

CONTRIBUTION
OF
THE IRISH PHILHELLENE STEVENSON
TO
THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF GREECE
IN 1828

There exist in File No. 167 of the Capodistrian Archives at Corfu eleven letters written in Italian by the Irish philhellene Stevenson who was deeply involved in the development of agriculture in Greece. He was a friend of Capodistrias and worked very closely with him in this particular sector. D. L. Zografos, author of *A History of Greek Agriculture* writes, "The Irishman Stevenson is very closely associated with the revival of husbandry in the country. He was from the very beginning a close collaborator of the Greek President who displayed a special interest in farming, and his expertise was sought after by the latter in the pursuit of his agricultural policy. Although a foreigner, he deserves to be honored as one of the pioneers of the unsteadily emerging agriculture a fact which Capodistrias himself recognized. And, we, too, should revere this man among the many others who had helped our country in the early stages of the young nation's growth." ¹

The letters of Stevenson are addressed to Capodistrias from March to July 1828 and refer for the most part to the attempts of the Irishman to resettle needy and undernourished families from Aegina in Apathia, directly opposite Poros, with of course the approval of the President. The need for the reduction of an overpopulous Aegina was imperative. At that time the entire population of the island was concentrated in the port area and was augmented by the influx of refugees who had fled from various parts of the Ottoman Empire, especially from Psara. Aegina then numbered from 25,000 to 30,000 inhabitants. ²

1. D.L. Zografos, *A History of Greek Agriculture*, Athens, 1921, Vol.I, (1821-1833),p. 283.

2. A.E.Vacalopoulos, *Refugees and the Refugee Problem during The Greek War of Independence*, Thessaloniki, 1939, p.114. Also cf. p. 86

The German historian Bartholdy Mendelssohn also mentions the activities of Stevenson when referring to the attempts to introduce the cultivation of potatoes in Apathia and to his efforts in planting fruit trees along the coastal road of Poros. The German historian whose work is pervaded by a spirit hostile to Capodistrias records that Stevenson selected the site of Apathia which was originally a state-owned property, but this since 1825 was the property of the Coundouriotis family.³

It appears that Coundouriotis, as in the case of other influential and powerful families in the newly born nation, bought extensive tracts of fertile lands that had been abandoned by their former Turkish occupants. These lands were generally state-owned. Among such properties was the extensive stretch of productive soil round Apathia. But it seems that a part of this farmland that was selected by Stevenson was still a national property. Although these appear to be the facts of the matter, as they emerge from the Irishman's correspondence, Mendelssohn Bartholdy yet takes the occasion to accuse Capodistrias of high-handedness and arrogance, and attacks him vigorously when he writes, "One of the most presumptuous acts of the government was Capodistrias' alienation of this property (i. e. of the Coundouriotis family), not only without any compensation whatsoever as the Assembly of Epidaurus had ruled, but without even the slightest warning or notification to the owners. The antipathy of the President for these landowners was veiled by a justification that it was for the common good."⁴

In all probability the Apathia estates were acquired at minimal cost by Coundouriotis and this fact gave rise to much criticism as can be surmised from the following comment of A. T. Demetriou who addresses a letter to one "Triestian": "Apathia did not satiate the miserly appetite of this person."⁵

Using the first and second volumes of the correspondence of Capodistrias (which letters are addressed for the most part to his Swiss banker friend Eynard) and the "General Ephemeris," Zografos attempts to cull information on this interesting philhellene and to evaluate his contribution to Greece.⁶ Capodistrias thus wrote to Eynard on the 28th of January/February 9, 1828, that already eight days ago, that is January 20/February 1, he had met in Aegina some Irishman by name of Stevenson who was idle at the time and was

3. Karl Mendelssohn Bartholdy, *Geschichte Griechenlands*, Leipzig, 1874, Vol. II, p. 46, Cf. the Greek edition: Karl Mandelssohn Bartholdy, *A History of Greece*, translated by Angelos Vlachos, Athens, 1876, Vol. II, p. 65.

4. Mendelssohn Bartholdy, *op. cit.*, p. 46.

5. I borrow this extract from Zografos, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 256f. (a).

6. Zografos, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, pp. 273-278, 283-287.

anxious to offer his services to Greece in any capacity, that he was learned in the ways of agriculture, that he had put him in charge of all farming activity in the island, and that following the completion of such programming he would undertake further duties in the same field in the islands and the Peloponnese.⁷

Capodistrias showed a keen interest in the farming projects of Aegina and he supported Stevenson enthusiastically. He informed Eynard on the 4/16 of March of that year that he was expecting a shipload of potatoes from Liverpool which was destined for the starving inhabitants of Messenia, that the plot of land on which the spuds were to be planted in Aegina was ready, and Stevenson hoped that the harvest would suffice for 12,000 people for one year, and moreover that he was urged to purchase in Syros and elsewhere potatoes for sowing.⁸

The more Capodistrias got to know Stevenson, the more he respected him. On the 14/26th of April in a letter to Eynard concerning the expected cargo of potatoes that had left Liverpool on January 21 but had not yet appeared, he describes Stevenson "who is now on a beautiful state-owned property in Poros," as a "worthy and respectable gentleman" who "although ill works with great zeal to plant potatoes and to sow maize."⁹

Such is the basic information concerning Stevenson which is drawn from the letters of Capodistrias. But with the discovery of File No. 167 of Stevenson's correspondence, our knowledge of his activities is greatly enriched. The information is invaluable since it shows us what efforts were put forth by that Irish philhellene to meet the expectations of Capodistrias and to assist the latter in the creation of suitable conditions for the livelihood of an undernourished and exhausted nation.

II

And now to deal with the contents of Stevenson's correspondence, pointing out those main passages that throw some light on the state of Greek agriculture in the period. In substance the letters are made up of a day to day record of his activities in Aegina and Apathia of Poros. I set out below in more or less diary form those extracts that touch upon the subject of agriculture in order that the scholar who is interested in the persons referred to therein

7. *Correspondance de J. Capodistrias, Président de la Grèce*, Paris, 1839, Vol.I, pp. 298-399.

8. *Ibid*, Vol.I, pp.493-494.

9. *Ibid*, Vol.II, p.31.

or in the state of the agronomy of the time in those areas can deal further with these matters.

1. William Bennett Stevenson, as he signs his full name, appears on the scene on March 21, 1828 with the earliest letter of the collection written in Aegina. How he happened to be there, when he arrived in Greece, and in what capacity is unknown since I could find no additional evidence from other sources. In any case, in the same month, that is, on March 4, he is referred to for the first time in the letter of Capodistrias to Eynard in which he is described as a director of agricultural operations dealing with the planting of the potato crop in the island, and this leads us to assume that he began his duties during that month.¹⁰ But he must have come to Greece at least a year earlier because in his last letter dated July, 1828, he knew Cochrane well. He had been corresponding with the Englishman after the latter's departure from Greece following the defeat of the Greek forces at Phaleron (April 24, 1827). What Stevenson was doing in the country at the time, I do not know. In any event, when Capodistrias first encountered him in Aegina, Stevenson was unemployed and anxious to offer his services to Greece.

