

lashed by France at Navarino, Modon, Coron, Argos, &c.; nor could I help, at the same time, indulging in a painful reflection, and saying, in the words of the Gospel, 'The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head.' In whatever direction I turn, I behold the Greeks enjoying the fruits of their victories, secure in the unmo- lested possession of their property, and without alarm for the chastity of their daughters. These blessings they owe to their own courage, and the invention of the allied powers, but especially to France. And yet the Catholics, be- cause they are few and poor, and there- fore weak, have not yet in the whole of the Peloponneses a single decent chapel in which to preserve the sacred body of our Lord; and that which they possess at Athens is so small, that it cannot con- tain half the congregation. Alas! it is then but too true, 'the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head.' *Filius hominis non habet ubi reclinet caput.*

On the day fixed for Confirmation, the Chaplain of the Bavarian troops presented his children, who had re- ceived instructions through the German tongue, and the Missionary brought those whom he had prepared for the sacrament in Italian or Greek. At the close of Mass I addressed a few words to those present, half of whom belong- ed to the schismatical church, explained the nature and effects of the sacrament of Confirmation, and the reasons why its administration is deferred in the Ro- man Church until those who are to re- ceive it have attained the use of rea- son. When the ceremony was over I set out for the ancient city of Argos, where General Gordon resides, whose wife is a Catholic of Aleppo: an officer from Piedmont resides there also, with

many of his countrymen, all of whom expressed a wish to see a church erect- ed in the city. The advanced hour and the necessity of reaching Athens without delay, did not allow me to visit the tomb of Agamemnon, which is an hour's journey from the city; I merely stopped a few minutes at a colony of Greeks and Bavarians which is being founded on the road to Napoli; and there, too, had occasion to see the ne- cessity of erecting a chapel: such an undertaking will be attended with con- siderable difficulties, which, however, I trust divine Providence will enable us to overcome. Having arrived at the Piræus at eight o'clock on the morning of Corpus Christi, I was enabled to reach Athens time enough to celebrate the holy Mysteries, and be present at the procession which we are permitted to make round the church. At two o'clock I received the visit of his excel- lency the minister of worship, accom- panied by the secretary of the Greek synod. They informed me of the royal decree, which publicly recogni- ses my title of Delegate Apostolic, a copy of which was forwarded to me on the following day.*

* The following is the decree, translated from the Greek:

"Otho, &c. At the demand of our secretary of worship, and in virtue of the brief given by His Holiness, Gregory XVI., Pope of the Catho- lic Latin Church, in favour of the very véné- rable Bishop of Syra, of the same Church, we have ordained, and ordain as follows:

"1. The very venerable Bishop of Syra, of the Catholic Latin Church, Louis Blancis, is recog- nised as invested with the episcopal rights in all the parts of our kingdom, where there are yet no Bishops of the same Church.

"2. All the authorities of the state are com- manded to give the said Bishop, each within the limits of his jurisdiction, all the facilities neces- sary for the exercise of the functions with which he is charged, according to the laws of the