

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Roll 5

Target 2

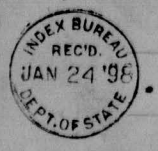
Volume 9

Jan. 3, 1898-Aug. 20, 1906

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

349  
No 104  
my

50 Consular Bureau D. 167408  
state  
1898



Consulate of the United States  
Jerusalem, Syria. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1898

all  
Copy to Gen. G.  
and  
Copy to Mr. G.  
Jan 29. 98

Hon. Thos. W. Culler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

Subject - Turkish Post-Office in  
Jerusalem.  
Registered at the  
U.S. Consulate General,  
Constantinople,  
Turkey.  
January 11. 1898.

Consulate of the United States  
Jerusalem, Syria. Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1898

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler -  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington - D.C.

Sir:-

In my dispatch No. 70 of Oct.  
5<sup>th</sup> 1896 I made certain charges  
against the Turkish Post-Office of-  
ficials in this city for mal-ad-  
ministration. The matter was tak-  
en up by our Post-Office Department  
at Washington, and a thorough in-  
vestigation was made by officials  
appointed from Constantinople. The  
result was that my charges were  
proved correct. A change was  
made in the management of the  
local Turkish Post-Office and now  
after a year's test it is but justice  
for me to report that the present  
condition



Consulate of the United States  
Jerusalem, Syria. Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> 1878

Hon. Tho<sup>s</sup> W. Cudler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 76 of Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 1877, with its enclosures from S. J. Eliech, and to submit the following in reply to the charges of unfairness and impartiality which are made against me in these enclosures.

I regret that so much annoyance has been caused the Department by this American Jewish movement in Jerusalem and wish I could dismiss the entire matter by the simple statement that any charge accusing me of participating in the affairs  
of

of either side in the controversy is false in toto. Such an answer on my part would be strictly true, but conclusive only to myself and the honestly disposed of both Jewish parties here.

I do not know who Rev. S. J. Eliah is, nor positively where he got the information on which he bases his charges. At the same time I feel reasonably certain that he is but another tool in the hands of Rabbi Salant of this place who is directing this entire movement against myself.

The first charge made by Rev. S. J. Eliah is that I have exhibited a "spirit of partisanship, bitterness and prejudice." In not a single instance in which the contending parties have had a difference have I been appealed to either officially or unofficially. Their differences I really know nothing about as they are strictly religious and in no way concern the Consulate.

J

If there had been any exhibition on my part of any spirit of partisanship or unjust dealing there would be some records of it on the Consular Court book. There is no record of any kind, except what would indicate that my prejudices were in favor of the parties who have signed this complaint. On Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> 1877 a trial was held in the consular Court. The complainant was L. Fink one of the signers of these accusations against me; the defendant was the Jewish Society I am accused of favoring. Fink demanded sixteen Napoleons (or \$64<sup>00</sup>) from this Society and rendered judgment in his favor. This is the only opportunity I have had to exhibit unfairness and the record proves that if there was any unfairness it was against the parties I am charged with being partial to.

Rev. Eliah's assertion that I have "actively participated in the meetings and councils of the rival organization" is

is

is as false as his other statements. When the first meeting of the new American Jewish Congregation was in session the President, a Mr. Leon Shapiro, since deceased, sent a messenger to me and asked me if I would come and see how many were present. I went, stayed a few minutes and listened to the discussion, most of which I did not understand as it was in Jewish jargon, and went away. All I can say of that one meeting was that nearly every American Jew living here was present and that all but two appeared to be in favor of the new organization. Since that time I have not been present at any of their meetings and do not know anything about what they are saying or doing except from hearsay.

I can only say in reply to the accusation that I persecute poor Hebrew American citizens that it is false and I challenge him to cite one single instance

stance of such treatment and for every one he cites I will produce ten instances where I have gone out of my way to help destitute Hebrews.

The first specific charge made by Rev. Eliack is based on a letter I wrote to J. S. Koenigsberg, of Denver, Col. I enclose a copy of the letter to me that called forth the reply. I then thought and still think that in writing that letter I was but doing my official duty. Enclosed please find copy of my letter. With the newspaper extracts based on this letter I had nothing to do. Any marked "special telegram" are misleading. No paper in America ever had a "special telegram" from this office since I have been in charge. You will notice that in this letter to J. S. Koenigsberg I am careful not to express as my own opinion anything contrary to the facts inquired about. However, every statement in that letter can be supported by the affidavits of the best among our

our Jewish American citizens here.

The second specification I have answered in a previous dispatch and my explanation you have adjudged as satisfactory. But the complainant shows his ignorance or intentional deception when he says that I "caused or suffered Joseph Cohen to be assaulted at the Consulate." The assault was not at the Consulate at all, and I knew nothing about it till said Cohen came in and informed me. He and his assailant were personal enemies and the assault was for reasons in no way connected with this religious strife between the two parties.

Rev. S. J. Eliaich speaks of a libel suit now pending before the Consular Court and says that because of my prejudice "the trial looks like a mockery." This is due also to ignorance or intentional deception. The party whose cause Rev. Eliaich is championing had printed and circulated here and in the United States a circular in which

which the heads of the opposite party were severely arraigned and called swindlers, vagabonds and many other terms of disrespect and calumny. The ones thus assailed came to the Consulate several times and wished to institute proceedings for libel. At my suggestion and advice they concluded to drop the case and it has never been taken up, nor will it be unless the libel is repeated. The injured parties certainly had good grounds for complaint, and if they had been in America a big libel suit would have resulted.

The above facts will certainly enable the Department to estimate Rev. Eliaich's letter at its real value, and prepare you for any charges of a similar character that may be made by people of his kind. Since commencing this dispatch I have made some inquiries as to who this man signing himself Rev. S. J. Eliaich is and have learned from several that he was until recently a resident of



of Tribess, Palestini, a man of no character or standing, with a reputation of being a "dead-beat" and with no right whatever to the title "Rev." He does not know a word of English and is an irresponsible tool.

It is not becoming in me to make any suggestions to the Department, but it does seem to me that there ought to be some way to make this man Elack and others like him answer for their malicious attacks upon a government officer. If he were brought to justice for his falsehoods it would relieve the Department of much labor and me of great annoyance. Such charges must, though proven false, reflect against my record as a Consul, a record which I have jealously guarded and will do all in my power to keep immaculate.

A few words will suffice for the enclosure signed by a number of persons residing here who call themselves Americans. About one-third of the names signed to this document are not known

to

to this Consulate as Americans having never been registered. As the Jews are especially zealous of their American citizenship the strong probability is that these persons have no right to call themselves Americans. One at least of the signers is dead and had been dead a year before this petition was prepared. The others are dependent upon Rabbi Salant of this place for their share of the charity fund and two of them have told me they had to sign any papers he sends them or be cut off from the list of recipients.

I have never refused to legalize any signatures in this office that were properly presented. This charge is based on a refusal of mine, made last August, to certify that all the signers to a certain document, some thirty in number, were American citizens. As the majority were not registered and had no papers of any kind to prove their citizenship, I offered to simply legalize their signatures, but that they did not want unless I

would

would also declare that they were American citizens. They took their document away and that was the last I heard of it till this complaint was received. I might say in this connection that when the opposing party brought a list of signatures to be authenticated they were treated in the same manner.

Trusting that the above will be considered by the Department "a full and clear explanation" of all the accusations made in the enclosures of your dispatch No. 76. of Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 1897

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant  
Edwin S. Wallace  
Consul.

Copy of the letter received by Consul Wallace  
from J. S. Koenigsberg of Denver Col.

Denver, Colorado, U. S. A.,

June, 25<sup>th</sup> 1897.

United States Consul,  
Jerusalem, Palestine.

Esteemed Sir:—

We hope that you will tolerate the liberty which we assume in addressing to you this communication in as much as it is entirely unimportant to you, but if you will give it a little attention and slight investigation of the matters which we subsequently refer to, you will confer a great favor upon a community composed of members who are enjoying the blessings of freedom and liberty, and notwithstanding the trackless ocean and boundless territory which separates us from the shrine of our religion, we yet hold out the hand of assistance and consolation to our downtrodden and poverty-stricken brethren.

