FAMILY LETTERS OF JOHN HOLMES OFFLEY

John Holmes Offley (1802-1845), the son of David Offley and Mary Ann Greer Offley, was born at Brooke Court-House, Virginia (now Wellsburg, West Virginia) on 13 October, 1802. Educated in Philadelphia, he first travelled to Smyrna (Izmir), Turkey in 1815 where his father, David Offley, had established the first American commercial firm, "Woodmas and Offley", in the Levant. John Holmes Offley soon became widely travelled throughout the eastern Mediterranean and was fluent in French, Italian, Armenian, and Romaika. Entering into a commercial partnership at Trieste with his brother Richard Jones Offley ("Richard & John Holmes Offley Co.") John Holmes Offley later served as a ship chandler, contracted to provide provisions for the American Squadron then stationed in the Mediterranean. U.S. Ships for which he provided supplies included the U.S.S. Constitution, U.S.S. Constellation, U.S.S. United States, and the U.S.S. Lexington. His father, David Offley (1779-1838) was appointed the Consular Commercial Agent at Smyrna by Secretary of State John Quincy Adams on 16 June, 1823 and was involved in negotiating the first commercial treaty between the United States and Turkey. He was appointed as the first U.S. Consul at Smyrna by President Andrew Jackson on 30 April, 1832, in which office he served until his death on 4 October, 1838. He was succeeded in that office by his son, David Washington Offley.

John Holmes Offley returned to the United States with his family on the U.S.S. Bavaria in 1835. Residing at 30 Third Street, New York City, he served, for a time, as the Inspector of Customs for the port of New York City. Later removing to Georgetown, D.C. in 1838, he established his residence there on Gay Street, now, 3318 N Street. After serving on special assignment for the U.S. War Department involving indian affairs at Detroit, he was appointed as Corresponding Clerk in the U.S. War Department under Secretary of War Poinsett, and later saw service as the Acting Chief Clerk of the U.S. War Department.

A member of the American Institute of New York and the National Institute of Washington, he served as a vestryman for St. John's Episcopal Church of Georgetown, D.C. from 1840 until the time of his death. It was at that church that he married Catharine Van Rensselaer Heaton (1806-1887), the daughter of John Heaton and Jane Cooper Heaton of Throgg's Neck, Westchester County, New York, on 22 September, 1823.

John Holmes Offley died on 20 December, 1845, and was buried at the Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C. (Range #37, Site #55). Catharine Van Rensselaer Heaton Offley died at 2027 G Street, N.W., the Washington D.C. home of her daughter, Helen Jane Offley Paulding, on 10 September, 1887.

Extracting even from my great grown of marker Extract from a letter witten at Smyrna Asia Minore - Dec 1826 Tenter one Von B. Heaton Offlag mos gold Halmes of the (m.o. H) It have taken a me little house dil would be the first deline for for for - nated on the Marino in sea . having a at the said contract the Canal gorden with three orange trus - a game on the continue daile in fair le tree a grape vine and a jepamine y week him to be fordered I am very bresy making shorts . lable to deline the first hereby oldhe maphines cultains come for The test of the same Turkish of as ded - I expect to have a good time with talking and going orders to my servants for as yet I under the state of the state of the price of the state of the s stand very little greek - I however to a freeh length of the supplied to the wonder of every one talk & unduland when does file the the comments he the Italian very well & it is predicted in the other had the dool to see that in a year I shall speak perfectly was the man of the Wiffings from well the Station Guck & Turkinh The dieser con the said in the land I am much pleased here from your thing or examined he was with Imyrua and if it were rule be something have and Informer nearer America I think I should be it had a my temperary planting contented to remain her forever . Ihope house to see america before Old Time shall have bleached my vaven locks The

customs in this country are odd to charges had been partation of They entered The head dufs of the Lader is beautiful the third time with a silver livery Instead of handing wiene as isthe on one and a silver wirm containing cutom in America when any one calls rose water - on the other end here a little sup of coffee is handed a small worm of frosted silver perfor these little cups are of handsomething rated and containing incourse I hold about half a gill they are in the centre was laid a prink Just in another cup of selver sometime gauge vail handsomely bordered of gold elegantly ornimented with with silver - This handkuckief juells - This prevents you from a lady threw over my head their hurning your Jengers The effect in her mother taking up the und very strong and is taken without sugar browning incesser lifted up the sail a cream In Offley a myself called and waving the win before me without a few days ago to see a Greek lady me in Greek long life and happing an old acquaintance of Mr. Offly's Another daughter ofrenkled ware water The received me as a Bride - Find on my handkerchief - The vail was two sewants entered bearing silver trays then removed to ma Offleys face or wailers - one with eups of coffee and the same ceremony was repealed the other with cake a they went I have given you this account became out after we had partaken of there it is something new and I afrene and returned one with glaper of you it had a very imporing a pleasing lemonade the other with consever effect and sugar plumber - after these

Smyrna, Asia Minor Dec. 1826

We have taken a nice little house situated on the Marino or sea, having a garden with three orange trees, a quince tree, a grape vine and a jessamine. I am very busy making shirts, table cloths, napkins, curtain covers for Turkish sofas &&& - I expect to have a great time with talking and giving orders to my servants for as yet I understand very little Greek. I, however to the wonder of every one, talk & understand the Italian very well & it is predicted that in a year I shall speak perfectly well the Italian, Greek & Turkish.

I am much pleased with Smyrna and if it were only nearer America I think I should be contented to remain here forever. I hope however to see America before Old Time shall have bleached by raven locks.

