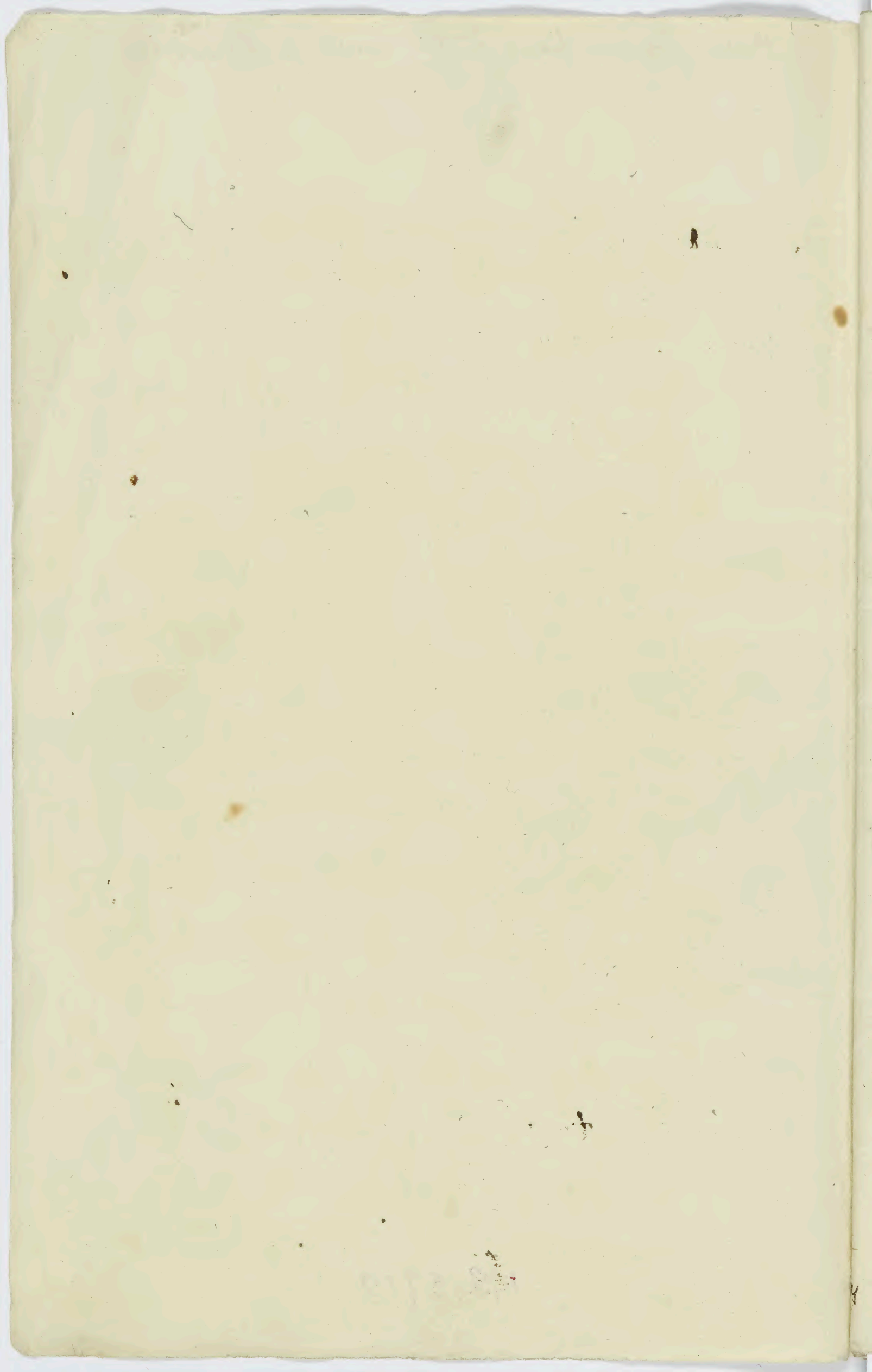


1815. - Journal from Constantinople To Naples ¹⁸¹⁵ Thon

by Lady Norton

MS 5710

MS. 5710.



Smyna 16th October 1815

We were so entirely engrossed by business, & by the painful
duty of taking leave, for some days previous to our quitting
Constantinople for England, - that we were at last obliged
to depart precipitately, forgetting a thousand things, &
leaving our friends M. & M^{rs}. Chich - the Legats of M. P. France,
(become Minister Plenipotentiary in our absence) they
had hurried their return to Turkey upon hearing, in
the Mediterranean, of our intended departure, & they could
not get out on their return to their dismal residence at
Bagdad, until the cold weather had fairly set in. -

On Thursday afternoon the 12th we embarked in
two small Spanish Merchant Men, in order to reach
the Phaenice Frigate off the Island of Tenedos. These
Vessels were loaded with Corn from the Black Sea,
& had been detained a day or two for us, by our good
friend M. Javal the Spanish Minister. - M. L. G.
went in ^{the one} that which had the largest Cabin, accom-
panied by two Servants. - in the other was Capt.
Austin of the Phaenice, (who had kindly visited
us & remained with us a few weeks) - & our ^{captain} ~~captain~~