We presume that you are aware of the fact that it is a universal custom among the Jews to solicit small contributions from Jewish families which are accumulated and sent to Jerusalem semi-annually in order to give a livelihood to the needy and deserving of our race.

It is but recently that we have been informed, both by letter and by persons that have been on the scene, that there exists a rupture among the Jews in your locality.

As to the truth or falsity of this report, it is the purpose of this letter to ascertain.

The condition of affairs as it is represented to us is as follows: That there seems to be an utter disregard on the part of the native Jews for the American arrivals. The Americans who come there actuated by pure motives of religious zeal, and go there that they may find a

place of refuge far away from the turbulent and excited scene of this worldly life. They feel satisfied when they can rest their bones in holy soil.

Now these American Jews are as worthy and deserving of aid as any one there.

It is the manifest intention of the persons who contribute to this fund that it should be equitably and justly divided among the needy and deserving Jews.

If the reports we received are true an entirely contrary condition prevails than what is expected by the contributors to this fund.

In virtue of the fact that there are thousands and thousands of dollars sent annually from this country alone, we believe that it would not be entirely inconsistent with your official duty, and if it is, we anyway strongly expect that you will confer upon us the favor of informing us of the true state of facts, and also.

which will result in the just division of the funds received.

What we earnestly and respectfully request of you, Honored Sir, is this: that you will kindly ascertain the true condition of affairs and to whether there is an equitable apportionment of the fund.

Also if you will inform us if Rabbi Joshua Loeb Gistkin is giving the matter of distributing the funds his personal attention. If we were aware that he is, our fears of an injustice being done, would be quieted, as we have great faith in the ability of the Rabbi.

Now Esteemed Sir, we cannot but hope that you will kindly investigate this matter, and inform us, and if you do so you will not only favor us, but you will also aid in bringing about a system under which the money will be divided justly if that is not now done. Firmly believing that you

will take an interest in this matter, and with profound respect for you,

We remain

Your obedient servants,

(Seal)

(Liquid) Rabbi D. Radinsky

(Seal)

" Yo Postawitz Pres.

(Seal)

" M. Alpert Pres.

" S. A. Kobey Rev.

" A. Goldfarb

" J. Ginsberg

" J. S. Koenigsberg

" S. Hombin

Address

J. S. Koenigsberg

2341. Arapahoe Street

Denver Col.

Copy of Letter of Consul Wallace to J.S. Koenigsberg, Denver, Col.

1.

Jerusalem, Palestine.

July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1897.

J.S. Koenigsberg, Esq.

2341 Arapahoe St.

Denver, Col.

Dear Sir:-

I have your favor of June 25<sup>th</sup> last signed by several members of the Hebrew community of Denver. It affords me pleasure to give you a reply that is based on positive knowledge concerning the condition of the American Jews residing in the Holy City.

First: Let me inform you that there is now and has been for nearly a year a condition of revolt against the methods of the Rabbis who have been receiving and pretending to distribute the charity funds which come from America for the poor Jews in Jerusalem. This revolt was begun quietly by several American Jewish gentlemen here - men who are not and have no need nor desire to become recipients of charity money. They simply desired

to protest against what they considered to be a misuse of money by the recognized rabbinical authorities, money that was contributed for the poor by good and charitable people, who if they knew for what purpose it was being used would cease to send more. Their protest brought down upon them the severest kind of censure and they were accused of a variety of evil motives.

I must tell you right here that the Rabbi Samuel Salant - Chief Rabbi of the Astenajim - is a man of power and greatly feared by most of the Jews here. This stand for liberty which the American Jews made came as a shock to him. He had always had his own way and for anybody to oppose him or his methods was a novel experience. He sought in many ways to compel the American Jews who had protested to submit. They refused and were driven by the condition in which they found themselves to organize a congregation of their own. They secured Rabbi Joshua Diskin as their Chief Rabbi

This move was startling to Rabbi Salant and his creatures as they knew the respect in which Rabbi Diskin was held both in Jerusalem and America. They sought to tempt Rabbi Diskin into withdrawing his favor from the new American congregation by making an attack upon his house. This was so serious that the Governor of Jerusalem was notified and sent police to disband the mob and I sent one of the consular guards who remained on duty <sup>for</sup> two days near the Rabbi's house. Whether Rabbi Salant knew this attack was to be made, I do not know. It was, however, organized in the synagogue over which he presides and the leaders were not reprimanded by him for their lawless conduct.

I was present when the American Jewish Congregation was formally organized and will simply say that with not more than two exceptions all the leading American Jews were present at the meeting and favored the organization. And the motive so announced was that they might have a synagogue of their own.

offered by their own people, and a charity  
 committee whose duty would be to see  
 that the needy deserving <sup>poor</sup> would benefit  
 by the funds sent from America for  
 charitable purposes. It was said plainly  
 in that meeting that the funds were more  
 than enough, if properly distributed, to  
 make every deserving American Jew here  
 comfortable. Now I know they are not  
 only not comfortable, but some are in great  
 poverty. If the new congregation will better  
 the condition of these unfortunates of  
 their own religion, <sup>then</sup> they deserve every  
 encouragement. In fact they are caring  
 for many of them now, borrowing money  
 in some cases to do so. Our American  
 Jews here have no wealthy men among  
 them, but they are making a noble  
 effort to care for the poor who have cast  
 in their lot with them.

As yet they have received very little  
 money from their co-religionists in  
 America, but they are living in hopes  
 and drawing on the future for present  
 needs, feeling sure that their American

brethren will not desert them.

The Jewish authorities whose word until  
 recently was law, evidently had little regard  
 for Americans as such and though I have  
 never heard from them myself any word  
 of disrespect, have been told of such by those  
 who have. I do know that certain poor  
 Americans have been treated with disrespect  
 by Rabbi Salant and his followers, and I  
 believe it was because they were Americans.

In the matter of dispensing of the charity  
 funds that will come from America, Rabbi  
 Diskin, a most venerable and worthy man, will  
 give his personal attention. The President of the  
 new congregation, Mr. A. Levy is a very intelligent  
 and reliable man, and universally respected here.  
<sup>He has the full confidence of Rabbi Diskin.</sup>  
 These two men are worthy of any confidence you may  
 wish to impose in them.

Hoping that the above will be satisfactory as an  
 indication of the condition of your co-religionists and  
 and of the worthiness of the cause of the New  
 American Congregation,

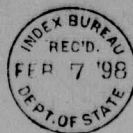
I am, Sir,

Yours very truly  
 (Signed) Edwin S. Wallace,  
 U.S. Consul

my.  
"Jerusalem"

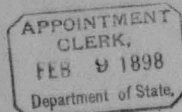
Andover, Mass., February 5, 1898.

*Ack etc etc  
Feb 7*



To the

Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.



Sir.

I am in receipt of your favor of January Twenty Seventh, namely, two letters and Oath and Bond. The Oath and Bond are herewith returned properly signed.

I inclose as requested, one dollar for passport.

My place of residence is Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts.

I have been appointed from Massachusetts.

I was born in Canton Centre, Hartford County, Connecticut.

I have resided ten years in Turkey, counting four different periods, in all ten years.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

Selah Merrill.

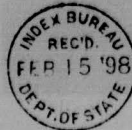
Selah Merrill



my

Jerusalem

file



Andover, Mass., Feb. 12, 1898.

To the Secretary of State  
Washington,  
D.C.

Sir.

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your letter  
No. 3, February 9, with inclosures;-

Special Passport,

Duplicate order to Mr. Wallace the present incumbent of the  
consulate at Jerusalem, Syria.

Also, by mail, one volume United States Consular Regulations, 1896.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

Selah Merrill.

*Selah Merrill*

Andover, Mass., February 9, 1898.



To the  
Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I am in receipt of your favor of January twenty  
seventh, and, two letters and Cash and Bond are  
herewith returned properly signed.

I inclose, as requested, a dollar for passport.

My place of residence is Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts.

I have been appointed from Massachusetts.

