

Poste Restante  
Athens  
Dec 29/81

My dear Macmillan,

I regret that I have only now had the leisure required to make up the accounts for the expedition in which the Society is interested. December was consumed in excursions along the Ionian coast, in coming to Athens &c. It was no easy matter to present the accounts in an intelligible form: three hours or so would have been enough to make them out in piastres, but that would have been of no use to you. There <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ six different kinds of piastre included in my expenditure. — as for

gold piastre - 18 and a fraction to the medjid  
silver piastre - 20 to the medjid  
commercial piastre - value I forget  
piastre used in some districts - 22 $\frac{1}{4}$  to the medjid  
piastre used in some districts - 30 to medjid  
piastre used in general retail - 33 to medjid  
Having no practice in such matters, ~~and~~

having each day's expenditure put down in one page unarranged & unclassified — which is I suppose very unbusiness-like — I have spent three days in reducing the different items ~~over~~ to one standard under separate heads, with the result as enclosed. I add a few remarks on each head.

1. Preliminary expenses. Several pounds would have been saved, if I had not been obliged to do everything very rapidly: everyone who knows anything of the east knows that lots of time and patience are required in order to get things cheaply. There is one large item in my note book —

Expense of dealing with a brigand - 27/

I sent a man to hire two armed men for the journey from the most famous brigand of the Macedonia valley — Kara Ali. I myself went at the same time ~~to the same place~~ in another direction to hire horses.

There I found unexpectedly two men, one an Albanian ~~man~~, the other a Turk. and I found that they were so suitable for our needs that I at once engaged them, it being quite uncertain whether my messenger would succeed in procuring two brigands. He ~~then~~ turned out that he also had engaged two men; and the whole expense of ~~his~~ appearing to Kara Ali, of paying railway fares &c &c amounted to off £1-7. all this would have been spared, had I been able to wait for another day <sup>to postpone the application</sup> & go ~~myself~~ <sup>to the place</sup> to hire ~~from~~ Kara Ali ~~after~~ to Kara Ali until I had engaged horses. I should ~~the same~~ in like manner have saved several smaller items, had I been able to go to work more leisurely; but ~~it~~ it was of the utmost importance to get off as soon as possible. ~~All~~ Everything that I already possessed was furnished

for the use of the expedition free of charge, but I had no cooking utensils, and the cook declared it was necessary to buy a number of them. The Society is therefore now <sup>the owner</sup> in possession of several pots & pans &c.; ~~which~~ I have charged half of them to the Society & half to myself, and if the Committee prefers to sell them at a very great loss, I shall be glad to act as salesman. In the meantime, the property of the Society remains under the care of the British Consul in Smyrna.

2. There was very great scarcity in the country, and the price of all food was very high. For example both bread & milk were as dear as in London. I charge one-third of this to the Society, as my wife was with us. at the same time it is my own opinion that her presence did not add one penny to the actual

expense under this head. 3 and 4 require no comment: one third belongs to the Society, & two-thirds to me. 5. There were three packhorses required. The luggage carried weighed as follows:

1. Luggage of my wife & myself	58 oaks
2. Luggage of the artist	69 oaks
3. Kitchen furniture and <del>by</del> cook's luggage,	103 oaks

I have charged half of this item to the Society.

6. At Apamea, Synnada, & various other places, we needed guides to the antiquities, men to dig up what was covered with earth, &c. Half of this I charge to the Society: as it would have been the same whether my wife was present or absent. The same remark applies to the last two items. It would I believe <sup>safe</sup> have been enough to take one armed attendant with us, but I thought it <sup>better</sup> ~~safest~~ to err on the side of prudence. Hardly any party ever ventures to go about

Asia Minor with less than two quins. The last item, the cook, I confess that I grudgingly speedily. ~~When~~ Such a luxury is totally inconsistent with the salary of my Studentship, ~~and~~ My intention, when I first approached the Society, with proposals about ~~see~~ this expedition, was certainly far from including such a source of expense: and ~~my~~ <sup>the</sup> allowance I thought of was one baggage horse for the whole party. ~~see~~ This would have required a certain amount of rough work from the travellers themselves; ~~but it is clear that~~ and on the whole it seemed to me inconsistent with the ~~expectations~~ conditions expressed orally to me by the Chairman of the Committee, ~~Mr Newton~~ when I had the honour to ~~visit~~ be present at the end of one meeting — ~~and of the circumstances which were the result of the~~  
middle and in work

The only expensive item of the journey was horses: I had hoped to be able to procure them much more cheaply. The reason

for the increased price was chiefly the scarcity that prevailed in the interior. In one case the one of the muleteers had to take a ten hours journey to procure barley. In the spring when horses can be fed to a considerable extent on grass, travelling is easier and cheaper.

So much for money matters. With regard to the time occupied, we were away for a much shorter time than I originally thought of. We were often much more hurried than ~~desired~~ I wished. It would have been much more profitable had we been able to spend several more days at each important point: but the funds at my disposal did not permit me to stay longer.

I am,  
Yours very sincerely,  
W M Ramsay.

P. S. What shall I do with the surplus money, ~~difference~~ £2000 difference between £60 & Blunt's allowance £58.