United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria
January 19, 1885.

Charles S. Hill Esquire
Representative Department of State,
Washington D. C.

Sir

Had your circulars reached me at an earlier date and the appropriation allowed me been a little more generous I could have made to the object in question a contribution of special interest and value. A part of what I have been able to send may, however, serve as a hint as to some of the mineral resources about the Dead Sea.

1. Specimens of rock salt.

At the south end of the Dead Sea there is a salt mountain seven miles long, three fourths of a mile wide and four hundred to six hundred feet high. This is a mass of solid salt which is washed into fantastic shapes and here and there one sees walls and columns that glisten like crystal in the sunlight.

2. Bitumen.

This exists in liquid form in the mountains about the Dead Sea, and is very abundant. It exudes into certain natural receptacles in or near the water, and masses are not infrequently seen floating upon the surface of the sea itself.

3. Bituminous limestone: turvarites.

This exists in inexhaustable masses, takes readily a polish, is used in ornamantal stone-work in Oriental houses, and is extensively manufactured into cups, vases, and various other articles which are sold to travellers or are sent by the Bethlehem merchants to their representatives throughout the world.

4. Sulpher

This likewise exists in great quantities about the Dead Sea and I have found beds of it in the banks of the Jordan as many as ten miles above its mouth. The specimens which I send are small for, in the time your circulars came, I have not been able to obtain larger ones.

5. Common horse shoe used in this country.
6. Common donkey shoe used in this country.

The hand-made nails for these shoes are packed with them. Note: it is quite a common practise here for both horses and donkeys to be used without shoes.

7. A bottle of olive oil the production of which is great industry in Palestine.
8. A bottle of sesame oil of which great quantities are made every year. It is used by the natives for cooking and as butter.
9. a bottle of rose water.
10. A bottle of Jerusalem red wine.
11. A bottle of Jerusalem white wine.

Could capital and skilled labor be introduced into this country to develop its mineral resources or to enlist themselves in the production of wine, oil, and other articles of commerce which the civilized world demands, this ancient land might become once a land of wealth.

I regret that I could not have sent you a collection of fossils some of which have great scientific interest, specimens of stone and marble, woods, costumes, implements, grains, seeds, flowers and plants, collection of birds, animals, and insects, and models in plaster of some of the most celebrated monuments of antiquity that still exist about Jerusalem. Were I permitted to make such a collection and would like to make I think it would have permanent interest and value.

Accompanying this letter are the following

Enclosures

1. Bill of lading marked "duplicate."
2. Statement of my account with two enclosures.- marked "original"
3. The same marked "duplicate".

In my "statement of account" I have directed that the amount due me be sent to my authorized agent in America, namely, to Edward Taylor, Andover, Massachusetts. The amount is ten dollars.

I remain respectfully
your obedient servant

U. S. Consul