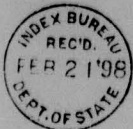
I was born in Canton Centre, Hartford County, Connecticut.

I have resided ten years in Turkey, counting four different

months, in all ten years.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

Selah Merrill.



Andover, Mass., February 18, 1898.

To the Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

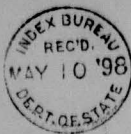
Sir.

In your letter of February 9 you request me to report in person at the State Department before leaving for my post. It is my intention so to report on Monday February the 21 st.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

Salah Merrill

Copy  
Index.



CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA.

CONSULAR BUREAU.  
2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY,  
To Treasury.  
APR 29 1898

Jerusalem, Palestine, April 27<sup>th</sup> 1898

Hon. Alvy A. Adee  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

To Treasury. Apr. 30, 98  
Ackd. May 7, 98.

Dear Sir:-

I am returning to America and will arrive at New York about June 1<sup>st</sup>. It would be a very great convenience to me and save me time and trouble if I could have my goods, which consist entirely of personal effects and some household articles, passed through the Custom house without being opened. I do not know whether it is customary to grant this favor to returning Consuls, but it was recently accorded to Consul General Shott and this has given me hope that by applying through you I could obtain it. If you can, will you kindly do this favor for me, addressing any communication on the matter to me c/o F. C. Clark, 111 Broadway, New York.

Yours very respectfully  
Edwin S. Wallace  
Consul

No 1

mf

Acc.  
June 6



Consulate of the United States  
Jerusalem, April 26, 1898

From Selah Merrill  
Consul

To Hon. Th. W. Cridder  
Asst. Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Subject:-  
Taking charge of office  
Registered at the  
U. S. Consulate General,  
Constantinople,  
Turkey.  
May 10. 1898.

No 1

Consulate of the United States  
Jerusalem, April 26, 1898

Hon. Th. W. Cridler

Assist. Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that my  
Firman having arrived from Constantinople, I  
have this day taken charge of this office and  
entered upon its duties.

The Inventory of the Archives and Consular  
property signed by my predecessor E. S. Wallace  
and myself is herewith inclosed, and likewise  
the Joint Certificate according to Consular  
Regulations, P.S. Form 5.

I remain, Respectfully

Your obedient servant

Abel Merrill

Enclosure

Inventory

Joint Certificate

Transit and Writing Certificate

# Inventory

of the archives and property belonging to the United States Consulate, at Jerusalem, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, 1898, when the office was handed over by Edwin S. Wallace, late United States Consul to Selah Merrill, his successor.

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- 1 Revised Statutes U.S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1878
- 1 Wheaton Elements International Law
- 4 Wharton's Law Digest
- 1 Treaties and Conventions between U.S. and other Powers 1776-1873
- 1 " " " " " 1870-1876
- 1 " " " " " 1876-1887
- 21 United States Statutes at large bound {
- 12 " " " " " unbound { 1789, 1880, 89, 90.
- 7 Index to Statutes
- 7 Diplomatic Correspondence 1863
- 10 " " " 1864
- 24 " " " 1865
- 3 " " " 1866
- 6 " " " 1867
- 9 " " " 1868
- 1 " " " and Consular Charts
- 10 Foreign Relations 1872, 77, 79, 81, 82, 87.
- 1 Trial John H. Surrat 1867 Vol I.
- 25 Commercial Relations, 1857, 79, 88
- 11 Reports Department Agriculture
- 2 U. S. Official Register, 1855, 1863
- Consular Reports, Commercial 1880-1896.



Lot of stationary, blank forms, inkstands, pens, pencils  
pen holders, sealing wax, gum arabic, Tape, tinns, paper punches,  
envelope reservoirs, pen racks, eyelets etc. etc. etc.

- 2 small tables, angular, different sizes
- 2 " " round " " one with marble top
- 5 Bases for books and papers
- 1 Letter case
- 3 Writing desks, old, one of them a standing desk
- 2 " " new
- 6 Armchairs one of them very old & broken
- 9 Chairs 4 of them outworn
- 2 Waste paper baskets
- 1 Letter scale
- 4 Rulers
- 1 Bag for post
- 3 Pair of scissors
- 1 Press seal
- 1 Press-copy book
- 1 Letter-press
- 6 Seals: wax, invoice, Arabic, English, heading letters, forwarding letters
- 2 Coat of Arms
- 1 Flagstaff and fixtures
- 2 Silvermaces for Consular Guards
- 2 " " badges
- 2 Office-bells
- 1 Divan
- 1 Bedstead, mattress, stools etc in guards room

- 3 Carpets
- 3 Mats
- 1 pair Curtains
- 3 Lamps
- 2 Stoves and fixtures
- 1 Clock
- 16 Flags. 7 of them old
- 1 Lantern

I hereby certify that I relinquish possession of the archives  
and property of the United States Consulate at Jerusalem on this 25<sup>th</sup>  
day of April, 1898

Edwin S. Wallace

I hereby certify that I received charge and possession of the  
archives and property of the United States Consulate at Jerusalem,  
according to the above and foregoing invoice, on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1898

Selah Merrill



70 ✓

Certificate from  
Edwin S. Wallace and Selah Merrill

Consulate of the United States  
Jerusalem, April 26, 1898

We hereby certify that on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1898  
the services of Edwin S. Wallace ceased and that he is entitled  
to his salary up to and including the 25<sup>th</sup> day of this month, and  
that the services of Selah Merrill began on this date, namely the 26<sup>th</sup>,  
he having received the archives and a full and complete inventory of  
the same signed by us jointly as required by Consular Regulations

Edwin S. Wallace  
Selah Merrill

I hereby certify that I have been actually and necessarily  
occupied in making the transit between my place of  
residence and posts of duty twenty seven days, having left  
New York on the fifth day of March 1898 and arrived at  
Jerusalem my post of duty on the 31st day March, 1898.

Cons. Reg. P. 563.

Selah Merrill

U. S. Consul

I hereby certify that I have been actually and necessarily  
delayed in taking charge of this office twenty five days,  
namely from April 1<sup>st</sup> 1898 to April 25<sup>th</sup> 1898 inclusive.

Cons. Reg. P. 563.

Selah Merrill

U. S. Consul.

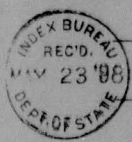
In Dispatch  
No. 1.

Joint Certificate  
Wallace  
Merrill

Copy.

No 2

File



Consulate of the United States  
Jerusalem, April 29, 1898

From Selah Merrill  
Consul

Ans. Jan. 30. 99.

To Th. W. Cridder  
Asst. Secretary of State  
Washington D. C.

Subject  
Visit of Consul General Dickinson  
Registered at the  
U. S. Consulate General,  
Constantinople,  
Turkey.  
May 10. 1898.

In duplicate  
No. 1.

Twin Collie  
Travel and  
Waiting Expenses  
Franklin  
A. S. Canal

No 2

Consulate of the United States  
Jerusalem, April 29, 1898

Hon. Th. W. Cridder  
Ass't. Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that  
Consul General Chas. M. Dickinson of Constan-  
tinople arrived here on April 6, and left for  
Beirut yesterday, the 28<sup>th</sup>.

He made an examination of the  
Spafford community matters, the cemetery matters,  
and also inspected this Consulate.

I remain

Respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
Selah Merrill  
Consul

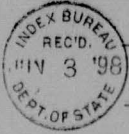
Copy # 3

Consular Bureau

Consulate of the United States

Jerusalem, Syria

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1898



From

Selah Merrill

Consul



To

Hon. Th. W. Cridler

Assistant Secretary of State

Washington, D. C.

Subject :-

Approved  
Cridler  
ans. June 8.

Change of Consular Office

Registered at the

U. S. Consulate General,

Constantinople,

Turkey.

May 19. 1898.

N<sup>o</sup> 3

Consulate of the United States  
Jerusalem, Syria  
May 11<sup>th</sup> 1898

Hon Th. W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Sir

In accordance with Consular Regulations F.66 I hereby give notice of a change in the office of this Consulate. All changes must be made at the Mohammedan New Year, which occurs this time on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May.