The customs in this country are odd to strangers. The head dress of the Ladies is beautiful. Instead of handing wine as is the custom in America when any one calls, here, a little cup of coffee is handed. These little cups are of handsome china & hold about half a gill. The are put in another cup of silver, sometimes of gold, elegantly ornamented with jewells. This prevents you from burning your fingers. The coffee is very strong and is taken without sugar or cream.

Mr. Offley & myself called a few days ago to see a Greek lady, an old acquaintance of Mr. Offley's. She recieved me as a Bride. First, two servants entered bearing silver trays or waiters - one with cups of coffee, the other with cakes & they went out (after we had partaken of these) and returned, one with glasses of lemonade, the other with conserve and sugar plumbs. After these had been partaken of, they entered the third time with a silver tray - on one end a silver urn containing rose water - on the other end a small urn of frosted silver, perforated and containing incense. In the centre was laid a pink gauze veil handsomely bordered with silver. This veil a lady threw over my head, then her mother taking up the urn of burning incense, lifted up the veil and waving the urn before me, wished me in Greek long life and happiness.

Another daughter sprinkled rose water over my handkerchief. The veil was then removed to Mr. Offley's face and the same ceremony was repeated. I have given you this account because it is something new and I assure you it had a very imposing & pleasing effect.

(Catharine Van Rensselaer Heaton Offley to her sister, Mary Heaton).

Le to the Dacho Smyrna March Do 100 100 My Dear Tieter to 1827 to us into mach 29th 1827 to us into the per Cherit about a fortinght sind particularly acceptible as I had not heard from Umerica in time this is the first opportunity I have had of writing some the cler left - by that we sent some triples which I keep you will have now in our housekuping and get along very were Our healthouse also very good Holmis is getting so fat that some of his Am not button your mention that at the time of writing your you were very busy preparing for Christmas I will give you a short account of the way in which I paped that day I arrived in Smyrna in December about the 7th. consequently on the 25th. I had not acquired sufficient know ledget of Italian to have any conversation in it the Salunday before Chris mas Holmes and myself went with his baker and wife Must me Otto to Bournabat a little willage about y miles from Amyrea the frist four miles use went in a small boat then landed and took dowkeys for the other three dankeys being constantly in were were like some of our poor old kack horses but we trotted off for about two miles when my don took a fall and brought me down with my arms very lovingly around his neck I mounted again and we soon arrived at Bournalat the next day it commenced raining and rained almost without intumission for two a three days monday after dining it held who little and see down to the water but the boatmen had come at the appointed how 5 relook and as it was /4 past 5 - when we arrived we had no alternation but to side back again through a shower it having commenced

accounting weather throthing for me to do could not talk I no find and it hid on by the English Drogoman speaking to the Pacha in Junkish and to us in the math a Christmas as I have ever paped the Carrival him was very gay and sted very long - 8 weeks - during those weeks - there were regular balls at the your Consuls on Sunday nights at the Dutch Consuls on Sundays and on goday at the Capsing besides other balls alternately I was at of the Capsin one at the house of a sol armenian mained Mr. Mulai and at a Marque ball at Mr. Vandeneps the Dutch Cousuls although I was pleased at the Latter ball yet from the accounts I had read of Marquerades I was also disoppe untid The best went a figure deped in white on stills he havangued the assembly in French and told them that they would soon be as he was he represented Death the next was a little fellow dreped in black with two horns - De Do representing his datanie! Majisty and holding is his hand a chan attached to a Monk who had a book of plays in his hand instead of his book of dirotions. There were also a group of physicians who brought in a patient on whom they tried all their skill occasionally consulting som enounous large books that they brought in under their arms - and they finally ended by killing him and then sent him away - thou were lome most beautiful costumes Turkish and of all the Islands that of The Theariest women is beautiful there were a great variety of Shepherds & is in their looks wor something on the forehead resembling a small precede of vacation land to represent a greater the cut was for she told me it was to prevent the Ellip which is firmly pink. Mr. Langdon and Mr. Walley two Americans with Mr. Purdy an English coffee, sweethmeats and showed us and soon after took our leave they giving us man ever there very good representations of our Mative Indians. I have also an invitation to call again on our way out we were shown into the apartments been in a Sukish Harame Mr. Clarke the English physician here had been attending the Pacha buring an attack of some severe kind and on the recovery of the Bacha he to experts his gratifude sent an invitation for mrs. Black and some other English ladge to come and see his Mother and sister in low-He has no wife the die some time since said to have been of jealousy of

