

Off Kinturn Foll 291

Mrs. Dauntless.

Oct<sup>r</sup> 16. 1855

Dear Sir Edmund

I have received by to days  
mail that information which  
I told you - I expected and  
dreaded & which makes it  
imperative upon me to resign  
the Command of the Dauntless  
immediatly the present operation  
against the Enemy is terminated

I venture in justification  
to intrude upon you, the



Information referred to -

My wife who has been ordered to Malta as a last resource, and has just arrived, is dying - I can hardly hope to see her but must not fail to attempt it -

I have therefore written to you an official letter tendering my resignation of the command, and shall feel deeply grateful to you if you will permit me to leave as soon as Kimbourn Fort is taken

I am well aware that resigning the Command of a Ship is even in peace a step most prejudicial and most justly prejudicial to an Officers Character in the opinion of those not acquainted with the Circumstances of the case. and that in time of war it can only be justified by Circumstances of so <sup>unusual</sup> ~~exceptional~~ a character as to be of rare occurrence.

After giving the Subject my calmest consideration

I have decided on the course  
of conduct which it is my  
duty to pursue under the peculiar  
circumstances of my case. with which I will  
not trouble you. —

In forwarding my letter  
presignation if you can consistently  
with what you think is  
right - <sup>remove</sup> stifle the prejudices  
which such an act will  
(accompanied by no explanation)  
will most naturally & justly  
give birth to in the  
minds of their Lordships

Yours with much respect

Yours faithfully

Thos. P. Ryan