As no definite arrangements could be made earlier it was impossible to write to obtain the Departments permission before the present mail. The rooms now taken have been occupied as our Consulate for twenty five years. They are located on David Street, near the business centre, they have but one entrance, and are entirely controlled by the Consul. No part of these premises is to be used by the Consul as a residence or for any private purpose. The lease of the present house expires at

the

the Mohammedan New Year. The present Consulate,  
used also as a residence by my predecessor, was  
fifteen minutes walk outside the city and very  
inconveniently located for business. The expense of the  
new rooms will be about the same as has been charged  
for the present rooms during the past year, that is  
two hundred and forty dollars a year. The plan of these  
new rooms was furnished by myself to the Department  
some years since, but a new plan will be forwarded  
as soon as we are located.

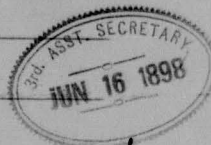
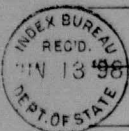
I remain, respectfully  
your obedient servant

Selah Merrill  
U.S. Consul

Copy

N<sup>o</sup> 4

United States Consulate  
Jersakow, Syria  
May 23, 1898



From

Selah Merrill, Consul

To

Department of State

Washington

Recd by telegraph  
and instructions  
June 17, 1898  
Copy to Gov. of Panama  
June 17, 1898

Subject

Case of Mrs. Clorinda A. Minor

Registered at the

U. S. Consulate General,  
Constantinople,  
Turkey.

May 31, 1898,

N<sup>o</sup> 4 Consulate of the United States  
Jerusalem, Syria, May 25, 1898.

Hon. Th. W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington

Sir

Allow me to refer to Despatch N<sup>o</sup> 99,  
of my predecessor, dated November 9, 1897 and the  
Department's answer to the same, N<sup>o</sup> 77, dated  
December 24, 1897, relative to land property at Jaffa  
belonging to Mrs. Clorinda A. Minor.

In general, in this country, it is very  
difficult to get any satisfaction for the heirs  
after the lapse of so many years, but in this case,  
through the present German owners who seem  
disposed to do what is reasonable in the matter,  
there is a prospect of recovering something. The  
circumstances are such that we may be called  
upon to act quickly, say within a limit of one or  
two weeks, in which case it would be impossible for  
us to communicate with the Department so as to  
receive a reply. It seems to me that the Consul

ought



ought to be authorized to act, if dispatch becomes necessary, according to his best judgment for the interest of the heirs should any be found, or if none are found, for the interests of the United States Government.

1. The power exists to ignore the claims of American citizens altogether, and this may be done.  
2. The present occupants (or owners) may offer a certain sum to have the case closed forever. Such offer, if made, may require immediate action. I need authority to act and hope the matter can be delayed until such authority has been received from the Department. If the Department finds that my action, without authorization, would not be legal, I would like to be so informed by telegraph upon receipt of this communication.

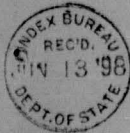
I remain,

respectfully

Your obedient servant

Salah Kerrill  
U.S. Consul

Day



CONSULATE BUREAU.  
NOTED.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, May 24, 1898.

Thomas W. Cridler Esquire  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

I inclose herewith Marriage Certificate of William Henry Kayat an American subject holding passport which is properly recorded in this Consulate.

I remain respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant

Salah Kerrill  
U.S. Consul

Enclosure:-  
Marriage certificate.

Ack by form June 23

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

Consulate of the United States,

Jerusalem, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1898

I, Selah Merrill, Consul of the United States

at Jerusalem, Palestine, do hereby certify that, on this twenty second day of May, A. D. 1898, at the U. S. Consulate

in the city of Jerusalem, Mr. William Henry Kayat aged 46 years, born in Jaffa and now

residing in Jerusalem, and Mrs. Hannah Ayoub aged 42 years, born in Jerusalem

and now residing in Jerusalem, were united in marriage before me,

and in my presence, by Rev. Joseph Eady, who is authorized by the laws of the Greek Catholic Church to perform such a ceremony.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the

Consulate at Jerusalem, Palestine, this twenty second day of May, A. D. 1898, and of the Independence of the United States

the One hundred and twenty second

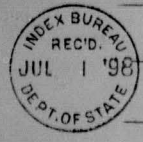
Selah Merrill  
United States Consul.



Ans Bureau

N<sup>o</sup> 5

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, June 6 1898



From Selah Merrill  
Consul



To  
Th. W. Cridder Esquire  
Asst. Secretary of State  
Washington

Subject:  
Herbert E. Clark, Vice Consul.

"Registered at"  
U. S. Consulate General,  
Constantinople,  
Turkey.

June 15<sup>th</sup> 1898.

for say that your  
deputes is conclusive  
Refr. Clark's fitness for  
the post office travel  
under his charter  
to at Consul  
ans. July 8.

N<sup>o</sup> 5

Consulate of the United States  
Jerusalem, June 6, 1898

Th. W. Cridler Esquire

Assistant Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I am in receipt of your despatch N<sup>o</sup> 4, dated May 11, 1898, with copy of an anonymous communication and three printed slips inclosed, and in reply would say, (1) That our Vice Consul Mr. Herbert E. Clark is not the owner of the Clark Tourist Company, nor is he connected with it as a partner; his relation to it is that of an employe at a fixed salary. (2) Mr. Clark did not write the slips in question nor introduce his name into the only one of them in which it occurs, nor does he dictate or direct in any way what advertisements shall be published by the firm in New York. (3) Mr. Clark does not now and never has used his official position as Vice Consul to further in any manner his private business interests. Unless directly questioned about it he never even mentions the fact that he holds such a position. (4) The author of the anonymous communication, by his ignorance of

grammar, makes it difficult for me to understand at whom his censure is aimed, but I should think it was meant for Mr. E. S. Wallace whose "official endorsement" was not of our Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark but of Mr. Frank C. Clark of No. 111 Broadway New York. There certainly does not seem to be any clear reference in the communication to our Vice Consul.

As to Mr. Clark's fitness for the official position he now fills "very much might be said. (1) I do not believe that in the entire consular service of the United States in Turkey there can be found a man of more sterling integrity than our present Vice Consul in Jerusalem. (2) In manner, language, personal habits, and self control he is absolutely above reproach. (3) He is devotedly loyal to the United States Government. (4) For many years he was sole manager of the business of Thomas Cook & Son in Palestine, an important, responsible, and very trying position which he filled to the entire satisfaction of the powerful and exacting firm which he represented. Such a position required superior business qualifications which Mr. Clark showed that he possessed. (5) Mr. Clark is straightforward in all his dealings with others and scrupulously honest to the utmost farthing. (6) From a poor, fatherless boy Mr. Clark has by his energy, honesty, industry, and natural intelligence risen through many hardships

to his present enviable position in the esteem of the people of this community, and in every way I consider him a man of whom our country and especially the United States Consular Service may well be proud.

I remain, respectfully

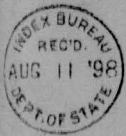
Your obedient servant

Isiah Merrill

U. S. Consul

FILE

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, July 19, 1898.



Selah Merrill, Consul

to

Thomas W. Cridler

Third Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Subject, -

Acknowledging Telegraphic Code and Dep't Lett

*Registered at the*

U. S. Consulate General,  
Constantinople,  
Turkey.

*July 27. 1898.*

o United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, July 19, 1898.

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler

Third Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I have this day received from United States  
despatch Agent Stevens in London one copy Slater's Tele-  
graphic Code, third edition 1888, which, together with "confi-  
dential" letter of Department of State dated June 15,  
1898, respecting the care and use of this Code, is hereby  
acknowledged.

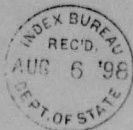
I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

*Salah Merrill*

U.S. Consul

CR



Jerusalem  
247 West 8th Street

Erie, Pa. Aug. 5th 1898

Received  
Aug. 5/98



The Honorable  
The Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

ms. Jan. 30. 99

Sir:-

I have the honor to ask you whether the report of Consul-General Dickinson, of Constantinople, relative to his examination of the charges made against me by the Spofford Colony of Jerusalem, has been received by the Department. If possible I should like to be advised as to the nature of the Consul-General's report in so far as it related to me, as the charges made were of a serious nature.