re returned, to Imy ma in as heavy a shown is I have seen in some where into the room where on a corner of the sofas sate the to char be weather the room where on a corner of the sofas sate the to char be corner of the sofas sate the to char be corner of the sofas sate the to char be corner of the sofas sate the to char be corner of the sofas sate the to char be corner of the sofas sate the to char be corner of the sofas sate the to char be corner of the sofas sate the to char be corner of the sofas sate the to char be corner of the sofas sate the to char be corner or considerations. were all introduced - the Drogoman told him that I was the wife of Mr. Offigo the said & his good friend Sexe. We had handed to us cope and sherbet the attendants opicers seed should suppose 50 - or more and constantly going out and returning the room had a rise Carpet and ather sides of it wase sofas the corner seats of the sofas are the seats of ceremony have a price of cloth of about 140. oquare laid then different and handsomer than the rest of the and two small round pillows or ous hions of the same for the arms in this room the cloth was of while a silver I know not which and gold it was very beautiful. After sitting him some time the Packa for a black slave and gave him a key- and soon after we went into the momen's aportmento- we in going to them the Jacha's private room where he sit when he does not wish to be annoyed by be affairs it is in the form of a crescent like all the other rooms it has sofas round it the sfas were sound with crimson silk relativith gold sprigs in this room I observed a handsome Tru block and a large picture containing portraits of all the Trokait Mullans- We then came in a kind of a hall in this stope the found as to place being doors we be and there coiled up on the Sofas sat the Pacha's Mother a very hamily old lady his sister is law a very handsome young one and two or three other old righy women the slaves were some of the roung ones very handsome and very prettily dreps d in blue and pink lutestring drepses but the lady's contrary to our expectations were very lady dufied and instead of their gala head dups of peads and diamonds so they had a very common handker chief tied on in the same manner that Pose his in one when she goes to milk in a cold morning the carpet was of red Silk with Silver and gold woven into it in diamonds. the sof as of the same this was very rich but the fall that walked upon it did not answer at all to our idion of the Haram's of the East they were most of them naked. Theregoing ladies forming of believe a finnespal the only of colon and those of the sloves very dirty or very black they die their mails of huls with some red materials Mrs. Woodmas one of our party who speaks Surkish and Malian acted as our interpreter in these apartments sacred to the Ladies I observing that all that were in any degree toterable among them (that is in their looks were something on the forehead resembling a small price of blacks an invitation to call again on our way out we were shown into the apartments of the Pacha's hother the husband of the lady we had just left it had a maible floor mumber of martle pillars and devo fountains one fell into a basin about a fut dup- and in this basin were a great number of gold and silver fich - the other was so arranged as to hold a number of flow the se. the flowers, fruit had a prety appearance through the water from this apartment we decended to the court and lift the house - I have taken up so much paper with this account that I shall not have room to say all the kind things that I feel towards you all and as this weful

in at ding Ling I must make a city hu is so much better and I hope by this time that the affair of all settled and settled favourably. Ment to the pleasure that we received safe arrival was the knowledge that you had heard of it as we were sure would be anyious about us. I was quite surprised to receive no farther ace. I of the intended marriage of Uncle Cooper and Mis Mo. Mason the has a hu a Midshipman on board the Convette Outario. He has been him several times su a great deal of the American Officers. I being the only Bounty eroman that the On board this Sloop of War the Officers are very fine men They expect to him to the United States soon having been now Byears on this station I am much pleased to hear that Mr & Mrs Parker are succeeding so well give my very bist respects to them and tell Mrs P to have a room hept in readings for our where which I hope will be before many years. Although I take Improducing much get still it is not america and think I could almost constant to the exchange although my ears would be hable to be afailed with the ars & rumon of those the Herbild delight met have good being in present a police. Holmes writes to Horace and will enclose this so that I have more room than I thought I should have you say that you would give your little gringer to see Holmes I expect he would almost shake it off if he could only get hold of it he wishes me to be are him a little to write so I must bring this little to a close Please give me some account of the fashions De. You will I hope see Robert before this as he left here about two months since in the Cherub for Boston I hope he willowcoud as well as he expects in Associar I should not be much surprised to see him again her he left so suddenly that I could not write to you give my best best love to all the dear wiele at ding Sing I cannot think that we are on the off-- osite side of the earth when think how mean you are all to my hearts My love to Horace Mrs. R. and all enquiring friends and accept dear I the love of your dictor & year Dead Dobarah, Kitty had left nothing for me to Jay; Stitle Land the I doing to think that were it but to above you of my affections of low I thank you for your Kind espurpeous of me in your letter to Catharines, I a quat many other hows - you will he glad to See my hand writing - how for a little Scalding you must makelyour letters longer yed much longer too Lay a good deal more about our dear dear ding Ling folked. I dielan Sometimes when beget thinking of you all I feel almost ready to leave Imirna & all that , in it, take my papage I get thing that I be to toward you will have no

My Dear Sister

I recieved your letter per Cherub about a fortnight since and it was particularly acceptible as I had not heard from America in some time. This is the first opportunity I have had of writing since the Falcon left - by that vessel we sent some trifles which I hope you will have recieved before this comes to hand. We have got pretty well established now in our housekeeping and get along very well. Our health is also very good. Holmes is getting so fat that some of his American coats he cannot button. You mention that at the time of writing your last short account of the way in which I passed that day.

I arrived in Smyrna in December about the 7th consequently on the 25th I had not acquired sufficient knowledge of Italian to have any conversation in it. The Saturday before Christmas Holmes and myself willage about 7 miles from Smyrna. The first four miles we went in a donkeys being constantly in use were like some of our poor old pack fall and brought me down with my arms very lovingly around his neck. raining and rained almost without intermission for two or three days.

Monday after dining, it held up a lttle and we came down to the water, but the boatmen had come at the appointed hour 5 o'clock and back again through a shower (it having commenced raining). We returned to Smyrna in as heavy a shower as I have seen in some (time)...weather, a Christmas as I have ever passed. The Carnival here was very gay and at the Austrian Consuls on Sunday nights, at the Dutch Consuls on Tuesdays, at 6 of the Casino, one at the house of a rich Armenian named Mr. Mibar, was pleased at the latter ball, yet from the accounts I had read of Masquerades I was also disappointed.

