



Private

My dear Mr. Wood,

I received a visit at my Hotel from Mr. Little and in the evening from Mr. Hoover, who was introduced to me, at the Conservative Club, by my friend Captain Payne, a very learned herald and author of many genealogical works, who invited him purposely to meet me. Mr. Little & well as Mr. Hoover expressed great sorrow at the disgraceful letter which appeared in the Freeman, saying that they were out of town, and were (or would be) of the occurrence. I believed their apology, but insisted that a suitable apology be also inserted in next week's Freeman from the Editor. I regard the Red Cross Order, & told them that as soon as a suitable official declaration is drawn by the Sovereign, signed by the Prince of Wales and by the Imperial Council, that the Red Cross Order is simply Masonic, putting aside the absurd title of Imperial Eucharistical & Military with which it is adorned, and as soon as such a declaration is published in the Freeman then I am ready to tolerate the Order, allowing its members to wear their present insignia. They agreed to every thing, and Mr. Little, rather a nice sort of foolish young man, who might lose his position, and his livelihood, and as it is better to have the Red Cross people supporters than enemies, particularly when they capitulated and went away entirely their chivalric pretensions, keeping only what they call "their traditions" I thought better to be rather agreeable, provided I do not place us in a false position. The Emperor



Order, I think that by publishing in
the Memorial the declaration of their pre-
-tension or simply Mercurio I do not
place myself in a false position, & (at
a future period of time, if the Prince of
Wales accepts the position of Royal Patron
I ^{for the reason} accept myself that Mercurio because it is specified the name
of my ancestor Mercurio to be given
to the Order & who has the same right to be
the founder of the Red Cup, of King So-
-lomon to be the founder of Mercurio.
I should like very much to hear your advice
on the subject, and also to have a sort
of a skeleton of the declaration, which
best to be drawn by the council, in order
to give it to Mr. Little as a guide
apologizing for the trouble I took the liberty
to give you. Believe me to remain
My dear Mr. Wood
Yours most faithfully
Rhododanakis

20 October 1870
The Clarendon Hotel
New Bond Street
London

P.S. I shall leave town for to pay visits in
the neighbourhood to morrow, and I shall

return again on Tuesday, so take your time
to reply to my letter which I address to the Town
Hall but remember your private address -

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you consider the most appropriate and

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