Believing that you will recognize my request as being legitimate.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant  
Edwin S. Wallace  
late Consul in Jerusalem



*Personal  
Cons.  
H.C.*



*✓ Alex. Oct 4/98  
To Mr. Roth.  
Cameron, Oct 4/98*

Jerusalem, Syria, September 9, 1898.

Dear Mr. Adler

Yours of August 16 with Cameron inclosure is at hand. I regret that your time must be wasted over such a matter, and it is no pleasure to me, write a long letter upon a disagreeable subject.

When I came back to Jerusalem in the spring of 1891 Mr. Ben Oliei was living here having lived previously two or three years in this country, namely, at Jaffa. During 1891 and 1892 I saw him many times, that is I passed him on the street and by invitation was at his house three and possibly four times. As early as the spring or summer of 1892 the English residents had dropped this man entirely, that is they never called upon him and had no intercourse with him.

I soon learned that there was a cloud of some kind resting upon his history and conduct. It was openly alleged that he was guilty of misappropriating funds; that while in Jaffa he was not a missionary but a money lender at exorbitant rates of interest, and that in consequence of questions arising out of this business he was frequently having cases in court.

After the spring of 1892 I had nothing whatever to do with this man. I never at any time had any extended conversation with him; never had any unpleasant words with him, not even any slight misunderstanding and least of all any quarrel. Nothing of the kind was ever true at any time or in any sense.

When I returned early in the present year I resolved to keep aloof from this person entirely and till to day I have not met him; I have seen him pass on the street a few times, but I have not spoken to him or to any of his family and I do not intend to. He is never seen in society, and is never invited to anybody's house. This is not because he claims to be a missionary, not because he is a Jew by birth, not because he is a humble person, but because the English and foreign residents here regard him as a fraud.

He was born a Jew and claims Gibraltar as his native place and therefore claims to be a British subject. In documents published he claims to have originated in Tunis or Algiers. The English consul tells me that it is very doubtful if he could establish his right to be regarded as a British subject.

What claim has this person upon me? What have I to do with him? Why should I go out of my way to recognize him? What difference does it make to him whether I like him or do not like him?—I suppose the man is angry at me because I do not notice him.

Jerusalem is a small place and the foreign population is not large. I know all the Protestant missionaries and teachers and hear a great deal about their work. Mr. Ben Oliei has a house and a large sign on it "Union Mission House",—and he himself claims in letters and

papers that have been printed in America or England that he has a mission and a school; but I have never heard from any of the English residents here that he had either a mission or a school, or that any such work was carried on by him. Were it a fact, considering the limited number of English people here, they would be likely to hear of it. It is universally asserted that he has neither mission nor school. Here is a discrepancy between his claims and the testimony of residents of the city where everything of the school or mission character is well known.

I should say that the few times that I was at his house as I have explained, I never heard of any school or mission work being carried on by him.

Mr. Ben Oriel has claimed in print that his was "the only mission to the Jews". I see no object in his stating such a patent falsehood since he came to this country (as I have said) late in the 80s and the London Jews Society has been established here for nearly fifty years.

He has stated in print that he never loaned money for interest. But the papers are in the hands of the British consul showing that in one instance Ben Oriel loaned one hundred and fifty Napoleons; the note and the smaller notes for fifteen Napoleons interest every year; also the original ~~which is~~ document which is in Ben Oriel's hand writing stating that the interest on this note was to be ten per cent per annum.

An English lady is living in Jerusalem now, who was induced by Ben Oriel in 1892 to come out here and "take charge of his children's hospital". She came but found no hospital, no provisions of any kind for a hospital, not even a room assigned for such a purpose, and not a child around the premises anywhere except Ben Oriel's own children. The English people here took the young lady, took care of her and provided something for her to do. This was a case of downright fraud.

This man was working for a certain English society in Algiers but after a time was dropped. The English consul here says that in the English consulate in Algiers there are documents and records very damaging to Ben Oriel's character.

To my certain knowledge this man has at different times applied to different missionary bodies in Scotland, England, Ireland, Australia, Canada, and America, to be taken up by them, and in every case after examination they have all refused to have anything to do with him.

Ben Oriel is backed by no society, and hence is obliged to keep an agent in the field soliciting funds for his support. His family is large, and a considerable sum is required to keep them going. His agent, I should say, is his eldest daughter who is in America pleading for her father, - "his wonderful work" "in the only mission to the Jews in Jerusalem".

( 3 )

Ben Oliel rather enjoys fighting. The English consul's wife once told Mrs. Ben Oliel, 'if you are doing mission work your work will soon show for itself, and you will live down anything that may be said against you'. That is not to the mind of the Ben Oliels; if a fly lights on their reputation they go for it. Our American missionaries in Beirut are busy with their legitimate work. Quite likely mean things are said about them. These they do not mind, they have no time for them, but go on faithfully with their duties and their work prospers and they are very highly respected. The same is true of the English missionaries in Jerusalem. Mr. Ben Oliel's duties are such that he always has plenty of time, if he hears that some one has said something unpleasant about him, to drop his missionary tools and give chase to the man or woman who he imagines has blackened his reputation.

He has a reason for this; if his real reputation gets loose and gets to certain benevolent (say gullible) people in England and America he is afraid that his income (say living for his family) will be cut off.

Mr. Cameron's letter being of ~~the~~ threatening type does not alarm me. 'The gentlemen behind Mr. B.', I do not think a formidable body. I don't doubt their existence. If Mr. Cameron is so deeply interested in Jerusalem matters as would seem, it is singular that he did not hear of my appointment for more than six months, namely, January to August. He says, - 'this thing has gone on for years until forbearance ceases to be a virtue'. Why, the fact is that for more than four years I have scarcely mentioned Ben Oliel's name.

This letter of Mr. Cameron's has the peculiar Spaffordite style of attack, - vague but violent assertion accompanied by indefinite threats, - and I half suspect that there may be some Spaffordite influence behind it. The charge that Mr. Wallace was removed for cause is their charge. They made the same charge about me and repeated it many times.

Our Minister Mr. Angell had some experience with the Reverend Ben when he was here last spring, and Mr. Ben tried to secure an interview with consul General Dickinson, in which I think he did not succeed. John Dickson, H.B.M. Consul here, knows much about Ben Oliel. E.S.W. Wallace my predecessor, now of Erie, Pa., Rev. A. Hastings Kelk of Jerusalem, Rev. J. Longley Hall of Jerusalem, T.J. Alley of Jerusalem, Moses Tannus of Jaffa, and a good many other people of this region know Mr. Ben Oliel thoroughly.

I may misjudge myself entirely but I do not think I am a persecutor. On the contrary I think I am the one that is persecuted. I wonder if I ought to write some threatening letters? Ben Oliel has some testimonials from certain persons who have met him casually here or elsewhere, which are favorable; but have they much weight when the unanimous testimony of the residents of Jerusalem is on the other side!

( 4 )

My letter is long and I will not continue, although there are many things besides what I have said. I have tried to show all the connection I ever had with this man and why I can have nothing what ever to do with him.

I wish you could see the man, -one glance would give you the points of his character.

Can't you come to Jerusalem? You would get cranked-up in a way that you do not dream of.

Since my return I have been as polite as possible to the Spaffordites the few times they have come to the office for a little business; I thought they were trying to take the friendly tack, but last week the demon fight got the upper hand of them and four able bodied men came to the office and said, -"You have been talking about our house and we have come to tell you that if you do n't stop it we will punish you". I immediately called in our two guards and said, -"gentlemen, you have threatened me and you will now go out of this office". They apologized at once. I asked who told them? They replied, -"We do not know the names of the persons". I said, -"when you make charges against me please have names, dates, and specifications. Good mornig". I left them and they went away. They wanted to frighten me. -They have a notion that they must fight the consul, -they are queer people.

My dear Mr. Cridler, -I am trying to speak and act with the utmost discretion so as to prevent the Department of State being annoyed by these wonderful people of Jerusalem.