In his first letter to the President, the Irishman lists the persons who are overseers or are working on the plantation, and these amounted to two guards at a wage of one piastre per diem (plus a bread ration), and ten women who were employed in watering the trees. Then he refers to a certain Vetró who wished to come over from Damala, and he begs Capodistrias to allot him a salary since a Mister Vaillano, acting governor of Poros, refused to pay him on the grounds that he had been dismissed from his official duties. He leaves the solution in the hands of Capodistrias. At the end of the letter, Stevenson asks for a grant of a small sum of money and then attaches a rather interesting map in which is delineated the area given over to the cultivation of the potato in Aegina on a scale of 1:500 feet. The estate measures 1,587,095 square feet (See map).

2. Stevenson's second letter dated 2/14 April, 1828, is posted from Apathia in Poros. It was the early part of his stay in Apathia and difficulties were numerous. He began by cultivating the grounds round the house where he was living. As he himself writes, he wishes to train the simple peasants the art of cultivating the fallow soil. At his own initiative — and not at the suggestion of Capodistrias, as Mendelssohn Bartholdy maintains — he wanted to incorporate in the cultivated area two plots of ground sown with barley that belonged to Frangisco Coundouriotos and were situated, as Stevenson emphasizes, in

10. *Ibid*, Vol.I, p.493.

the very heart of the state property. It appears that this matter gave rise to some misunderstanding. The problem was finally resolved with Stevenson's promise that one-third of the crop of one of the plots of land would be given to Coundouriotis, a suggestion that the latter happily accepted. This was the incident that was magnified by the German historian since it provided yet another ground for attacking the President and his policies.

Then Stevenson becomes enthusiastic with the decision of Capodistrias to introduce the potato to Greece, a plant that constituted the national crop of his native country, and he expresses the hope that its cultivation in Damala will be crowned with success, and moreover, that the same good fortune would be met with in all the countryside bringing good fortune to the Greeks. Thus the honor of introducing the potato into Greece belongs to Capodistrias. Stevenson awaited impatiently for the new potato seeds from England as he was anxious to get started on the planting. Then he asked the President to order the acting governor of Poros to pay out the small expenses since he did not have the responsible authority in such matters. Moreover, he put in a request for a few more scores of crowbars and shovels and other farming implements that could be purchased abroad at half cost or could be donated by foreigners interested on the prosperity of Greece.

3. In his third letter dated April 10 of that year, Stevenson is extremely happy with the progress being made in potato cultivation. He has already planted large quantities in a suitable stretch of land containing ample water within the past twelve days. Three hundred people are working on the site, mostly women and children. Despite the happy progress, he points out, he has encountered quite a few difficulties since the soil was full of stones and underbrush. But the greatest difficulty arose from the presence and the intervention of irregular troops, although they would be soon departing in accordance with the assurances of their chieftains. As for the petty expenses, or the thousand piastres that Stevenson had asked of Capodistrias, this would be paid by the governor of Poros.

But the lack of rainfall in Aegina disturbed him, yet he was consoled by the fact that they would have a double crop in the following winter. He finishes the letter with a report of a visit by a certain inspector who examined the cultivated area and who, Stevenson hopes, will speak to Capodistrias about his great zeal.

4. According to the fourth letter dated April 15/21, 1828, the Irishman did not find enough land in the outlying districts suitable enough for the cultivation of potatoes and of wheat in large quantities. And he goes on to add that now he was pleased to inform the President that he had found at the mouth

of the Damala River a marshy lowland that would be most suitable for the cultivation of maize and which without a doubt would yield a rich harvest. This piece of land had been part of a Turkish-owned estate and some peasants had already begun to farm the extreme edges of the property. Obviously interested in retaining this stretch as a state-owned property, he was responsible for the decree issued by the governor of Poros whereby any farming in the area was forbidden except by the express permission of Capodistrias.

Then Stevenson asks the President to set a figure for the quantity he wants to have sown. Apparently Stevenson was now suffering from malarial fever but he did not wish to abandon the area or to remain idle, for, as he writes, the best medicine for his minor ailments was uninterrupted work. He ends the letter by expressing his joy with the news that the ship from Liverpool was to bring various farming implements and that the potato plantation was coming along satisfactorily and presented a pretty picture. The minor expenses which have been approved he leaves to the discretion of the governor of Poros who he believes could handle the funds more competently.

5. In the following month on May 6/18 Stevenson writes that since the expected visit of Capodistrias to Apathia at which time the Irishman had intended to present his ideas to the President personally had been cancelled, he presents these thoughts in writing. He reports that on the 5/17th of the month he intends to cease working with the potato crop since the program had moved ahead satisfactorily, and he would begin planning the wheat crop. He estimated that within 33 days a total of 230 qantars had already been sown by about 30 people, nearly all women and children. In Apathia, he adds, the work entailed is twice as hard as that in Aegina since the manner of cultivation was, different. The few potatoes that have remained would be shared out to the workers.

He then proceeds to relate that he obtained from a certain Mister Doulas 367½ kilograms of select wheat and hoped that their crop would not be of an inferior quality. On the following day he intended to visit the marsh of Damala with the governor of Poros to take over the site and to begin working there.

Stevenson then relates that he had made an agreement with the baker of Apathia whereby 10 okes of flour would be exchanged for 10 okes of bread. He was forced to do this since oftentimes there existed a shortage of bread as a result of the high cost of transportation and because of an estimated loss of some 15 percent of the supply in transit which was lost or stolen. Henceforth, he goes on to say, this bread which was until then made of wheat flour would contain half wheat and half barley.

The doctor Russo had also given him 10 barrels of flour and 10 of beans

but of a poor quality. Then follows a bit of unpleasant news: in three days three people died of what he diagnosed as epilepsy, then he goes on to tell of the measures he had taken to fight the threat.

Furthermore, he adds, that soil from which was collected the barley crop should not be farmed the next season lest the soil become impoverished. He goes on to suggest that no one should have the right of possession of national lands in the plain of Damala and the nearby mountains without his express permission and without paying rentals.

And lastly he insists that the troops should leave Damala as soon as possible to bring order and peace to the area.

