acknowledged in D. No. 30. June 2d

No 30

United States Consulate at
Jerusalem April 10th 1871

Hon. Second Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that his Excellency Ali Bey, the newly appointed Governor of this district arrived here on the 2nd inst and assumed charge of the affairs of this Pachalic on the following day.

It is generally understood that Jerusalem and its dependencies have been raised to the dignity of a Vilayet, independent of Damascus. His Excellency Liman however has not yet arrived from Constantinople, and untill its arrival and the declaration of its contents, the exact status of this Department will remain uncertain.

No one cause has contributed more to the mal-administration of affairs in this province in the past than the dependent conditions of the Governors of Jerusalem. Not only has it been fertile of evil to the internal prosperity of the province, and paralyzed what little life still existed in the body politic; but the local tribunals, by taking advantage of it to shift all responsibility from their own shoulders to those of the authorities at Damascus, have been able to defeat the aims of justice whenever they have desired, and have so prostituted their judicial prerogatives that it has become practically impossible to obtain justice for any individual be he native or foreigner.

For the information of the Department I propose in a future dispatch to give a list of the cases which have occurred in the discharge of my Consular duties here during the past year where the local authorities have taken advantage of their power to appeal to Damascus to render null and void

proceedings

proceedings taken by this Consulate concerning the legality of which there was no question or doubt whatever.

Any change in the policical status of this Department cannot but be for the better, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the Sublime Porte has become convinced of the necessity of making Jerusalem independent of Damascus.

Under the administration of Ali Bey we are again promised many good things, among which is the establishment of a line of carriages on the road between here and Jaffa - so long promised and so much needed.

As Ali Bey is said to have a mania for road building we reasonably hope for an amelioration of our present isolated condition during the coming season.

The months of February & March brought us abundant rains and the country is now rejoicing with the prospects of a plentiful harvest. The rainfall has been greater than for several years but I believe not the maximum quantity which is 22 inches. With a good harvest and an abundant supply of water for the purposes of irrigation Palestine will rejoice in all the material prosperity which her government will allow her.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of despatch No 22.

I am Sir
your obedient servant
(Sd) R. Beardsley