With kind regards

yours sincerely

Selah Merrill.

*Selah Merrill*

No.6.

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria,

September 19, 1898.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Thos. W. Cridler

Third Assistant Secretary.



SUBJECT

Estates of Meyer and Zibiah Nachtigal

*See letter to Consul  
Wallace 12/2/98.*

No 6

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria,  
September 19, 1898.

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler  
Third Assistant Secretary  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.-

Referring to your despatch No. 10, August 26, 1898, I make the following report relative to the two Nachtigal estates concerning which you desire information.

Meyer Nachtigal died August 13, 1893 leaving as heirs two children in America, and a widow and one minor child in this city. This child was named Zibiah, was about one year old at the time of its father's death, and died July 16, 1895.

This Zibiah appears later in the "Zibiah Nachtigal Estate".

Of the death of Meyer Nachtigal I duly informed the Department of State in despatch No. 55, August 16, 1893. I appointed persons to make an inventory of the property of the deceased, which was returned and placed on file August 21, 1893. I appointed also a committee of six American citizens personally known to me, to see what provision or allowance should be made to the widow for the temporary maintenance of the child Zibiah; their report is dated November 1, 1893.

My connection with this business ceased about this time as my successor had been appointed and the entire matter went over into his hands.

For both the Meyer and the Zibiah Nachtigal estates Mr. Wallace was administrator, but I find no document showing by what authority he so acted. There are a large number of papers and documents on file in this office relating to these estates and the settlement of them.

Mr. Wallace in a letter, No. 24, dated May 24, 1894, to the local Governor, notified him that he had given Gabriel Farwagi, the dragoman or interpreter of this consulate, power of attorney to act for the Meyer Nachtigal estate and requested him to see that proper papers were issued confirming Farwagi in this position. On the same date, in letter No. 25, Mr. Wallace notified the Governor that he had appointed Gabriel Farwagi "administrator with power of attorney," of the estate or property of the minor child Zibiah Nachtigal, and requested that he be confirmed by the proper documents as in the case of Meyer Nachtigal.

These permissions or recognitions were granted.  
Farwagi was not obliged to give bonds.

Meyer Nachtigal's estate amounted to 37,043.00 francs.

722 Oct 1/94  
From the pretty full accounts on our books I have summarized amounts as follows:--

Burial expenses and temporary maintenance of the child. . . . .	2,460.00
Widow's marriage dower . . . . .	5,000.00
"Official fees and other expenses preparatory to the settlement of the estate and transferring property" . . . . .	993.65
Government tax 5 p c . . . . .	1,727.15
Attorney Farwagi's fees . . . . .	1,852.10
Private commission of consul for money deposited with him, 2pc . . . . .	527.20
Debts and other expenses . . . . .	902.95
Total	13,463.05

Estate 37,043.00 less Total as above, there remains 23,579.95

This amount was divided into three parts, two to heirs in America, and one portion to the child Zibiah as follows:--

Zibiah Nachtigal's estate, real property	5,400.00
money	2,460.32

Total (as copied from the books) 7,860.32

This person died, as stated, July 16, 1895.

The cash part of her estate never passed out of Mr. Wallace's hands, - he was her administrator.

Sundry payments were made by Mr. Wallace as follows;

Burial and medical expenses	309.00
Government tax on gross amount	123.02
Private depository commission of consul. . . . .	49.20
Total	481.22

Cash 2,460.32 less Total as above leaves balance for Zibiah's heirs . . . . . 1,979.10.

Of this amount two parts went to heirs in America and one part to the mother in Jerusalem.

By letter from the Department of State directing Mr. Wallace to pay the respective amounts to the heirs in America or their legal representative, I should judge that those amounts were paid late in the year 1896 or early in the following year. I do not find the receipts. The amount to the mother was paid, as per receipt on file, February 10, 1898.

It will be noticed that Zibiah's portion of her father's estate paid Government tax, Attorney's fees, and Consul's depository fees before it actually became her property; and that two years later before it went out of the administrator's hands it paid the Government tax and the consul's depository fees a second time. The Attorney Farwagi's fees were not paid a second time because this person had **ceased** to be an employee of the consulate early in 1895, some months before Zibiah died.

Respectfully,  
*Salah Merrill*  
U.S. Consul

# General account of the estate of Meyer Nachtigal ended

Cash found among articles of deceased		840	oo	
Note on Isaac Lipkin, due October 1893		2160	oo	Amount paid to the widow, Mrs. Sarah Nachtigal during his life
" Leizer Ratkowsky " July 4, 1894.		2000	oo	Expenses on deceased for Burial Society
Mortgage on property of Shalom Konstoroom, deceased, due August 1, 1893				Amount paid to the widow towards the support of at frs. 20 a week, as per decision of the 1894
Interest on same for one year, amounting to frs. 640, having been cancelled by decision of the Consul on account of the preceding death of the said Konstoroom		8000	oo	Amount paid for clothings for the child during
Mortgage on property of Moses Aaron Lewin, due April 5, 1896, released June 26, 1894.	10000	oo		Official fees and expenses preparatory to settlement
Note for interest on same for six months, due February 9, 1894	400	oo		" " " " on having property transferred
Further interest on same from February 9, 1894, to June 26, 1894, when mortgage was released	303	oo	10703	oo
Mortgage on property of Hyman Schlossberg, due July 29, 1894, released July 4, 1894.			2160	oo
Mortgage on property of Asher Blum due April 5, 1896, released July 4, 1894.	3000	oo		" " " " " " " "
Note for interest on same for six months, due October 5, 1893.	120	oo		" " " " " " " "
" " " " " " " " April 5, 1894.	120	oo		" " " " " " " "
Further interest on same from April 5, 1894 to July 4, 1894, when mortgage was released	40	oo	3280	oo
Note on Simon Nachtigal, due October 2, 1890, \$500 <sup>00</sup> =			2500	oo
Value of property transferred & sold to the surviving minor child, Napoleon D <sup>r</sup> 270-			5400	oo
Total frs.			37043	oo

Remark: Original price of the property was Nap. D<sup>r</sup> 360, value of real estate has since been considerably reduced, the present appraisal by experts is as above.

Remark: Above vouchers are on file in the U.S.



estate of Meyer Nachtigal ended August 30. 1894.

August 1, 1893 been cancelled the said Konstorom red June 26, 1894.	10000	8000	Amount paid to the widow, Mrs. Sarah Nachtigal towards settling debts of the deceased contracted during his life as per Voucher N <sup>o</sup> 1, Expenses on deceased for Burial Society " " " " 2, Amount paid to the widow towards the support of the child pending the settlement of the estate at frs. 20 a week, as per decision of the Consul, being from November 14, 1893 to August 30 1894 as per Vouchers N <sup>os</sup> 3 to 23	840	400 00 ✓	1200 00 ✓
mortgage was released 4, 1894.	400	10703	Amount paid for clothings for the child during said period " " " " 24	20	860 00 ✓	623 95
1894.	303	2160	Official fees and expenses preparatory to settlement of the estate " " " " on having property transferred to the names of the heirs		169 15	15 30
mortgage was released	3000	3280	" " " " " " " " Hyman Schlosberg including of consideration to party for paying before due		28 00	480 00
1894.	120	2500	" " " " " " " " Moses Aaron duzin, including of consideration to party for paying before due, as per voucher N <sup>o</sup> 25		320 00	200 55
mortgage was released	120	5400	" " " " " " " " Asher Blum, including of consideration to party for paying before due as per voucher N <sup>o</sup> 26		21 10	1852 15 ✓
1894.	40		" " " " " " " " transferring property to the name of the child exclusively on part of the heirs		37 50	21 10
1894.	40		" " " " " " " " for attendance of Consular employe at the death of the late Nachtigal		21 10	1852 15 ✓
1894.	40		Divers small expenses		21 10	527 20 ✓
1894.	40		Attorney's Commission on total amount of Credit frs. 37043 @ 5%		21 10	1515 46
1894.	40		Commission on money deposited with the Consul Hon. Edwin J. Wallace, being frs. 26360.00 at the rate of 2% as per Consular Rules		21 10	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Government fee on the net proceeds of the estate, exclusive of expenses, frs. 30308.00 @ 5%		21 10	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Amount paid to the surviving widow, Mrs. Sarah Nachtigal, as per her marriage contract dated Aug. 19, 1890		21 10	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Balance for delivery to heirs frs. 23792.70 which is as follows :-		21 10	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Amount due to Simon Nachtigal in the estate frs. 7930.90		21 10	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Deducting note for \$500 = frs. 2500.00 due by him to the estate		21 10	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Balance in cash due to Simon Nachtigal	5430	90	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Amount due to Beila Lipsky in the estate	7930	90	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Amount due to Libiah Nachtigal in the estate frs. 7930.90		21 10	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Deducting value of property transferred to her name 5400.00		21 10	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Balance in cash due to Libiah Nachtigal	2530	90	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Note for \$500 to be returned to Simon Nachtigal	2500	90	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Property transferred to Libiah Nachtigal	5400	90	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Total frs.	5400	90	5000 ✓
1894.	40		Total frs.	5400	90	5000 ✓