Capodistrias' reply to the above letter has survived and has been published in the second volume of his correspondence. This is dated May 9/21 and is posted from Aegina. On examining its contents we discern his extreme satisfaction with the progress of Stevenson's work. And indeed he promises the Irishman that he will visit Poros and they would resolve the various problems that were still pending on the spot. The President exhorts him to have courage and to be patient for the good of the resurrected nation. And he believes that shortly the irregular troops would be withdrawn from the area.¹¹

6. Two days later, on May 8/20, Stevenson wrote from Apathia to Capodistrias replying in part to the latter's correspondence of May 4 about which more below. The philhellene here assures the President that he can accommodate in the existing houses of Apathia 125 persons, mostly old men and the ill, since the others prefer sleeping in the open country. Moreover, he adds, since the troops have abandoned two nearby villages, Mazomata and Pasa, he recommends that the dwellings there be repaired for the winter months. He also states — apparently in reply to some questions put by Capodistrias — that at the moment he could offer employment to about 300-400 people but that they must bring along their own pickaxes.

He is informed that since the steamship that was expected (referring apparently to that which had arrived from Liverpool) had supplies of medicines on board that were in danger of spoiling and becoming useless, he hoped to see a small apothecary set up to serve the needs of the entire community.

Closing the letter, he reports a visit from the admiral of a Russian warship, the Azoff, which had anchored off shore the previous evening. He also promises to submit reports to the President concerning matters to which Capodistrias had referred in his letter of May 4.

7. The seventh letter dated May 14/26 is a detailed reply to the President's

11, *Correspondance*, Vol.II, pp.116-117,

of May 4/16 which appears in the second volume of the latter's correspondence.¹² In this, after praising Stevenson's dedication to the program, he proposes that since the farmers were subject to various epidemics, they be separated into two categories, the first of the aged and the weak who were no longer capable of working and the second of the healthy workers. Capodistrias had thought of establishing the latter in Apathia.

He goes on to say that he will send wheat of good quality and urges the Irishman to begin sowing this in Apathia once the season becomes suitable. Then at the end of his letter he poses three questions: Would he supervise this project; how many families could be settled in Apathia; and what else is needed in assistance independently of victuals for the family and the supply of seed.

In reply to the queries, Stevenson states that he would undertake the project gladly, would redouble his efforts and help in any other project that would be of benefit to Greece. To the second question concerning the number of families that could be settled in Apathia, he reports that he is not yet in the position to give a specific answer since the area of national lands situated there was extensive. Moreover, the quality of the soil varied and was suitable for different kinds of cultivation. The soil of the Isthmus west of Damala was muddy and clayey, good for maize, for wheat and hemp, whereas the plain east of Damala was suitable for all kinds of cultivation, and the hills roundabout were good for wheat and potatoes. Four villages could occupy the plain and the settlers find temporary shelter in the empty houses of Damala. Stevenson then suggests a new system of leasing of farms: the tenants would surrender a certain percentage of their produce, also the tithe would be paid in ready money to avoid much misunderstanding. He also suggests other ways of leasing the marshes and the mills. Stevenson's recommendation for the substitution of the tithe by a kind of cash payment tax and his reason for this apparently greatly impressed the President.

It could be that the views of other official agencies had substantiated Stevenson's reasons. The method of collection of taxes in kind had led to many abuses and had many shortcomings. By the time the special committee arrived to make an estimate of the income of the area the peasants were forced to sit idly by awaiting its arrival at the risk of considerable damage to their crops due to sudden changes in the weather.¹³ No wonder then that often the voices of

12. *Ibid.*, Vol.II, pp.95-97.

13. See the example in Document No.10 of File 279 of the Capodistrian Archives of Corfu. Cf. also other dangers in Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Graf Johann Kapodistrias, Berlin, 1864, pp.99-101, where nevertheless the bias against Capodistrias is very obvious. Zografos (Greek Agriculture, III, pp.136-146) who translates these pages, although believing that Bar-

the peasants were raised in desperate protest.¹⁴ Capodistrias himself was finally convinced that this tax system had to be changed. "All my energies," he wrote to Ramfos, commander of the Messenian garrisons on November 13, 1830, "are directed towards relieving the people from the double bane of renters and tax collectors. I also intend to change the tax of the third tithe which if the officials who collect this cooperate duly, will be brought about to the great relief of the communes and the good farmers."¹⁵ And in fact he proceeded without delay in making the tax adjustment and in introducing a more humane and at the same time an improved source of income for the public exchequer with the system of cash payment instead of payment in kind.¹⁶ But the decree (March 7, 1830) was applied for a relatively brief period due to a shortage of money with the result that the danger the peasants would suffer at the hands of users was greater.¹⁷ In other words, the peasants were forced to obtain loans at outrageously usurious and ruinous rates to find the money, hence they would not be able to invest their small capital in increasing their crop, and most probably would not be able to pay off their debts because of the very high interests charged.

Stevenson is also interested in assembling the Chiotas scattered throughout the islands since, as good farmers, they would be very helpful. On the whole the Irishman is optimistic about the progress of Greece and hopes that, with a certain spirit of economy, the sales and the leases would in one year bring in enough funds to cover the expenditures. Moreover, the potato and the wheat crops were ample for the sustenance of the inhabitants, at least for the next winter.

In dealing with the third query, he asks Capodistrias for complete jurisdiction over the use of the national lands since the people of Poros are convinced that they are the proprietors of these lands. Stevenson does not believe in the immediate introduction and use of modern means and implements since all new methods require a previous training and practical application to convince the peasants, hence they should go on using temporarily those at hand. The more aged, he advises, could be used in the cultivation of cotton and then of hemp. But he emphasizes the importance of oxen, mules and asses, and ends

tholdy has no grounds for condemning the Greeks, admits that his information on the agronomy is invaluable.

14. See Zografos, *Greek Agriculture*, III, pp.143-144.

15. *Correspondance*, III, p.470.

16. See references in Zografos, *op. cit.*, pp.113-122, 122-127.

17. Zografos, pp. 121-122. Cf. Bartholdy, *Kapodistrias*, pp.104-105. He is very critical of the Capodistrias tax system (pp.98ff).

his letter with the news that the Russian Admiral Lazareff had donated thirty crowbars which were very useful.

8. The above letter is supplemented by the eighth which was also written on May 14/26, 1828. The reason for the second letter on the same day was that he was concerned with the continuous slaughtering of oxen and with the lack of this beast. Hence he begs Capodistrias to take certain measures to stop this, for the oxen were invaluable for ploughing. He also reports that certain insects have affected the potatoes and there is a danger of general loss of the crop, but he believes that with their own efforts they may be able to overcome the pests. Nevertheless, the potato crop has suffered much damage. Then he notes the lack of workers for the ploughing of the marshland which was due to begin on the morrow. They number only 60. To overcome the damage done and to find more workers, he would have to prolong his stay in Apathia.

9. On May 26 Stevenson posted his ninth letter. He reports that on the previous day there appeared before him many individuals, gardeners of the area, who appealed to him to intervene to adjust the differences that had arisen with a certain party who had leased the tithe tax for that year and who it appears had demanded too much rental in exchange. And so they proposed that they pay double the amount they had received from the lessor (meaning that they themselves would undertake in a body the lease of the tithe) or, that their differences be resolved by arbitration,¹⁸ that is, a specialist be selected who with another person named by the lessor, and a third party appointed by the governor of Poros, would determine the amount of the garden tithe. The traditional methods of meeting out justice in these instances is indeed surprising.