The best were of a figure dressed in white on stilts - he harangued the assembly in French and told them that they would soon be as he was with two horns &c &c (representing his Satanic Majesty) and holding hand instead of his book of devotions. There were also a group of physicians who brought in a patient on whom they tried all their skill, occasiontheir arms, and they finally ended by killing him and then sent him Islands. That of the Ispariot women is beautiful. There were a great variety of Shepherds & Shepherdesses, Flower Girls, Jews, &c. One mask

intended to represent a quaker. The cut of his clothes was very good but they were made of that most unquakerish colour - pink. Mr. Langdon and Mr. Walley, two Americans with Mr. Purdy, an Englishman, were three very good representations of our Native Indians.

I have also been in a Turkish Haram. Mr Clarke, the English physician here, had been attending the Pacha during an attack of some severe kind and on the recovery of the Pacha, he, to express his gratitude, sent an invitation for Mrs. Clarke and some other English ladys to come and see his mother and sister in law. He has no wife. She died some time since, said to have been of jealousy of ... sister in law who is very beautiful. We ... large party of us, the English Consuless among the number. When we arrived we were ushered into the room where, on a corner of the sofas, sat the Pacha. Our conversation ... on by the English Dragoman speaking to the Pacha in Turkish and to us in (English. We) were all introduced - the Dragoman told him that I was the wife of Mr. Offley & he said (he was) his good friend &c &c. We had handed to us coffee and sherbet - the attendants, officers &c &c (we) should suppose 50 or more and constantly going out and returning.

The room had a rich Turkish carpet and on three sides of it were sofas. The corner seats of the sofas are the seats of ceremony. They have a piece of cloth about 1 yd. square laid there, different and handsomer than the rest of the sofa and two small round pillows or cushions of the same for the arms. In this room the cloth was of white ... or silver (I know not which) and gold. It was very beautiful. After sitting here some time the Pacha sent for a black slave and gave him a key and soon after we went into the women's apartments. We passed in going to them the Pacha's private room where he sits when he does not wish to be annoyed by public affairs. It is in the form of a crescent - like all the other rooms, it has sofas round it. The sofas were covered with crimson silk velvet with gold sprigs. In this room I observed a handsome French clock and a large picture containing portraits of all the Turkish Sultans. We then came into a kind of a hall in this shape four darkest places being doors. We passed through one of them and there coiled up on the sofas sat the Pacha's mother - a very homely old lady, his sister in law - a very handsome young woman, and two or three other old ugly women. The slaves were some of the young ones, very handsome and very prettily dressed in blue and pink lutestring dresses, but the ladys, contrary to our expectations, were very badly dressed. Instead of their gala headdress of pearls and diamonds &c they had a very common handkerchief tied on in the same manner that Rose ties on one when she goes to milk in a cold morning. The carpet was of red silk with silver and gold woven into it in diamonds. The sofas of the same. This was very rich but the feet that walked upon it did not answer at all to our ideas of the Harams of the East. They were most of them naked, the young ladies forming, I believe, the only exception. Those of the slaves very dirty or very black. They die their nails & heels with some red

Mrs. Woodmas, one of our party who speaks Turkish and Italian, acted as our interpreter in these apartments sacred to the Ladies - I observing that all that were in any degree tolerable among them (that is in their looks) wore something on their forehead resembling a small

piece of black ... I asked her what it was for - she told me it was to prevent the Evil Eye which is firmly believed in both by Turks and Greeks. We were shewn into another room and had some coffee, sweetmeats, and sherbet handed us and soon after, took our leave, they giving us an invitation to call again. On our way out, we were shewn into the apartments of the Pacha's brother, the husband of the lady we had just left. It had a marble floor, a number of marble pillars, and two fountains. One fell into a basin about 2 feet deep and in this basin were a great number of gold and silver fish. The other was so arranged as to hold a number of flower pots &c, the flowers, fruit &c had a pretty appearance through the water. From this apartment we descended to the court and left the house.

I have taken up so much paper with this account that I shall not have room to say all the kind things that I feel towards you all and as this vessel ... at Sing-Sing. I must make a ... you after having read it to send it to them. I am delighted to ... & father is so much better and I hope by this time that the affair of ... all settled and settled favourably. Next to the pleasure that we recieved ... safe arrival was the knowledge that you had heard of it as we were sure (you) would be anxious about us.

I was quite surprised to recieve no farther account of the intended marriage of Uncle Cooper and Miss M. Mason. She has a brother, a Midshipman on board the Corvette Ontario. He has been here several times. We see a great deal of the American Officers, I being the only country woman that they have here. On board this Sloop of War the Officers are very fine men. They expect to return to the United States soon, having been now 3 years on this station. I am much pleased to hear that Mr. & Mrs. Parker are succeeding so well. Give my very best respects to them and tell Mrs. P. to have a room kept in readiness for our return which I hope will be before many years. Although I like Smyrna very much, yet still it is not America and I think I could almost consent to the exchange although my ears would be liable to be assailed with wars & rumours of war.

Holmes writes to Horace and will enclose this so that I have more room than I thought I should have. You say that you would give your little finger to see Holmes. I expect he would almost shake it off if he could only get hold of it. He wishes me to leave him a little to write so I must bring this letter to a close. Please give me some account of the fashions &c. You will I hope see Robert before this as he left here about two months since in the Cherub for Boston. I hope he will succeed as well as he expects in America. I should not be much surprised to see him again here. He left so suddenly that I could not write to you. Give my best best love to all the dear circle at Sing-Sing. I cannot think that we are on the opposite sides of the earth when I think how near you are all to my heart. My love to Harace, Mrs. R. and all enquiring friends and accept dear D. the love of your sister. C. Offley.

