No 2

U. S. Consulate at
Jerusalem Oct 10th 1877

Hon J. A. Campell
Third Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir

Since my despatch No 1. from Jerusalem of Oct. 1st 1877. I have been constantly employed in the preliminary duties of the Consulate; I addressed letters to the Pacha of Palestine, and to the several Consulates announcing my arrival, made calls at the Palace of the Pacha, and at the Offices of the several Consulates, and received calls in return, having been uniformly treated with great courtesy and consideration

The Pacha enquired in regard to the health of the President, and als in regard to the Railroad disturbances of which he had heard, perhaps exaggerated reports, more particularly he asked my opinion as to the causes of the unexampled progress and prosperity of the United States, the statistics of which being to him a source of wonder & admiration In reply, I referred to the extent of the country, the variety of climate, the fertility of the soil, the intelligence and energy of the people, the vast commerce by navigable Lakes and Rivers, and more particularly the System of Railroads connecting the interior districts of country with the seaboard, and developing the resources of all the States and territories He said "This is wonderful and it is the right way, when this cruel war is over we shall build Railroads in Palestine." He thinks that arrangements are now making which will without fail secure a Railroad from Joffa to Jerusalem

The Pacha was pleased to refer only indirectly to the unsettled questions with the Government of the United States, or with the Consulate in reference to the Protegés supposed to be Russian subjects, taken under the care of the Consulate by my predecessor, some of whom are claimed as Turkish subjects, & others as placed by the Russian Government under the Protection of the German Consul

I find on file letters of the Department expressing disapproval of this act, but I do not find pointed out the proper mode,

or

or any mode, of relieving the Consulate & the government of the embarrassment occasioned thereby; & this is the occasion or the reason of the present despatch

Let me enquire;

First. what is the proper statiment to be made to the Pacha?

Second. What is the proper explanation to be made to the German Consul?

Third. what is the proper answer to be made to these Protegés, holding Passports, or Papers promising protection, from the Consulate?

These men are impatiennate, & they bid fair to be troublesome. They ask two questions.

First. may we expect protection according to the letter & terms of our Passports?

Second. if not may we expect the return of the money we paid for worthless papers?

Mr de Hass left without meeting or answering these questions, and the Vice Consul Mr Hardegg, declined to any responsibility on the subject, choosing to wait for the arrival of the Consul

My reply to those making inquiries has uniformly been, that I am waiting for instructions from my Government.

That the Department may have all the facts, so far as I have been able to learn them,

Let me state:

First. There is no record in the Books of the Consulate on the subject, nor any evidence that the fees have been reported to the Department.

Second. There are among the loose papers without signature or seal two sheets of paper; one marked 1st List, the other marked 2d List, in the hand writing of the then Dragoman Joseph Gabriel, the first containing 167 names purporting to have paid one Napoleons each, and the other containing 114 names purporting to have paid half Napoleons each, making in the aggregate 264 Napoleons

This is the record, and is also the statiment Joseph Gabriel who thinks though he is not sure that there were four or five others not on the Lists made out by him. There are American Naturalized Citizens resident here who assure me that the number is still larger approximating in all 500 persons.

Thus I have given you in as condensed form as possible all the facts that have come to my knowledge on the subject, except that the German

Consul

Consul was much displeased and that the Pacha expressed disapproval of the transaction as I am informed by the Vice Consul Mr Haridego by the Interpreter of the Consulate Constantine Azar & by members of American Subjects resident at Jerusalem

I am sorry to have to commence the duties of the Consulate with these grave questions pending, but I have done the best that I could, and I shall endeavor to hold them all in Abeyance until I shall have received specific instructions from the Department.

I send one enclosure of articles needed in the Consulate, which I hope will be supplied with out delay.

The weather has been very hot unusually so according to the remembrance of the oldest inhabitants, and in consequence of the Military drafts for the War, there will not be the average amount of agricultural products

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Obedient Servant
(Signed) J. G. Willson
US Consul.

One enclosure
1 Wants of the Consulate

4 Large size flags
3 Small " " for Boat
24 pieces of sealing wax
200 Envelopes large plain size
200 " Small "
3 Inkstands & 6 ink bottles
6 Pen-holders
6 Boxes of Steel pens
400 Sheets paper of ruled cap different size
100 " Blotting paper
24 Pencils
6 Pieces india rubber
24 Tape or narrow ribbon for invoices

12 Twin
3 gum bottle & brushes with gum arabic
12 Boxes of wafers

Form

No 2

U S Consulate at
Jerusalem Oct 10 1877

J. G. Willson
Consul

To the Department of State

Subject Instructions asked for

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The weather and the crops

U. S. Consulate at
Jerusalem Oct 18th 1877

No. 3

Hon J. A. Campbell
Third assistant Secretary of State
Washington D. C.

Sir

Your's No 6 Sept 7th is received & I have made the investigation requested as thoroughly as possible & I have the honor to report as follows Viz.

The extra expenses for the Consulate during the last four years by the Consul seem to be sustained by the proper vouchers.

The changes & improvements I believe to have been necessary

x the furniture was injured
x & if removed would have to be replaced, either at the cost of the Government or of the Consul

The irregularity seems to have been in not obtaining the authority before making the expenditure. The cost or charges may seem to be high - but of this I cannot judge - The men who did the work