10. The tenth letter dated June 13 reflects some disillusionment with the difficulties he is encountering in the lack of willing and capable workers, especially those originating from Aegina. They have displeased him no end, they are so indolent and arrogant, and he was thinking of sending those who so wished back to Aegina and to invite the Chioters from the island before they all returned to their Turkish-held birthplace.

Concluding his letter, Stevenson writes that for the past few days he has been recuperating from a fever and that the gastric and undulant fevers no longer plagued him. With him are Mister Vetró, two servants and another two who are guards. But he complains that he has no interpreter. So Stevenson.

18. For arbitration in this period see Demetrius G. Seremetis, *Justice up to Capodistrias, I, First Period 1828-1829* (with unpublished documents), Thessaloniki, 1959, pp.137-139. Cf. also Jacobus T. Visviziis, *Civil Justice in the Greek War of Independence until Capodistrias*, with unpublished documents, Athens, 1941, pp.113-114, 346-347.

despite his delicate health, was doing all he could to help Capodistrias and his program.

11. The last letter, the eleventh, was written some time in July and has no day of the month recorded. This gives new information and constitutes a sort of epilogue to the services of Stevenson to the Greek agriculture.

He begins his letter by saying that he must leave for London urgently for health and private reasons, but these he does not specify, and then begs the President to find a replacement for him. He adds that his trip to Europe would provide him with the opportunity of promoting Greek interests and of enlightening foreign circles on the appropriate means to be applied for the relief of the country. As a memento of his collaboration with Capodistrias he offers a set of crystal glasses and begs him to receive him the same day. He also leaves to the estate an English porker of fine breed.

He goes on to relate that he received from Lord Cochrane three letters of which he includes an excerpt from one, posted from London on May 24 and is of considerable historical significance. Cochrane explains why he could no longer remain in Greece. The defeat of the Greeks at Phaleron (for which some considered him in part responsible) had made them so tense that he could no longer remain as admiral of the fleet. For this reason he was forced to depart for England. Although he was well disposed to describe the actual state of affairs in Greece to the British Government, he could do nothing since the Whigs had been replaced by the Tories who were in no way interested to hear his report. Thus his trip was of no immediate benefit as many members of the Government were not distinguished for their liberal attitudes. But rumors, he goes on to write, were circulating to the effect that there were some impending changes expected in the cabinet which would possibly be of benefit to the Greek cause. Moreover, Cochrane speaks of enrolling French sailors on behalf of the Greek Government, although he would prefer British seamen. He also adds details of the new steam propelled warship.

The analysis of the above correspondence shows how active was Stevenson's participation in the efforts of the small emerging nation. He planted fruit trees, grew potatoes for the first time in the country, and instructed the peasants in the techniques of farming. Justifiably then did Capodistrias write, on June 10/22 to Ternaux, President of the Philhellenic Committee of Paris, that Greece owed a great debt of gratitude to the Christian mercy of her friends and to the tireless zeal of Stevenson.¹⁹

19. *Correspondance*, II, p.184.

A month later, on July 25/August 6, 1828, Capodistrias wrote to A. Konofaos, the replacement of Stevenson, that his task was to maintain the numerous families that had settled in Aegina and the region round Poros. He adds that before Stevenson left he had also given a list of objects that were to be found in Apathia together with an enumeration of mules and animals that he had purchased.

Then Capodistrias asks him to give a detailed report on the state of the farming activities that had begun in Aegina and Apathia, as well as the expenditures needed to continue with the exploitation of the land and the collection of the harvest. He also wants a description of the workers in his service, what they have drawn from him in wages, what the Government owed them, and whether he wished to retain their services. As for the salary of Konofaos, Capodistrias set a monthly figure of 300 piastres.²⁰

Here I close the article since any further study on the subject would go beyond its purpose.

Thessaloniki

CONSTANTIN A. VACALOPOULOS

20. *Ibid.* pp.242-243,

APPENDIX *

I

Egina Marzo 21. 1828

Eccellenza,

Essendo per passare a Damala, prendo la liberta di sottometere alla considerazione della Vostra Eccellenza, la seguente distribuzione della conservazione della piantazione in quest'Isola.

Due Guardiani con razione di pane, ad una piastra ognuno giornalmente.

Dieci Donne, con razione di pane, per adacquare gli alberi piantate.

Come il Sign-Vetró passerá meco a Damala, prego la Vostra Eccellenza d'assegnarle lo stipendio d'alimento ch'avrá. Il Sign-Vaillano aveva promesso a Vetró una paga, ma come lo considera adesso separato degli ordine suo, si scusa di ministrarsela, e cosi considero essere un dovere mio d'informare la Vostra Eccellenza, per potete regolare questo piccolo affaro.

Mancandome il denaro, supplico la Vostra Eccellenza di farne un imprestito di cento pezzi, che spero me sará sufficiente, fino posso avere sine rimesa da Malta.

Partiro per Damala il Lunedì prossimo, e prego la Vostra Eccellenza di comunicarme gli ordini che saranno essenziale pella mia guida nella piantazione che lá ha di farse.

Ho il honore di sottoscriverme colla piu alta considerazione, e rispetto della Vostra Eccellenza.

Umilissimo servitore
W. Bennet Stevenson

Alla Sua Eccellenza
Il Sign Conte Capo d'Istria
Presidente della Grecia

* Stevenson's letters from the Capodistrian Archives at Corfu, File No 167, do not show a good knowledge of the italian language. Although his writing is generally clear, at times it becomes illegible. The map showing the plow-lands of potatoes in Aegina belongs to the same file.

Apathia Aprile 2/14 1828

Eccellenza,

Nel momento di prendere la penna per partecipare alla V. E. lo stato de lavoro qua, sono onorato colla stimatissima lettera vostra, e l'incluse; prego V. E. d'accettare la mia sincera gratitudine pella vostra condescendente attenzione.

Ho principiato il lavoro al intorno della casa dove residuo, valendome di tutti i pezzi di terreno, non seminati, col doppio oggetto d'insegnare questa gente come economizzare il terreno, e per non dare motivo ai lamenti delle persone che hanno principiato il coltivo loro primo del mio arrivo; nulla di meno, avrò di prendere due piccoli pezzi d'orzo, perche se trovano quasi nel centro della nostra terra, ma ho promesso al proprietario, il Sgn Francesco Conduriotti la terza parte della raccolta del un pezzo in remunerazione del danno me ha risposto, che di qualunque maniera sarà contento; spero che questo avrà la probazione della V. E.

Ho la lusinghira speranza ch'il pietoso zelo della V. E. d'introdurre la patata nella Grecia sarà coronato col risultato piu soddisfacente in Damalá, e prego Iddio che tutti i mezzi ch'impiega per fare i Greci felici, tengano eguale essito.