Dear Deborah

Kitty has left nothing for me to say, still I have the vanity to think that, were it but to assure you of my affections & how I long to see you, and how I thank you for your kind expressions of me in your

letter to Catharine, & a great many other hows, you will be glad to see my handwriting. Now for a little scolding - you must make your letters longer, yes much longer too - & you must say a good deal more about our dear dear Sing-Sing folks. I declare sometimes when I get thinking of you all I feel almost ready to leave Smirna & all that's in it, take my passage & get amongst (you)... (J.H. Offley).

(Catharine Van Rensselaer Heaton Offley to her sister, Deborah Heaton).

My nan La November th. 1823 and letter by the six blavoit and was plea to hear that you were all well. The Harriet was no consegned to our house but patience in hope that the ensuing for may prove more fortunate for us if and I should not be surprised to have orders to pack up and make ready for a voyage to America- one thing stance of the means of living being procured much cheaputhan in America . The have two servants to one we give 16 & and to the other 60%. fre annum I our house is guite large enough for us and we consider it as very dear it we spend for all the other expenses viz ful wine &l mon than 20 or 26 %. considering the difference of 14% per week in America for our braid is a quat consideration but as soon as we can make a little we are coming to america to live in quiet mis Since last Sunday week Improva has been in goile a state of alarm on the Salurday evening immediately premous an English orfeel arrived and told the English Coursel that the allied forces of the English -Funch and Ruferan had engaged with the Turkish is Egyption fold at tapoli de Malrisa and had sunk and captured every sail the this were much superior in force having 12 him of battle ships of the Tinks having but four they say the Tinks fought like than fellows and went down with their colours flying and humaking I think their abound religion promises to those who fall in battle a place in Gradisi) the battle lasted all day. The French admiral in a Small frigate engage of live Turkish line of battle ships I know me

whether he succeeded a captioning them but batth with great avery and not to has wished with he had?" will not float to trance whithen she has goon to repair the number of killed and evounded on board the allies is said to be 800 This news of course could great alarm among the English French & Prefer enhabitants of this place. We were also a little alarmed as we might so early be taken for English and the poor Gruks as being the primary can of all the disturbance a coursin was dispatched unmediately for Son stantinople and the families here were sending their furniture and many of them went on board of repels in the harborn to wait the your of the event from bonstantinople on landay morning the repels of war frew close in and manned all their boats and put guns in their bour the Constitution figale by the advice of ethe Offly did not move and the Surks took notice of it and were much pleased the Pacha although very ill took most efficient measures to gull any rist that might take places the guard was doubted and was walking the shuts all night he sent many friendly supages to Mr. Offly and Mr. Offly had numerous applications for protection from some English a strong South wind that has blown for the last two works gave su some approximations of fine as the Tunks live in the south part of the town and for that reason I put by the pirales on her passage from Frish here and plundered of some elother in a trunk in order to have them handy in ease we were thing they were in the Parales hands fine days and instead obliged to go on board a cuful - fortunality for us although very dis of an hundred or two dollars commission - nothing - O'attince. we agreeable and painful for Stolmer he was confined to the houseal will see what another der brings for the The big leaves sooner agreeable and painful for Stolmer he was expected and I shall write but to you and Deborah that week by another of those painful germboils this last was I think that was expected and I shall write but to you and Deborah more fainful than either of those he had in America.) and by the Harrietyou will hear from me again - Low to all the

means we were prevented from hearing the many roning reports that were in constant allines is as the course was exited to reach bon -Islantinople in two days it was expected that the answer would be received here certainly on Thursday but it did a arrive untill illowing last and as the Franks there live in the midst offer Jurks the conjecture her was that the Frank populace had been majored and that the Packs here had received orders which he feared to obey of the fire here was so great against him. The arrival of the sourier to had been detained by bad weather on his journey both to and from dry ma has put an almost total end to all four and the thish muchants are going on as usual the dultan expected to her news to that effect and wented another armistice of 30 days ut the ministers refuse to give it him and tell him he mot decide one way a another he says the merchants must not be alarmed for he will protect them as far as it is in his power-Here is a long letter and perhaps not annumberesting on to you at home I has um all Europe is entirested in it and happy amuca looks on and smile at all political intique and fights her own battles. Heaver grant she may never med the alliance of a foreign power-The lug with David arrived on Sunday week having been taken

the some and a my mather me de con hand and a tenger has him any much wen that I worked that collar for the that our ching by funde - dell & Compliments to D& Bacon he is a fine little fellow take care how do you get along Humember me to Rose Holms's love to you all I remain with prayers for your present and climal weifan your dister of they

My Dear Mary

I recieved your kind letter by the ship Harriet and was pleased to hear that you were all well. The Harriet was not consigned to our house but patience, we hope that the ensuing year may prove more fortunate for us - if not, I should not be surprised to have orders to pack up and make ready for a voyage to America. One thing however, that keeps us here with our present fortune, is the circumstance of the means of living being procured much cheaper that in America.

We have two servants - to one we give 18\$ and to the other 50\$ per annum & our house is quite large enough for us and we consider it as very dear if we spend for all the other expenses viz - fuel, wine, &c more than 20 or 26\$ per month. This considering the difference of 14\$ per week in America for our board is a great consideration but as soon as we can make a little we are coming to America to live in quietness.