Mr. Henry Lindsay, who was desirous of seeing
 Smyrna & found this a good opportunity - the
 our other servants accompanied them. - The wind
 though favourable was moderate, so that we
 were not much incommoded by the smallness of our
 vessel. We reached the Dardanelles, - a hundred &
 twenty miles, very pleasantly on Friday afternoon.
 In time to see & again to admire the beauty of its
 appearance, & that of the Castle, which ~~is a good effect.~~
 Some trifling accident detained us at anchor
 all night ^{for} it was absolutely necessary to cast
 anchor, as it is here that all Ships give an
 account of themselves, & pay duty to the Custom House;
 or rather to the ^{Turkish} Governor established there, -
 whose appointment it either pays over out;
 Early on Saturday forenoon we came within
 in sight of the Island of Tenedos, - brown &
 apparently barren, this is the view which
 almost all the Islands in the Archipelago
 present to the eye. Yet there are excellent

2

Vineyards at Tenedos, & it was here our Spanish friends
proposed to stop & take in Wine for Mahon. -- The
Boats of the Phoenice came immediately for our baggage to
the Capt's Warge for us. The Frigate was manned to
receive us, & every mark of attention paid ^{us by} our excellent
Captain. -- I had expressed a wish to land upon Sappho's
Island of Lesbos. -- but finding that on the following day,
we were sailing very slowly & very near it, that the
side on which we were, exhibited no distinguish'd site
except its great length, & containing no remains of its
ancient buildings, I declined giving so much trouble, &
particularly as it seemed to be my Husband's maxim,
still more than that of the Capt, to proceed expeditiously
only the season being far advanced. had it been possible
to have discovered where Sappho lived & where
she sung, no trouble would there be too much.

Early on Monday morning we entered the Bay
of Smyrna, the Town circling around it had a fine
effect. -- the only striking feature is the ruins of a
Caste on a very steep hill. -- otherwise Smyrna
retains only its name, as one of the Seven Cities

that had the honor of disputing the British place of Homer.

to what in modern times is more essential, that it is one of the most commercial cities in the Turkish

Dominions. — We were saluted by the Shejis in

the Harbor, & visited immediately by the English

Consul M. Henry, & were by him conducted to

his comfortable House near the Shore, attended by

a Band of Turkish Music. — The only English

Shej of War upon the Station was the Gardens,

we found her Commandor Capt. Davies a most

agreeable Man; — Mrs. M. Henry entertained us

very kindly for the short time we could remain.

We collected all the respectable Inhabitants of the

Town to meet us. — It was with regret we

quitted an agreeable Society on the afternoon

of Monday the 14th, in order to proceed to Athens.

The City of Smyrna, like most other

places on the Asian Coast, boasts a very

fine climate. — They have, as must always

be the case under the rule of Mahometans.

The Plague annually, but it is not enough

3

to check the progress of the evil at a certain period of the
summer, this is not the case in the more moderate climate
of Constantinople, there it is the cold alone which stops it.
On quitting Smyrna we sailed very near [&] along the very
beautiful Island of Shio. - the best cultivated in the Archipelago.
We coasted on the East side, where the greatest number
of Towns & Villages are situated. Shio is as remarkable
for its fertility, as for its beauty, It supplies Constantinople
& the adjoining Country with oranges, Lemons, Figs,
Every variety of fruit & vegetables. - ^{flower} Water Orange, ^{Water}
Nothing could be more interesting than the mixture
of Towns & Villages, interspersed with trees along the
the Coast. It is this Island that produces the best
Mastic, (species of Bitumina) of which the Grand
Signor has his unadulterated proportion. - The
Ladies of the Seraglio showing a great deal of it
as a sweetener of the breath. - The weather was
very fine, & we remained on Deck the whole
forenoon. - indeed, we were so near, & our progress
so slow, that we could observe the costume of
the females. - The flat roofs of the Houses

Of all the variety of foilage, the brown hills
which adorned the prospect contrasted by
fertile vallies & deep ravines. - The hills
often crowned by large Monasteries, - made
all together a charming coup d'oeil. -

The Turkish Inhabitants bear a smaller
proportion in Shio than in many of the
other Islands. - They appeared to be placed
in a central part of the Coast, with a Citadel
& distinguished by a few Maqrees Minerach
on one spot, near the Beach, the Pras
pointed out to us a rock called Komars -
Saint School. - opposite to Chio on
the Main land We

saw the Town of Shesmai; where the important Battle took place between the Turks & Russians, & where the Turkish Fleet was almost entirely destroyed. - In the evening we passed the Islands of Teno, & had a distant view of that of Samos. - I regretted passing during the night the Island of Delos, which is said still to contain some remnants of the Temple to Apollo. - It might have been well perhaps, as a simple traveller said to me the other day, - to have had it so say that one had touched the Birth place of Apollo & of Diana. -

Phoenia Sloop 20th October 1815 - on the Coast of Attica after quitting the Islands

above mentioned, the wind blew so hard that we were well pleased to find ourselves in the snug Harbour of Mandria. - In the course of the forenoon we came within a very near view of Colonne or Sarnium. - The scene of Falconer's beautiful Poem, - was it makes generally a part of a Seaman's library I was much pleased when one of the officers brought it to me, for I read it with peculiar pleasure & interest while on the very spot. - The remains of the Temple of Minerva is still to be seen, in about fifteen Columns of beautiful Marble on the summit of the Peak. - We soon turned into the Gulf of Argina or Athens, & beat up against a contrary wind, & here we had a distant view of the Island of Argina, & saw distinctly the remains of the Temple of Imperator