Il Dre Gosse m'a informato ch'a avuto avviso che le patate aspetate dall' Inghilterra vendranno indubitalamente. Nel caso d'arrivare opino che sarebbe importante di piantare quanto sia possibile, pagando una parte delle spese col prodotto della venta del resto, o distribuiendola in razione agli operaj.

Fondato nella confidenza con che me à distinto la V. E ho promeso ad alcuni giardinieri tre, e quatro oche di patate, per incoraggiare cosi l'introduzione del coltivo vogliendo convincere loro sperimentalmente della sua importanza.

Il Governatore Provvisorio di Poros me dice che non é autorizzato a pagare le piccole spese ch'avvengano, cosi prego la V. E. di disporre si egli o io ho di fare questo, come sia della sua superiore compiacenza. Ancora sarebbe importante un ordine di prendere qualche vente pale di ferro appartenente al Governo, nel caso di trovarse, per risparmiare le spese di comprare di legno, che non durano nel lavoro. Se parte un Bastimento Greco pel Continente, non sarebbe malapproposito di fare portare alcune pale, e zappe pello stabilimento agricolo, perche avendo di comprarse, costarebbero la metà del suo prezzo nella Grecia, ed é molto probabile che gli amici della prosperita di Grecia, farebbero

una contribuzione di quest'utensilij-Scusará la V. E. questa suggestione.

Oggi se principia a piantare per avanzare l'opera quanto sia possibile, e guadagnare il tempo prezioso della primavera.

Dio guarde l'importante vita della V. E. i molti anni che la Grecia l'abbisognará.

Alla Sua Eccellenza
Il Conte Capo d'Istria
Presidente della Grecia

Della V. E.
umilissimo servitore
W. Bennet Stevenson

3.

Apathia Aprile 10. 1828

Eccellenza,

M'accompagna il piu grande piacere al comunicare alla V. E. il avanzamento della patata in questo luogo, col prospetto piu lusinghiero di fare una raccolta adeguata alla giusta speranza ch'induce un terreno favorevole alla pianta, col abbondanza d'acqua che gli abitanti del paese me dicono non ci mancará quando l'avemmo di bisogno. Ho tre cento persone, principalmente donne, impiegate, e nei 12 giorni di lavoro calcolo 50 cantare piantate, benché l'opera di nettare, e zappare e troppo pesante, dovuto alla grande quantita delle pietre, e cespiegli.

Il unico incommodo che ó avuto qua, a stato dei Soldati, ma spero nelle promesse dei loro capitani, che sara adesso finito.

Il Governatore di Poros m'informa che à il ordine della V. E. di pagare le piccole spese che s'inorriranno e spero che la somma di mille piastre sarà piu di sufficiente.

La mancanza della pioggia me fa temere un cattivo essito nella piantazione a Egina, però me consolo colla speranza di una raccolta doppia nel inverno, doppo del maggesi di tutto il estate.

Sono stato onerato colla visita d'un Inspettore della opera, a chi se fece vedere il terreno di patate e cui rapporta alla V. E. credo non farà disonore al mio zelo.

Dio guarda l'importante vita della V. E. gli anni che la Grecia l'abbisogna.

Alla Sua Eccellenza
Il Sign Conte Capo d'Istria

Della V. E
umilissimo servitore

W. Bennet Stevenson

4.

Apathia Aprile 15/27. 1828

Eccellenza,

Sono onerato col ricevuto della lettera della V. E. datata il 8 del presente e vi prego di credere ch' il mio cuore se trova pieno di piacere, al considerare che posso ajutare la V. E. nella pi-issima opera che vol portare avanti.

Non avendo nella vicinanza della mia residenza, neppure terreno sufficiente pella patata, passai immediatamente a cercar'altro, tanto pel resto delle patate, quanto pel coltivo del grano turco "in grande quantità" ed ho la soddisfazione d'avvisare la V. E. che nell'immediazione della bocca del fiume di Damala, vi é un palude, o pontano approposito pel mais, dove de fuo seminare da un cantare, a mille, con quasi la certeza d'una raccolta straordinariamente abbondante.

Questo terreno era proprietà turca, ed alcune persone principiaranno a coltivare la circoferenza che sta piu secca, ed ammeteva il aratro. Passai immediatamente al Sign Governatore di Poros, chi, senza perdere un momento, diede un ordine di sospendere tutta classe di lavoro, mentre possomo avere la determinazione superiore della V. E.

Come avemmo ancora tempo per principiare il lavoro, aspetto la risoluzione della V. E. primo di scrivere al Sign Duma, e solamente vorrei pregare la V. E. di segnalare la quantità che vorrà se semina, supplicandole di non lasciarme ocioso, perche sono persuaso che non posso avere Medico pelle mie piccole indisposizione, che d'essere continuamente impiegato nella vita attiva.

Ho grande piacere del'aviso, ch'il bastimento di Liverpool ci porterà degli stromenti agricoli, e spero ch' il suo arrivo sarà presto affinche le vanghi vengano in opera nel palude.

Avanza la piantazione della patata, sotto il bellissimo aspetto che si proporciona un buon terreno, ed abbondanza dell' acqua.

Ho lasciato in mano del Sign. Governatore di Poros, le piastre destinate a pagare le spese, considerando ch'egli po regolare meglio i prezzi delle piccolezze ch'avemmo di bisogna.

Supplico la V. E. d'accettare i miei piu sinceri ringraziamenti pella cura che prende della mia salute, e di crederme, colla piu alta considerazione, e rispetto.

della V. E.
umilissimo servitore
W. Bennet Stevenson

5

Apathia, Maggio 6/18 1828

Eccellenza,

Come gli affari del Governo non hanno permesso la V. E. di fare una visita in Apathia, per vedere il progresso del lavoro, é il dovere mio di rapportare, ch'essendo avansata la stagione pella piantazione della patata, ed essend'importante di principiare collá del granone, ho terminato di finire jeri la prima, e principiare colla seconda.

Calculo la quantità seminata in 230 cantare, in 32 giorni, con, da 250 a 300 persone, quasi tutte Donne e Ragazzi, monostante il terreno richiede doppio il lavoro di quello d'Egina, dovuto alla differente maniera di coltivarlo. Le poche patate che rimangono, saranno destinate alla distribuzione fra gli opeaj, in razione.

Ho ricevuto dal Sig. Duma $367\frac{1}{2}$ kilo di granone, d'un eccelente qualità e spero che la nostra raccolta non sarà inferiore. Dimane passerò al palude di Damala col Sign. Governatore di Poros, per possessionarme di quel terreno (e principiare il lavoro nel Martedì) dove alcuni perfidati, doppo d'essere notificati di non fare verun lavoro, hanno, in disprezzo del ordine del Governatore, principiato a farlo; ma, prenderò primo il terreno così lavorato, per contrebuiare a sostenere gli ordine del Governo, come per risparmiare alcune delle spese.