Since last Sunday week Smyrna has been in quite a state of alarm. On the Saturday evening immediately previous an English vessel arrived and told the English Consul that the allied forces of the English, French, and Russian had engaged with the Turkish & Egyptian fleet at Napoli de Malvisa and had sunk and captured every sail. The allies were much superior in force having 12 line of battle ships & the Turks having but four. They say the Turks fought like brave fellows and went down with their colours flying and hurrahing (I think their absurd religion promises to those who fall in battle a place in Paradise). The battle lasted all day. The French Admiral in a small frigate engaged two Turkish line of battle ships. I know not whether he succeeded in capturing them but he is said to have sustained the battle with great bravery and not to have desisted untill he had riddled his frigate in such a manner that he entertains fears she will not float to France whither she has gone to repair. The number of killed and wounded on board the allies is said to be 600.

This news of course created great alarm among the English, French, & Russian inhabitants of this place. We were also a little alarmed as we might so easily be taken for English and the poor Greeks as being the primary cause of all the disturbance. A courier was dispatched immediately for Constantinople and the families here were sending their furniture and many of them went on board the vessels in the harbour to wait the issue of the event from Constantinople. On Sunday morning the vessels of war drew close in and manned all their boats and put guns in their bows. The Constitution frigate, by the advise of Mr. Offley, did not move and the Turks took notice of it and were much pleased. The Pacha, although very ill, took most efficient measures to quell any riot that might take place. The guard was doubled and was walking the streets all night. He sent many friendly messages to Mr. Offley and Mr. Offley had numerous applications for protection from some English.

A strong south wind that has blown for the last two weeks gave us some apprehensions of fire as the Turks live in the south part of the town and for that reason, I put some clothes in a trunk in order

to have them handy in case we were obliged to go on board a vessel. Fortunately for us, although very disagreeable and painful for Holmes, he was confined to the house all that week by another of those painful had in America) and by that means we were prevented from hearing the many alarming reports that were in constant alteration. As the courier the answer would be recieved here certainly on Thursday, but it didnt arrive untill Monday last and as the Franks there live in the midst of the Turks, the conjecture here was that the Frank population had been massacred and that the Pacha here had recieved orders which he feared to obey as the force here was so great against him.

The arrival of the courier who had been detained by bad weather on his journey both to and from Smyrna has put an almost total end to all fears and the English merchants are going on as usual. The Sultan expected to hears news to that effect and wanted another armistice of days but the ministers refuse to give it (to) him and tell him he must decide one way or another. He says the merchants must not be alarmed for he will protect them as far as it is in his power.

Here is a very long letter and perhaps not an uninteresting one to you at home. I presume all Europe is interested in it and happy America looks on and smiles at all political intrigue and fights her own battles. Heaven grant she may never need the alliance of a foreign power.

The brig with David arrived on Sunday week having been taken by the pirates on her passage from Trieste (to) here and plundered of every thing. They were in the pirates hands five days and instead of a hundred or two dollars commission – nothing. Patience. We will see what another year brings forth. The brig leaves sooner than was expected and I shall Love to all the family and kind remembrances to all our Sing-Sing friends. Tell C. Waller that I worked that collar pattern that she gave me and the design has been very much admired. I have worked an infants cap yet a month old. Will you by first opportunity send me my pattern book fellow. Take care how do you get along. Remember me to Rose. Holmes's welfare. Your sister C. Offley

Miss Mary Heaton Sing Sing

(Catharine Van Rensselaer Heaton Offley to her sister, Mary Heaton).

John Smina 14th Pary 1830 My bear Calkarine I made an attempt a few days ago to return In portion of my debt to you for your two chis tolan hear, when you receive my letter, you will promonce it an above Non again, Imageration Refuses me her aid - matters of fact are wanting - how then, make the Compromise between my melination and matility ome my fair dister, I shall morte len there sun fair delf-let thy benevalent to heartiful Amile but Speak indulgence and Shall In Hearly with my capremeditated effections - would prime worthy of the invention - but that is impossible -He had the pleasure of extensing the hono of welcom festiring to David - he Came at a pretty quick rate brow Cantantinople: only 3/2 days - Wis arrival has been layorly lapeted by my father the former of one, for on that depended their departure - they entend Starting by land in a Vay to her for Courtfle Los fity the poor Officers of the Harageton their hopes have been defence bails for amonth but glains nidering of the Barphones, of Stambolis and of the most magnificial Scenery in the world and how it had become faite uncertain whether they go at all. They are hapit at anchor at Fourte a place where the Fort funds Milenetely Finner have their experied above

A very amiable person they say, but she centrally has the The Course of theirs in general here, runs Imorth, penuful, and anvaried: the only buersins a truly to the country or appearance of having see? her first hourishment from a Lemon - I have never Chanced to meet any ofthem at ellers a promenale - the favorite one now is Caravan Bridge, Still where I take a Cap ofter Sometimes . Thehir they Where Crow & upon crows Collect lovery Kolle Pay - Mystene hist but day not Certain ofit, is then quite ani mating - the that beautiful - and the tell All our family is at Burnova, I and Director heing Solveny Pypren trees, "the only Constant mounes des the Dead", the only tenants of the house fere - they are well, with the to my taste gives hat an unplasting Colouring to it the Sweet perfume of the brangs blastomes brught by the breeze breethin of Heavy who has had be slight indistribution for from the neighbouring gas Dens, the days fette fightingel, Some days host - Mr. Duewich Continues Compined by is the Share oferening bereins the representatives frains Section. The gets better, but Speaks their the rations of the last here afrentled smothing the hiperoffered badway; In general . Shelieve your acquaintance here are well. There not bein so happy and many other items, to tections to mention, from a falfiest, to to de ell? Clarke for forme time fait. writing a poets per - for few, of I go on in this strain, I right to call: but have always mitted I that was to furtime I shall be cent with a fump to Something more worldy. Ifm may think it Strange that I have never fromthe Ming to -The next you have given me if felen ipoperoes every interes It appears her ladyship has learnes to run about - Let acquaintance with Mer Leller Brings - both estimable he be what she will sky when she begins to way her persons to which Me 19. ash a times er Medegree of tonque - give her an embrace as affectimate ", you Can beauty it is probably owing to my moderty worthist How hear fatharmie, Ishall his you chowing how what - Mold. has a phont in which the instructs a from me peat man fruk children fratis - a spectacle to be With the aperance of my lading affection of pendly Continplates with delight I'm reflecting on him per thumsthere is a ollin Regard's with them to do a citizene for ofthe fel who heeps an Saghit Johnt for young furding theis Mr. C. H. Offler.

