No 5

Consulate of the U S States
Jerusalem Sept 27. 1860

Hon.ble Lewis Cass
Sec.y of State of U.S.
Washington D.C.

Sir,

By the mail via Constantinople on 17th inst I had the honor to announce my arrival at my post of duty —

I am now happy to have it in my power to advise the Department that a perfect quiet reigns here at the present time; still a deep & abiding impression exists in the minds of the Christians that the Moslem is only awaiting a favorable opportunity to avenge the execution of his brethren at Damascus whom only, crime was that they had slaughtered a few thousand Christian dogs.

The civil Governor of Jerusalem, Omeya Pacha, having been warned by the fate of his Colleagues, the rulers of Damascus & Beyrout, has exhibited the utmost energy and zeal in maintaining order in this city, & the districts adjoining, since the excitement which followed the massacre of the Christians in the Lebanon, and at Damascus, and the subsequent summary execution (by order of Fuad Pacha) of a large number of the murderers, with their leaders who were the prominent actors in those tragedies.

Sometime since the Pacha warned the principal Effendis of this city, against committing any outrage upon the Christians and acquainted them with his intention to inflict summary punishment upon all subjects of the Porte without regard to their religion who should be guilty of any breach of the peace, & concluded by assuring them that whenever they wished to massacre the Christians they must first come and take his head off

The police are also exceedingly vigilant, they immediately arrest any person found carrying arms, and visits of the walking vagabonds which are formerly met among the people of the country, many of them having their girdles loaded down with knives or pistols, they are all now deprived of these useless appendages by order of the Pacha, which if they disobey they are forthwith brought before him, and if they cannot give a satisfactory account of themselves are sent to prison.

Since the troubles in Syria Palestine has been entirely deserted by travellers which creates a considerable vacuum in the ordinary revenues of this community.

In conclusion I would respectfully add that after a residence of a few days only, the information which I am enabled to transmit to the Department must necessarily be general in character & limited in amount; as however the people of all countries are anxious, looking for the results which may follow the recent outbreaks in Syria, & punishment of the offenders. I am happy to be able to repeat that the present state of Palestine is most essentially peaceable, & well governed, & that life & property are quite as safe if not more so than at any previous period of the Turkish dominion in this country.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of copy of the act to carry into effect provisions of the treaties between the U States, China, Japan, Siam, Persia &c. together with circular No 14 dated July 31. 1860 —

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Your obt Servt
William R. Pap
Consul

(signed)