence has proved their Assiduity. I transmit your Lordship an Account of the Da-