

Dear Sir
Off Harbour

Nov. 16, 1855

Dear Sir

We were glad to hear yesterday from Mr. Derick's enclosure, that there is a probability of your rejoining us. Your cabin is immediately to be painted, as you desired - as far as possible - but the want of proper paint will prevent your design being fully carried out. Your letters Mr. Brown says tells me, have been forwarded to Simons - the next opportunity.

Soon after your departure we were ordered to Vanua with dispatches, which gave us an opportunity of becoming acquainted with another portion of the Black Sea - and also laying in a stock of fresh provisions, which was most acceptable, as there appears but little opportunity of obtaining supplies here. We found Vanua Harbour a

to be a very exposed anchorage - and
 altho' at the time it was almost a
 calm - there was a great surf rolling
 in shore. A Turkish official in ^{coming} coming
 off to communicate with us about the
 supply of coal was round dinner
 his boat being upset. He left us
 about 24 hours with the anxious to
 our despatches to England - and returned
 to the fleet. Yesterday & yesterday
 the last of the fleet sailed - the Casanova
 also going to Damia for supplies
 There remained the Sidon, Fortune,
 and ourselves - with the eight gun
 boats up the river. The Fortune
 has gone to lay off Ouessor, where
 we also are soon to take up our
 station. We have been the last few
 few days inside the Gul - but instead
 of finding it, as we expected, more
 smooth water - it has proved to be
 just the reverse - as in consequence

of the wind continually blowing
with some violence directly from the
east, and causing a considerable surf
on shore. It has also been very cold.

The thermometer is about 32 during
the early and latter part of the day.

The raft of timber taken by our
gun boats near Cherson, and which
were moved inside the spit, having
been ~~up~~ broken up by the continual
action of the waves, and the beach
is strewed with timber. 30 of our

men and a like number of the
Scots have been employed the last
two days in dragging the logs on
shore, and there is work enough to
employ them the next three weeks.

We have found it rather dull, nothing
going on - very cold - and no inducement
to go ashore. but the arrangements
prosper, and everything goes on
just as if you were on board -
The young gentlemen in the cabin as
of old.

The French have been digging a trench and parapet about half a mile from the Fort in the south side, just above the large white house near the cemetery. to prevent a surprise. The other day six French officers were taken prisoners in a fog when shooting just outside the lines. No one now is allowed to go beyond the trenches. We have had no mail since the fleet sailed until yesterday. You may imagine in our present solitude it was gladly received. Mr. Bowbourn leaves us tomorrow having been appointed to the Hoangler. I am very sorry he is leaving us but hope if his health continues good - it may be to his advantage.

Nov. 20. The Condor is returned after experiencing bad weather off Tanna. The Sidon is leaving for Malacca. We are off to relieve the Fortune at Odesa. I am Dear Sir
 Your most sincerely
 J. St. John
 Capt. Bydes, R.N.

We hear that Lieut A. S. Bridges
(52) of the Sidon has applied to
the Admiral to be our first Lieut
Should Mr Sauch be promoted
He is only therefore 13 months senior
to Mr Worsman

Nov. 19.