Doppo di patire molto nell'affaro del pane fatto in Poros, e doppo di consultare ripetitamente il Governatore, ho arrangiato con un fornaro, ed il pane se fa in Apatia. Il contrato col Fornaro é d'intregarle 10 oche della farina, e ricevere 12 di pane, pagando il Fornaro tutte le spese incorse nella fabrica. Sono stato costretto a fare questo, pelle volte che mancava il pane, le spese cagionate nel suo trasporto, la quantità rotta, persa, o rubbata montando insieme,

al 15 per cento del valore del pane distribuito. Finoggi il pane era di formento; ma dimane sarà della metà di granone, che me ha promesso il Sig Kearing.

Il Dottore Russo me ha donato 10 barrile di farina, e 10 di facoli, quest'ultimi in cattivo stato; ma farò lo possibile per farli mangiare, in piccole ragione, oppure di macinarli, e mischiarli colla farina. Non voleva oggetare a veruna cosa, perche quando non possiamo mangiare il ovo, forse mangieremmo il polastro.

In tre giorni ho avuto tre morti nel lavoro, tutti d'Epilepsia, (al mio parere) forse cagionata del lavarse i piedi quando la testa stà riscaldata del sole, ed il corpo agitato col lavoro. Fece venire il Dre Gosse, pella soddisfazione del Governo, e per quella degli operaj, portai un Prete; cosi, fra lo corporale, e lo spirituale; fra la medicina, e gli esorcismi, spero ch'avremmo una perfetta salute.

Opino che sarebbe utile di non permettere il coltivo del terreno, dore adesso se raccogl' il granone perche s'indebolisce molto senza verun proffito della Nazione; oppure d'arrangiare con coltivatori con qualche prodotto pella tisozeria Nazionale. Per ottenere quest'oggeto, sarebbe necessario di fare sapere a tutti, che nessuno ha il dritto di possessionarse del terreno appartenente alla Nazione, nella pianura di Damala, e montagne vicine, senza primo procurare da me un permesso, e doppo d'arrangiare il affitto, o contratto, col Governatore di Poros per un documento publico nel Registro.

Preg'Iddio che la truppa partira presto da Damala, altrimenti la pace, e la sicurtà personale ci mancaràno. Non voglio molestare la V. E. con una recapitulazione di quanto ho patito con questa gente insubordinata, perche avrei di scrivere un foglio, e nulla potrei dire che la V. E. non sà, con sommo dispiacere.

Supplico la V. E. di scusare lo stilo della mia comunicazione del 4, certo ch'una vostra insinuazione, e superiorissima nella mia stima, a tutti gli ordini che se me possono comunicare.

Al momento di finire questa, son'onorato alla comunicazione della V. E. datata 4 del presente che sicuramente sarà puntualmente atteso nel tutto, colla possibile prestezza. Colla piu alta considerazione, e rispetto, sono

Della V. E.
Umilissimo, e sicuro servitore
W. Bennet Stevenson

Alla Sua Eccellenza
Il Conte Capo d'Istria
Presidente della Grecia

6.

Apathia Maggio 8/20. 1828

Eccellenza,

Rispondo alla parte della comunicazione della V. E. data 4 del presente, che, nel momento me pare piu urgente.

Ho nelle case d'Apathia, come alloggiare 125 persone, destinando ad ognuno tre piedi di lunghezza delle case, che sarebbe sufficiente perche hanno da 9 a 13 di larghezza. Per adesso le case potrebbero destinarse ai vechj ed infermi osservando che gli operaj preferiscono il dormire fuori.

Partendo la truppa da Masommata e Passá, rimangono molte case che potrebbero arrangiarse primo del arrivo del inverno. Da queste prendero la misura per calcolare il numero delle persone che portebbero alloggiarse in quelle due villagii.

Posso dare lavoro per adesso a 300, oppure 400 persone, ma sarebbe importante che tutte quelle che hanno delle zappe, di portarle.

Sono informato dell'esistenza d'alcune Droghe abordo il bastimento di vapore, non solamente inutile abordo, ma soggette a diminuirse. Di questi se potrebbe formare una piccola spezzeria pel servizio della colonia. Se quest' idea merita l'approbazione della V. E. passaró a farle trasportare in casa.

Nel momento d'ancorare il Azoff, jeri sera, la S. E. il Ammiraglio me ha onorato con una visita; le presentai la lettera della V. E. ed adesso passaró abordo al oggetto indicatome.

Per parti avró il onore di rispondere la stimatissima del 4, che merita molta considerazione, ed attenzione, facendo dei rapporti alla V. E. nel ordine che la premura e l'importanza li richiamano.

Sono della V. E.
col piu alto rispetto
umilissimo, e sicuro servitore
W. Bennet Stevenson .

7.

Apathia Maggio 14/26. 1828

Eccellenza,

Alla stimatissima della V. E. data 4 inst. rispondero per parti e principian-

do alla domanda che se degna di farne, "Se volete avere la bontá d'incaricarme" rispondo categoricamente, Si Eccellenza, come di qualunque altra opera in che posso essere utile alla Grecia, o alla V. E. crescendo i miei sforzi alla misura della vostra confidenza e dei mezzi fidatosime.

La seconda domanda "Quante famiglie potrebbero essere collocate nei terreni d'Apathia, adattati a questa coltivazione? Questa non posso rispondere senza limitarme a molte circostanze. L'estensione dei terreni appartenenti alla Nazione, in questa pianura, e grande ed' assai differente qualità, conseguentemente inceptibile a differente coltivazione, ed a produrre una grande varietà dei frutti.

Tutt'il Istmo al ponente di Damalá, e cretoso, o argilloso, adattabile al grano-turco, le fare, il formento, il canamo i paludi sono eccellenti pel grano turco, ed il canamo seminato piu tardi (dei paludi scrivero separatamente) ed il resto della pianura al Levante di Damalá, e cosi varia nella su qualità che se trova dei terreni capace di produrre ogni qualità di legume, grano, e verdura, però, e più arenoso, e magro del resto al Ponente; le coline servirebbero pel formento, il orzo, e la patata piantata in Marzo.

Divisa la pianura immaginariamente in questa guisa, s'abbisognerebbe un Villagio nella vicinanza dei Mulini di Damala, un altro verso Passá, pel Istmo; uno sotto Masommata, o nel Monastero, ed un altro verso batara, e quali, con Apathia, servirebbero pel resto del vallone. Coi villagi Passá, e Masommata, nulla se po contare, essendo due montone di rovin. Pel presente le case vuote in Damala avrebbero di servire di rifugio alla gente destinata per stabilire la Colonia, e Apathia é piuttosto calcolato a servire di Granero, o Diposito generale.

