

Manchester  
Sept 15th 1869.

Richard Wood Esqr.

My Dear Sir Walter -

I am obliged by your letter & quite agree with Sir John Lubbock's  
 Sir Patrick is perfectly right - the names of Lasca's Commenes  
 Paleologi to be very common in Greece - but everybody knows that  
 their abroad claims are sheer nonsense - a Greek Governor  
 knows nothing, many as one does not know the proper name  
 name of his Greek grandfather. These are Greeks & Mandates  
 who have assumed their title through connection with a well  
 known Commercial house, as a trading advertisement.  
 Prince Demetrius told me that they have a whole roomful  
 of ancient documents at their old Castle, & it is quite  
 certain that their claims to represent the Imperial family  
 have been maintained continuously through several centuries.  
 If I am not in error, the last claim is through the daughter  
 of Paleologus who settled in England about 1570. He was  
 married twice - but they have 28 other links. A man  
 the other day was boasting - he is a law writer - of the mistakes  
 of pedigree he had ~~written~~ & I mentioned Rhododocanathos,  
 whom he knew - & he commenced to call in question  
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that of Rhodocanachi's Son (his distant cousin) who  
put forward no claim to title. This was last Monday  
at the Jerusalem Encampment. It was only necessary  
for me to explain, that Prince Rhodocanachi was  
the head of his family, whilst and had lost the bulk  
of their wealth during political war, in 1820, whilst  
his cousin had made his money in honourable Commerce.

Demetrius is scarcely likely to know anything of Prince R.  
for the reason that he is a Smyrniote whilst Prince Q.  
has lived a very retired life since 1820 in Florence, and

None of them have been traders. Mr. Clarke (I state in  
strict confidence) wrote to me calling in question somewhat  
(or rather expressing doubts in I thought) of the antecedents of  
Prince Demetrius. Now as he is only 27 or 28 years of age  
has been 8 or 10 years in Manchester, (living in first class

style) & considered a very respectable man, by those who  
only know his brother (who only attends 'Change) Theodore  
as Prince Rhodocanachi - (Say 22 years of age) He could have  
no antecedents except as a school boy. Demetrius is well  
acquainted with Greek History, speaks it - The other  
day took down an old Latin volume, which he read  
off to me in good English at once - He cannot have  
wasted much of his time. But what you say is quite  
right the low Greeks are unmitigated rascals,

Prince Demetrius has his faults - I fear he is somewhat wayward, impetuous, but wanting that force of character, which will enable him to compel his claims. He is however evidently a man of generous character & instincts - but whilst the Greek in his manner gives you the impression that he seeks you to make something out of you. I told him I thought he insisted wrong with his countrymen, <sup>they</sup> might make some different use of them, as they seemed ~~to be~~ wealthy. He told me that there was no body here who had the slightest weight in Turkey; that with one or two exceptions their fathers were bankers, butchers, & small shopkeepers - that it was not to these that they had to trust but to the high class Greeks, who expecting advantages to themselves, were in their favor. Returning to Xenon - he might know something of the Rhodocanachi, as the Corsican turned Turk was Pacha of Smyrna recently.

Speaking with all respect of Sir Patrick - I may mention that I am intimately acquainted with a person who knows him & "him" exceedingly well, & avows ~~that~~ <sup>me that</sup> they fancy themselves the only two really clever men in England. The one no doubt has powers of examination, the other of language and of analytical enquiry, but whatever their ultimate decisions in this matter may be, it will not shake my own impressions. A Vice Chief Justice of the Colonies is a greater man in England than an actual Chief Justice in his own Province.

What college did Sir Patrick go to in Scotland?  
He is a scholar

I met <sup>about</sup> one of the exercising power over 7 or 8 Islands, who in his manner was the most singular Corp between a very clever fellow & an Ape - He once graciously told me that a petition came to offer him a pig <sup>requesting</sup> that he would give a certain case in his favor. In justice to him I must say he refused the offered Prize <sup>but he did</sup> <sup>in these Islands I have known the House of Parliament & spend a whole evening discussing a law in a chair of 7 or 8</sup> <sup>merely install upon this</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>did</sup> <sup>not</sup> seem at all offended.

Show you that I am not likely to be <sup>aid</sup> <sup>by</sup> <sup>any</sup> <sup>one</sup>, unless they show me grounds to consider them what they represent themselves, or by abilities entitled to such respect.

The Prince told me some time ago that his father had formerly been pressed to take the <sup>charge</sup> <sup>of</sup> the Ambassadorship for England, but positively refused. I questioned the policy & he said "But how could he have taken it without loss of prestige, when he himself claims the whole of the Old Empire, the Great Kingdom ought never to have been separated."

Should the Turk turn Christian he says they may for ever bid good bye to their claims, but at the present time every year is increasing their chances, should a favorable turn arise they will not be forgotten.

In a few days I may be able to tell you how soon the Princess Hedger will be out - Pity it will not be delayed much longer, He will be some times you a copy himself. If the opportunity arises I will ask him to send you others. So far as I am aware no birth has occurred with the Princess. The last letter I saw merely stated that the Princess was occupied for about a week & a half for time - He seemed

"You see I am entirely a the hand of these fellows - I have no obligations to secrecy, I can tell Dr. Johnson myself when it will be published. I mean to publish it. I mean to publish it. I mean to publish it."