Total frs. 37043 00

Total frs. 37043 00

Remark: Above vouchers are on file in the U. S. Consulate at Jerusalem



was released	40	3280	
		2500	
270-		5400	
Total francs.		37043	00

Moses Aaron Eisen, including of consideration to party for paying before due, as per voucher N <sup>o</sup> 25			480	00
" " " " " " " " " Asher Blum, including of consideration to party for paying before due as per voucher N <sup>o</sup> 26			320	00
" " " " " " " " " transferring property to the name of the child exclusively on part of the heirs			200	55
" " " " " " " " " for attendance of Consular employee at the death of the late Nachtigal			37	50
Divers small expenses			21	10
Attorney's Commission on total amount of Credit francs. 37043 @ 5%			1852	15
Commission on money deposited with the Consul Hon. Edwin J. Wallace, being francs. 26360.00 at the rate of 2% as per Consular Rules			527	20
Government fee on the net proceeds of the estate, exclusive of expenses, francs. 30308 1/2 @ 5%			1515	40
Amount paid to the surviving widow, Mrs. Sarah Nachtigal, as per her marriage contract dated Aug. 19, 1890			5000	
Balance for delivery to heirs francs. 23792.70 which is as follows:-				
Amount due to Simon Nachtigal in the estate	francs. 7930.90			
Deducting note for \$500 = francs. 2500 due by him to the estate	<u>2500.00</u>			
Balance in cash due to Simon Nachtigal		5430	90	
Amount due to Beila Lipsky in the estate		7930	90	
Amount due to Libiah Nachtigal in the estate	francs. 7930.90			
Deducting value of property transferred to her name	<u>5400.00</u>			
Balance in cash due to Libiah Nachtigal		2530	90	
Note for \$500 to be returned to Simon Nachtigal		2500		
Property transferred to Libiah Nachtigal		5400		
			23792	70
			37043	00
		Total francs.		

Remark: Above vouchers are on file in the U.S. Consulate at Jerusalem

Attorney of the estate  
of Meyer Nachtigal.  
Gabriel V. Farway

since

*Conf*

No.7.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria,  
September 20, 1898.



*See letter to Ex Consul  
Wallace 12/2 '98.*

Selah Merrill, Consul,  
To  
Thos. W. Cridler  
Third Assistant Secretary.

Subject

Estate of Shalom Kanstoroom and Franklin Letter

No 7

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria,  
September 20, 1898.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Third Assistant Secretary  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.-

Your Despatch No. 10, August 26, 1898, asks for information relative to the Shalom Kanstoroom estate and I herewith lay before you such facts as are at my command.

Mr. Kanstoroom died in Beirut, Syria, July 21, 1893, and his death was duly reported to the Department of State from the consulate in that place. An inventory of the personal effects with him at the time of his death was made out and forwarded to this consulate since Mr. Kanstoroom's residence was Jerusalem.

Mr. Kanstoroom left a Will signed in the U.S. Consulate Beirut and dated July 7, 1893. He left four heirs, a widow, and three daughters, all residing in Jerusalem. He left a small amount of personal property, furniture, jewelry, &c., of very little value, which he directed should be divided equally between his wife and children. He left no money, nothing for his family to live upon, except three pieces of real estate heavily mortgaged.

In his Will he named Selah Merrill the U.S. Consul in Jerusalem or any of his successors in that office, as his Executor. I did not act in that capacity and desiring to be mixed as little as possible with the settlement of the estate I simply did nothing. Before anything needed to be done, however, my successor was appointed and he has acted as executor of this estate.

When Mr. Wallace turned over this office to me, April 26, 1898, he left a "Statement of Account as Executor with estate of Shalom Kanstoroom". In this the first entry is May 11, 1894 and the last June 26, 1895. I will summarize as follows:-

Paid personal debts . . . . .	2,981.00
Taxes . . . . .	600.00
Kanstoroom's brother Isaac . . . . .	1,400.00
Three mortgages 8000, 3000, 2000, . . . . .	13,000.00
The widow of Kanstoroom . . . . .	1,320.00
Turkish court expenses . . . . .	760.00
Sundry items . . . . .	278.40
Consul's depository fees on 22090.. . . .	441.80
" Administration fees on estate . . . . .	
" 38090 francs" . . . . .	1,257.80 . .
	-----
Total paid . . . . .	22,090.00

Estate . . . . . 38,090.00  
 Less above Total . . . . . 22,090.00  
 -----  
 Balance real estate (heavily  
 mortgaged) . . . . . 16,000.00 francs.

As to M.J. Franklin's statement, forming the inclosure to your Despatch, respecting the Frutiger Bank and Mr. Wallace, I know that Mr. Kanstoroom was in the service of said Frutiger and that there was a long unsettled account between them. Kanstoroom was Frutiger's agent for buying and selling land for several years previous to Kanstoroom's death.

The Kanstoroom family claimed that Frutiger owed them; they had a lot of documents which were put into the hands of a lawyer and their case, it was alleged, was a strong one for a large amount. Unfortunately the lawyer died suddenly and the papers were scattered.

On the other hand the Frutiger Bank claimed that Kanstoroom owed them 5,000 francs. They presented their claim through the German Consulate <sup>two or more times,</sup> and ~~both~~ times were given by Mr. Wallace the opportunity of an examination in this consulate towards substantiating their claim, but they did not avail themselves of this offer and have not done so to this day, consequently their claim against the Kanstoroom estate has never been proved.

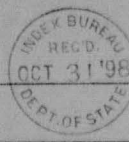
The statement in Franklin's letter that "the Frutiger Bank had presented and proved its claim" has no foundation in fact.

The Kanstoroom heirs have not appeared before me or made any claim as to their business since I took over the office from Mr. Wallace, and the same is true of Franklin and likewise of the representative of the insolvent Frutiger Bank.

Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant

*Salah Merrill*  
 U.S. Consul.

*one H.C.*



CONSULAT BUREAU.  
 NOTED

United States Consulate  
 Jerusalem, Syria,  
 September 21, 1898.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
 Third Assistant Secretary  
 Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I inclose herewith Marriage Certificate of Solomon Levy, dated September 13, 1898, who has a passport and is duly recorded in this Consulate as a naturalized American citizen.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Salah Merrill*  
 U.S. Consul.