Ecco Eccellenza uno sbozzo d'un opera che richiederebbe del lavoro per stabilirse, ma, vinta questa prima difficoltà, il risultato sarebbe un guadagno effettivo al Governo, e non trovo la difficoltà a accedere i mezzi che potrebbero applicarse. I mezzi sono il danaro, e la gente.

Sono persuaso che se debbe cambiovrebe reto il sistema d'affitare i terreni per una proporzione del prodotto, il decatto, pel di farlo pel danaro ai contante, evitando cosi molt'incomodi, e molti fandi. Gli olivi dovrebbero venderse annualmente cosi medesimo, ed i Molini per una rendita annuale, il tutto pel danaro di contante, per coprire le prime spese della colonia.

I poveri che sono adesso un peso allo stato, formerebbero, una grande proporzione della Colonia, con utile loro, e solievo del Governo; e coi Scioti sparsi negl'Isole senza mezzi d'impiegarse se poteva compire. Credo sarebbe importante di raccogliere quest'Isolani, pel carattere agricolo che hanno.

Forse sono ingannato del desiderio che m'accompagna d'esser'utile alla

Grecia, ed alla V. E. ma credo tutto poteva regolarsi di maniera che le vendite doppo del prim'anno, coprirebbero tutte le spese sott'un'administrazione essatta, ed economica, e spero ch'avremmo una raccolta delle patate, e del granone capace d'alimentare un grande numero di famiglie durante il inverno prossimo. Del futuro prodotto allo Stato, come ai Coloni, nulla dirò, essendo troppo chiaro il risultato.

Da questo prospetto vederà la V. E. che non me limito ad un numero specifico delle famiglie, perche se potrà dare destino ad un numero assai grande, regolandosi pella quantità del terreno coltivato a conto dello Stato.

Per rispondere alla 3a domanda "Indipendente dai semi, e dal nutrimento pelle famiglie quali altri mezzi il Governo dovrebbe mettere alla vostra disposizione dico nel primo luogo un'autorità di disporre del terreno, soggetandome unicamente agli ordine della V. E. Questo richiesto sta fondato sulla conoscenza ch'ho ottenuto del carattere della gente di Poros, avezzate durante gli ultimi anni a considerarse padroni della proprietà nazionale in Apathia.

Per gli operaj, o coloni, gli stromenti usate nel paese sarebbero migliore, finché il uso degli Europej sia introdotto, perche ogn'innovazione richiede una convinzione pratica, ch'è il frutto del tempo. I vecchj potrebbero occuparsi nel lavoro del cotone per adesso, e dipoi nel canamo sagliendo fra di loro, quelli, che potrebbero servire di Guardiani dei terreni, i depositi.

I bovi sarrebbero indispensabile, e la quantità del lavoro dipenderrebbe, in gran parte, del numero di questi appertente allo stabilimento. I Monachi possiedono un buon numero di bovi, e me lusingo che darebbero alcuni per aiutare quest'opera benefica, e tutti gli altri che se sono mantenuti nei terreni Nazionale, dovrebbero pagare il loro pascolo, con una quota di lavoro.

Le Mule, e gli assini dovrebbero preferirse ai cavalli pell'economia dal principio, al fine, ch'apportano.

Un uomo in qualità di Commissario sarebbe evidentemente utile per dettaglj, per starne piu libero per gli affari generale.

Ho ricevuto da S. E. il Ammiraglio Russo, trenta pale di ferro, che saranno utillissime. Ringrazio infinitamente l'opportunità che la lettera della V. E. col Ammiraglio Lazareff.

Prego la V. E. d'accettare questo sbozzo, soggetto agli ulteriore ammende, ed alterazione ch'il tempo, e la sperienza presenterebbero

Alla Sua Eccellenza
Il Conte Capo d'Istria
Presidente della Grecia

Ho il onore d'essere
della V. E.
umilissimo servitore
W. Bennet Stevenson

8.

Apathia Maggio 14/26 1828

Eccellenza,

Vedendo il tristo risultato che apportava alla Grecia, la continuazione d'ammazzare i bovi, e le vache, prego la V. E. di prendere alcuna misura forte per impedire la distruzione del primo mezzo di coltivare i terreni.

I braci hanno assaltato le patate, e minacciavano una rovina generale, ma coll'applicazione della cenere, e molta cura, spero che saranno vinti, però hanno fatto un grande danno.

Dimane se principiará il lavoro nel palude, ma la mancansa degli operaj me fa un torto assai grande. Oggi non passa il numero a 60 di tutte classe.

Quando le restrizione sanitarie permettono, spero d'avere il onore di presentarme alla V. E. piutanto, e sempre, sono

Sua Eccellenza
Il Conte Capo d'Istria
Presidente della Grecia

della V. E.
umillissimo e sicuro servitore
W. Bennet Stevenson

Eccellenza,

Per risarcire quanto sia possibile il danno fatto alla patata pei Braci, ho avuto di ritardare la mia partenza per Paludi, e pella grande mancansa degli operaj me trovo senza il mezzo d'avvansare col lavoro. Quest' oggi participio lo stesso al Sig. Governatore, e sono persuaso che me aiuterá quanto sia possibile, e fo questo rapporto alla V. E. per informarle della causa della mia detenzione in Apathia.

Ho il onore
della V. E.

9.

Apathia Maggio 26. 1828

Eccellenza,

Jeri se sono presentati molte persone, che hanno dei giardini, supplicandome d'arrangiare fra loro, ed il uomo che ha comprato quest'anno il decato.

Propongano di pagare doppio il prezzo in che sa la venduto il decato, o di nominare un perito, chi associato con un altro nominato pel compratore, ed uno pel Governatore, per regolare la stima dei giardini pel decato, supplico la V. E. d'avvisarme come debo procedere

Ho il onore d'essere della V. E.
umillissimo servitore
W. Bennet Stevenson

10.

Apathia Giugno 13. 1828

Eccellenza,

Essendo stato informato che la V. E. parte da Poros quest'oggi, le participo, in disimpegno del mio dovere, ch'il ultimo grano-turco sara seminato il Sabato prossimo, essendo positivamente un mese piu tarde della sua stagione d'essere seminato.

Colla gente portata da Egina, nulla posso fare, essendo persuasi loro che gli abbisogno, sono pigri, ed insolenti, ed avró di rimandare quegli che lo desideranno.

Senza gente nulla se puo fare, cosi prego la V. E. d'ordinare quello che li sembra piu convenevole pel suo acquistamento. Si la V. E. cred'essere conveniente di raccogliere degli Sciotti, primo che tutti ritornano alla loro Isola sott' il dominio turco, potrei imbarcarme il lunedì col destino di cercare quegli che vogliono venire per stabilirse qua, poi mentre che ho la diversione di questo lavoro, non potrò mirarlo con indifferenza, nonostante la mia solitudine potrà considerarse molesta.