they they the formand the they they they en pelfo feether clines to heed any often whater a commente anatonico o helia to The first plant and the form & harden I feeper I and a winter her to Constantin Il The state of the s this he the sin is Mif alguni lance featured. In Smit. In have some hill. I have not the to the de cell it Clocke fall the forter done Inght to call: but Thing do of fello sperpense song taling The sent you have going the Hillian les labort Affection of the sun wheet - Lot he with the will the who he hay in a way has veryer - piece her an embrece is a feitim it is you Eron I the lathours of whole his you a threein at the approved of my and withing friends M. C. H. aples.

My dear Catharine

I made an attempt a few days ago to return some portion of my debt to you for your two epistolary favors. I fear, when you receive my letter, you will pronounce it an abortive one. Now again, imagination refuses me her aid - matters of fact are wanting. How then make the compromise between my inclination and inability. Come my fair Sister, I shall invoke ...thine own fair self - let thy benevolent & beautiful smile but speak indulgence and I shall go on steadily with my ...stated effusions. Would they prove worthy of the invocation but that is impossible.

We had the pleasure of extending the hand of welcome yesterday to David. He came at a pretty quick rate from Constantinople: only $3\frac{1}{2}$ days. His arrival has been eagerly expected by my father & the Commodore, for on that depended their departure. They intend starting by land in a day or two for Constple. I do pity the poor Officers of the Lexington - their hopes have been deferred daily for a month past. Nothing in the mean while to sustain their spirits but glorious visions of the Bosphorus, of Instanbul and of the most magnificent scenery in the world and now it has become quite uncertain whether they go at all. They are kept at anchor at Vourla: a place where the foul friends Melancholy & Ennui have their especial abode.

The course of things in general here, runs smooth, peaceful and unvaried: the only diversions a trip to the country or a promenade. The favorite one now is Caravan Bridge where crowds upon crowds collect every holliday. The scene is quite animating - the spot beautiful and the tall & gloomy Cypress trees "the only constant mourners o'er the dead" - to my taste gives not an unpleasing colouring to it. The sweet perfume of the orange blossoms brought by the breeze from the neighboring gardens & the song of the Nightingale as the shades of evening descent. The representatives of various nations of the earth here assembled, smoking the pipe of peace, and many other items too tedious to mention, form a subject worthy a poet's pen. For fear, if I go on in this frame I shall wax too sublime. I shall descend with a jump to something more wordly.

You may think it strange that I have never formed acquaintance with Mr. & Mrs. Brimes - both estimable persons, to which Mrs. B. adds a considerable degree of beauty. It is probably owing to my modesty or I don't know what. Mr. B. has a school in which he instructs a great many Greek children gratis - a spectacle to be contemplated with delight & as reflecting on him great honour. There is a Miss Reynolds with them (also a citizen of Italy) who keeps an English School for young persons. She is a very amiable person they say, but she certainly has the appearance of having recd. her first nourishment from a lemon. I have never chanced to meet any of them at Mrs. Stith where I take a cup of tea sometimes. I believe they visit but I am not certain of it.

All our family is at Burnova, I and Dimitri being the only tenants of the house here. They are well, with the exception of Henry who has had a slight indisposition for some days past. Mrs. Ducovich continues confined by sickness. She gets better, but I really fear she is in a

bad way. In general I believe your acquaintances here are well. I have not been so happy as to see Mrs. Clarke for some time past. I ought to call but have always omitted doing so. The acct. you have given me of Helen professes every interest. It appears her ladyship has learned to run about. Let us see what she will say when she begins to wag her tongue. Give her an embrace as affectionate as you can from me.

Now dear Catharine, I shall bid you Adieu with the assurance of my enduring affection & friendship. Yr Brother Richard.

Mrs. C.H. Offley

Mrs. Catharine H. Offley Trieste c/o Capt. Clemereich

(Richard Jones Offley to his sister-in-law, Catharine Van Rensselaer Heaton Offley).