Sono, fá pochi giorni, convalesciento della terzana, ho in letto il Sig. Vetro e due miei servi, ed alcuni dei guardiani ed operaj, trovandome conseguentemente senza un interprete e con doppio razione di lavoro, ma me consolo col non aver'altro di Febbri gastrici, ed intermitenti.

Per non molestare la V. E. in questo momento di fretta, ho pregato il Sig. Governatore di presentare questa, e ricevere una risposta verbale

S. E.
Il Sig. Conte Capo d'Istria
Presidente della Grecia

Sono sempre
della V. E.
sicuro, ed umillissimo servo
W. Bennet Stevenson.

11.

Apathia Luglio 1828

Eccellenza,

Nel momento che lo stato della mia salute m'aveva obbligato a determinare il prendere gli aeri dell'Europa per convalescere, me trovo chiamato a Londra colla piu grande premura, ed affretta, per affari patricolari che richiedono assolutamente la mia presenza, e partiró per Livorno abordo il Brig Americano "Herald" credo la Domenica prossima, per cioé supplico la V. E. di nominare la persona a chi ho d'integrare il deposito dello stabilimento incaricatoseme.

Avró il onore di presentarme alla V. E. quando li sia piu comodo il vederme, col oggetto d'integrare i conti e di sprimire verbalmente, in quanto posso, la mia gratitudine verso la V. E.

Sono persuaso ch'il mio viaggio alla Europa, non lasciará di contribuire agl'interesse della Grecia, poi conosco meglio di molti che si sono ritornati, lo stato della parte piu interessante della popolazione, e conseguentemente me considero piu alto e competende di segnalare i mezzi che possono applicarse pel suo soliero.

Ho un piccolo servizio d'eccelente cristalo tagliato, si e della compiacenza della V. E. puo mandare uno suo servo quest'oggi a vederlo, primo di darlo altro destino.

Lasciaró la porca inglese a beneficio dello stabilimento, per essere d'una razza superiorissima a quante essistono nella Grecia, ed anzi in molta parte dell'Europa, e vorrei avere altro piu degno d'offrire alla V. E. a beneficio della Nazione.

Ho ricevuto lettere da Lord Cochrane, e prendo la libertá di copiare letteralmente una parte che puo interessare la V. E.

"London May 24. It was impossible for me to remain in Greece under the then exciting circumstances, holding the command of a Squadron over which I had no control; I therefore determined to proceed to England with a view to represent the real state of affairs, but unhappily the Whig Administration was dismissed before my arrival, and consequently my voyage has proved useless, as to anything yet done on this side the channel, on the other however I have been very fortunate. Rumors are afloat of changes in the Cabinet, I hope with prospect of benefit to the Greeks, for some of the present members are far behind the liberal sentiments of the day. The French will permit me to take seamen, but I would much rather have those of our own country, and with this

view endeavouring to get the Foreign Enlistment act repeated. One of our steam Vessels, with new machinery will soon be ready; the Engineer has engaged that she shall be the swiftest vessel in the River; perhaps Capt. Sr George will take her out, I expect she will make her passage in 14, or 15 days."

Sua Eccellenza
Il Sig. Conte Capo d'Istria
Presidente della Grecia

Colla piu alta considerazione
sono Della V. E.
umillissimo servitore

W. Bennet Stevenson

Apathia Maggio ¹⁴/₂₆ 1898

Eccellenza.

Alla stimolissima della V. S. data 4 inst. risponderò per parte, e principiando colla 1^a domanda che si degna di farne "Se volete avere la bontà d'incaricarmi rispondo categoricamente, V. Eccellenza, come di qualunque altra opera in che posso essere utile alla Grecia, o alla V. S. cercando i miei sforzi alla misura della vostra confidenza, e dei mezzi Paternali.

La seconda domanda "Inante famiglie forestiere. Una opera colcata nei terreni d'Apathia, adattati a questa coltivazione. Questa non posso rispondere senza limitarmi a molte circostanze d'estensione dei terreni appartenenti alla Nazione in questa pianura, e grande, e d'opai d'alta qualità, conseguentemente suscettibile a differenti coltivazioni, ed a produrre una grande varietà di frutti.

Ho ricevuto da V. S. il Ammiraglio Russo tanto pale di ferro, che saranno utilissime - Auguro infinitamente l'opportunità che la lettera della V. S. me ha proporzionato di rinnovare un'antica amicizia col Ammiraglio Lazareff.

Prego la V. S. d'accettare questi obbietti soggetti agli ultime domande, e allargazione che il tempo, e la speranza presenterebbero.

Ho il onore d'operare

della V. S.

umilissimo servitore

McDonnell

alla Sua Eccellenza.

Il Conte Capo d'Istria.

Presidente della Grecia & & &

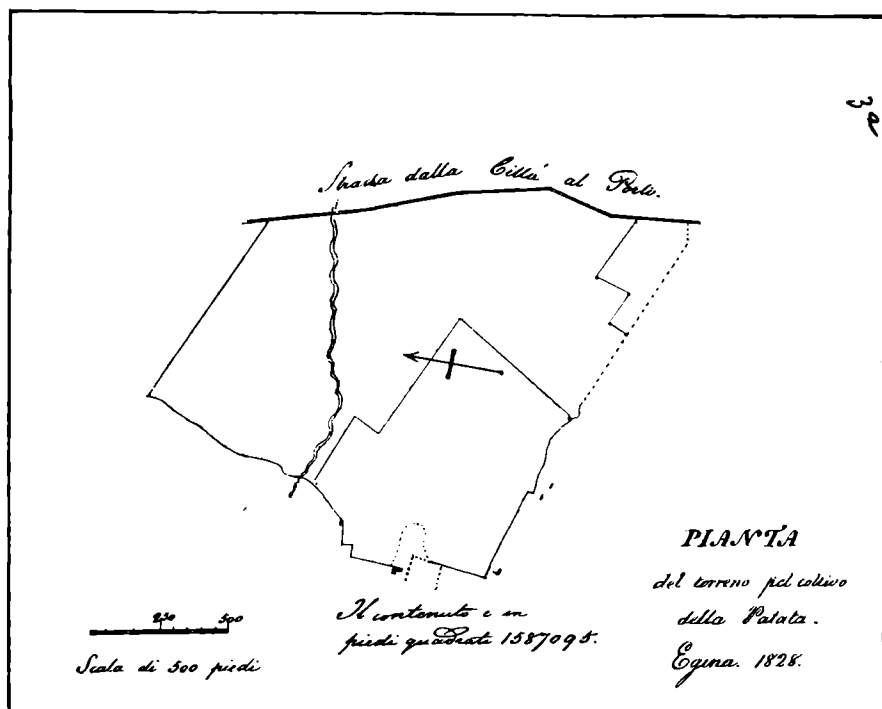


Fig. 1. Plan attached to the first letter Stevenson wrote to Capodistrias. See above p. 132.