to deployed thent will minu 19 June 1830 Afgering your little nate of the 132 land There for the May Soon hear from you again with account if him much I fett at hearing of his illness of thought the almate of briefte agreed with you and him a well he Could be hat I find he atleast, Suffers in it. May he down he restoned again to good health - and may you Melen ther enjoy your's. He are all pretty well here. The heats, however, for a few days past, is everforcering-I fear I that have to take my nount Summeer trip to the tracips if a chance offers, to brace up a little Stather and party got in from Contelle on the 13th wink. heaving heen only 4 days performing the formey-which is pully well. Considering the heretty of the truelling to the marine part of the Company. The Levery ton / having the broad fermant / Sailed aday or two ago, for Mehon! the Theaty was Shipped on boand ofher, and he shall hear

this heft of pirates - the expertion is well prefund in all I Suppose, in due time, how the President offenate will Respect and look quite formedable in description whata Contrast relist it. He are likely to have no am m. ofther to the hardy Spanish extremturers who Sailed with afewhend on the Statum - the Transfield is expected here; but the former? hen to alterent the Conquest of a Continent under Corter or has left orders for Capt Parker to return munedintely under Charry To Come New to present times we We Makon dur Company hime has need quite a are very quick linet. They day the Freek Guestion is reinforcement by the arrival spells ellowed, Mistoore over but we she Coursiers going putty frequently and children three, elliss Kathaway her Lister & h and for which w? make one Suspect they are going Mr Hathaway her brother. The Gent have detufa to give it another twicht or two. Our Pasha is going away, hind of Ship Chandley - Mirs M. I take to he a and henceforwand we are to have only achoufselin or foremer Smart, Sensible, Shrews and managing persons, but as noted to hel and Hadye Mey is to Come to town again de not a beauty, Miss A. I Should day was a cliver just take change of the Police. Our family is ap Durnova father is do fond of the place that he only and the not latemely fascinating, might has medien Comes in when Called by Some thing particular. Mrs Du-Among the pretty ones. Of the mind I have not had - Conich had been Carried out there of finds herself much Sufficient time to Study. The are getting quite acolony better than in tour - there is a very Sensible beforence of yanker - Itherik we Counted one day, in all, of natiques hetween the air of country and two - the first is do 20 or 22 - of females there are 5 (grown up.) herites June while the latter, pent up is empregnated with all Black Mary (who Cannat be ranked among the fairfee) hais of imparition. Swander people do nit get Siete-but We are wanting to See what the struck will do they deem to thrive in it, like mirchen in theelland. At Algains - I hope the Condaders will the more sheunful I see thelen is beginning to be a lettle rum about. then they of the days of your and may root out textinfale but backward in the use ofher tongue - Rever few she will

The will was that organ dron brough. Give the clear little thing a his and unother sanother for mel. How dres the squalicemen? remember me to him The effection of your Brother Puhar I am for the first to make one for they are for I am the the the time the . The Charle is pring my Mr. J. M. Offly - brushs. in Smyme on his There find sound The Offley was The Lymine 1830 Jul in 1814 milines 4 12 77 In Alle (Head) Supering the broady Kichard offley June 1914/ 1/830

My dear Catharine

I had the pleasure, a day or two ago, of receiving your little note of the 23d May. Please God we may soon hear from you again with accounts of Holmes having recovered his health. I need not tell you how much I felt at hearing of his illness. I thought the climate of Trieste agreed with you and him as well as could be, but I find he, at least, suffers in it. May he soon be restored again to good health and may you & Helen ever enjoy yours.

We are all pretty well here. The heat, however, for a few days past, is overpowering. I fear I shall have to take my usual summer trip to the Archipo. if a chance offers, to brace up a little. Father and party got in from Constple on the 13th inst. having been only 4 days performing the journey wich is pretty well considering the novelty of the travelling to the marine part of the company. The Lexington (having the broad pennant) sailed a day or two ago for Mahon - the "Treaty" was shipped on board of her and we shall hear I suppose in due time, how the President & Senate will relish it. We are likely to have no Amn. M. of War on the station. The Fairfield is expected here but the Commdr. has left orders for Captn Parker to return immediately to Mahon.

Our Amn. company here has recd. quite a reinforcement by the arrival of Mr. Moore, Mrs. Moore and children three, Miss Hathaway, her sister & Mr. Hathaway, her brother. The Gentn. have set up a kind of ship chandlery. Mrs. M. I take to be a smart, sensible, shrewd and managing person, but not a beauty. Miss H. I should say was a clever girl and tho' not extremely facinating, might pass muster among the pretty ones of the kind I have not had sufficient time to study.

We are getting quite a colony of Yankees. I think we counted one day, in all, of natyves 20 or 22 - of females there are 5 (grown up) besides Black Mary (who cannot be ranked among the fair sex). We are waiting to see what the French will do at Algiers. I hope the crusaders will be more successful than they of the days of yore and may root out & extirpate this nest of pirates. The expedition is well prepared in all respects and looks quite formidable in description. What a contrast to the hardy Spanish adventurers who sailed with a few hund. men to attempt the conquest of a continent under Cortes & under Pisarro.

To come down to present times we are very quiet here. They say the Greek question is over but we see courriers going pretty frequently to and fro' which wd make one suspect they are going to give it another twist or two. Our Pasha is going away and henceforward we are to have only a Moussilion or Governor as used to be and Hadgi Bey is to come to town again & take charge of the police.

Our family is at Burnova - father is so fond of the place that he only comes in when called by something particular. Mrs. Ducovich has been carried out there & finds herself much better than in town. There is a very sensible difference between the air of country and town - the first is so pure while the latter, pent up, is impregnated with all kinds of impurities. I wonder people don't get sick - but they seem

to thrive in it like muscles in the mud.

I see Helen is beginning to be a little run-about but backward in the use of her tongue. Never fear. She will wag that organ soon enough. Give the dear little thing a kiss and another & another for me. How does Pasquali come on? Remember me to him.

God bless you my dear Catharine and believe ever the affection of your brother Richard.

Mrs. C.H. Offley Trieste

(Notation on this letter: "D. Offley went to Smyrna first in 1814. Mr. Offley was confirmed Consul of the United States and the American Flag first raised in Smyrna on his house in Nov. 1831".