*1. Marriage Certificate*

CONSULAR BUREAU.  
NOTED

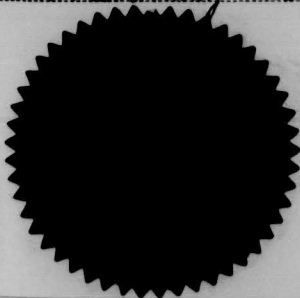
CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

Consulate of the United States,

*Jerusalem, September 13, 1898*

I, *Selah Merrill*, Consul of the United States  
 at *Jerusalem, Syria*, do hereby certify that, on the *eleventh*  
 day of *September*, A. D. 1898, at *Jerusalem*  
 in the city of \_\_\_\_\_, *Solomon Levy*  
 aged *fifty one* years, born in *Russia, naturalized Am. citizen* and now  
 residing in *Jerusalem*, and *Sarah Weinstein*  
 aged *thirty three* years, born in *Jerusalem*  
 and now residing in *Jerusalem*, were united in marriage before me,  
 and in my presence, by *Rabbi Ruben Margolis*, who is authorized  
 by the laws of *Turkey* to perform such a ceremony.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the  
 Consulate at *Jerusalem, Syria*, this *thirteenth*  
 day of *September*, A. D. 1898, and of the Independence of the United States  
 the *one hundred & twenty third*



*Selah Merrill*  
 Consul.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

No. 8.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, October 3, 1898.



Selah Merrill, consul,  
to  
Thos. W. Cridler,  
Third Assistant Secretary.

Subject

Management of Estates of American Citizens  
deceased in Jerusalem



No. 8.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria,  
October 3, 1898.

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler  
Third Assistant Secretary  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.-

Thinking that, possibly, the Department might have some apprehension as to my action and methods in connection with the estates of American citizens deceased in Jerusalem, it has seemed to me proper, especially since I prepared and forwarded at the Department's request, despatches Nos. 6 and 7 dated respectively September 19 and 20, 1898, relative to the estates of Meyer and Zibiah Nachtigal, and that of Shalom Kanstoroom, that I should state that since my first assumption of the duties of this Consulate in 1882, I have assisted so far as "probate jurisdiction" allowed, see Cons. Reg. Par. 416, in settling several such estates, and that I have never received any compensation for such services either in the nature of "depository fees", "attorney's fees", or of any other name or description whatsoever. Furthermore, although more than once appointed, I have never acted as executor of such estates, or administrator, nor have I acted in such capacity under power of attorney from the heirs. I have never done anything that would in any way compromise my probate jurisdiction in such cases. This statement is made of my own accord and not at the Department's request.

Respectfully

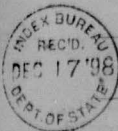
*Selah Merrill, U.S. Consul*

en

*Copy*

*Cons Bureau*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria,  
November 12, 1898.



Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary  
Washington, D.C.

*see by subject  
done 12/24 '98*



Sir,

I have the honor to make the following  
report of

The Visit of The German Emperor to Palestine.

The Emperor and Empress came from Constantinople on their private yacht the "Hohenzollern" accompanied by the war vessels Hela and Hertha, landed at Haifa on Tuesday the 25 th of October and came by land to Jerusalem where they arrived on Saturday the 29 th. The journey from Haifa to Jaffa was very difficult occupying two long days; the road was almost impassable, the heat very oppressive, and twenty horses died in the way. To reach Jerusalem two more days were required, but the road was good.

The preparations for his coming were extensive and most of them quite unnecessary; old historical monuments were ruthlessly destroyed by the Turks; their use of yellow and black paint disfigured some of the best buildings connected with the Mosque of Omar; many picturesque objects were removed or destroyed; but the city was extensively decorated and looked wholly unlike Jerusalem as it is known to residents here. The Emperor remarked, - "they have made Jerusalem altogether too modern for me; I wish I could have seen it as it was".

The Emperor sent his private "Barracks" from Berlin packed in immense cases. It was a long house-like structure, eighty feet long, and contained two suites of rooms, one for the Emperor and the other for the Empress. About the Barracks forming what was known as The Emperor's Camp, were over one hundred tents for the members of his suite. A few figures will give the best idea of the magnitude of the affair:-

In the suites of the Emperor and Empress there were 137 persons; 127 Turkish officials from Constantinople, some of them of high rank; 200 officers and sailors from the war vessels and the yacht; 42 persons in the Emperor's private orchestra or band; 200 cooks, waiters, and servants; 90 coachmen; 30 special dragomans; 190 muleteers; 500 cavalry from Constantinople; 2 regiments of infantry from this country; a dozen special policemen from Berlin; a number, the exact number was not made public, of special German and Turkish detectives; and upwards of 1000 visitors the great majority of whom were Germans requiring three steamers to bring them

to Jaffa. There were also 90 carriages, 300 ~~hundred~~ horses for the carriages, and 1200 horses and mules besides.

It was no small matter to provide for such a multitude and especially to obtain water for the animals, for the time was at the end of the dry season of six months duration and cistern water was scarce and could be bought only at an exorbitant price. The matter of furnishing tents, animals, men, and food was in the hands of Thomas Cook & Son the well known tourist company of London.

On Saturday October 29, the Emperor and Empress gave a reception at the house of the German consul to the Consular Body including the Consular ladies, and to the chief ecclesiastical officers of the Greek, Latin, Armenian, and other churches. Sunday Oct. 30, the Royal Party attended divine service in the German church in Bethlehem and opened there a new German Orphan Asylum. On Monday Oct. 31 st, known as "Luther's Day, the Church of the Redeemer was dedicated with very imposing and impressive exercises, the Emperor himself making an earnest address. This church has just been completed in that part of Jerusalem known as The Muristan which was given by the Sultan to the Crown Prince Friedrich of Prussia on his visit to this city in 1869, and is the finest church in Jerusalem.

Besides this, and the German church and orphanage in Bethlehem, the Germans have in Jerusalem a large Orphanage for Syrian Boys, a similar establishment known as "Talitha Kumi" for native girls, a Lying-in Hospital for poor Women, and the Leper Hospital, one of the most worthy charities in the city, is under their care. They have also a large General Hospital. This vast charitable and educational work is carried on chiefly by the Kaiserswerth Deaconesses which noble organization has establishments in Cairo, Alexandria, Smyrna, and Beirut. The Germans have four flourishing and prosperous colonies, at Jerusalem, Jaffa, Sarona one mile north of Jaffa, and at Haifa. The number of souls is in all about 2,000, a larger number than all the citizens of all the other foreign nations combined. These colonists are healthy and industrious, they have excellent churches and schools, and they illustrate how this neglected country can be renovated and made beautiful and rich by intelligent labor.

The Emperor obtained from the Sultan a piece of ground situated on Mount Zion, which he transferred at once to the representative of the Pope for the exclusive use of his Majesty's German Catholic subjects, a few of whom are in Jerusalem, as a place of burial. All Catholics of whatever nationality, residing in Jerusalem or Palestine, have hitherto been under the

protection of France, but this act of the Emperor of Germany shows that so far as his own Catholic subjects are concerned he intends to protect and provide for them himself. It is understood here to be a blow at French supremacy.

The Emperor and Empress were constantly busy in sight seeing, visiting churches, schools, colonies, hospitals, and orphanages that belong to the Germans. Without being partisan the Emperor showed that he was a stalwart supporter of the great principles and doctrines of Protestantism, and at the same time he conducted himself in such a manner as to make a most favorable impression upon all classes.

The Sultan sent as his special representatives Djevad Pasha who is alleged to have <sup>been</sup> connected with the recent massacres in Crete, and Nassim Pasha, now Wali of Damascus, who is alleged to have been deeply implicated in the Armenian massacres; but it is a satisfaction to know that the Emperor did not encourage their attentions, and on two occasions treated them with noticeable coolness.

Notice was sent by the Government, sometime before the Emperor's arrival, to all the consuls to exercise great vigilance in regard to suspected characters and to assist in removing them from the country. A few Italians only were arrested and probably these did not deserve it.

The Emperor's visit to Egypt was abandoned, there is little doubt, for political reasons.

On Friday November 4 th the Royal Party left by train for Jaffa, thence by their own yacht to Beirut, from which place they were to visit Damascus, and on the 11 th of November they left Beirut again for Europe.

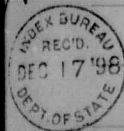
*Selah Merrill*

*U. S. Consul*

Solicitor

No. 9.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, November 18, 1898.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

Ans. 12/24.98.  
" Jan 26.99.



See his No. 15.

Subject

Minor Property at Jaffa

SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

DEC 27 1898

ST. SECRETARY

1898

*W. W. Cridler*

*to rotate*

*in the Consul's  
in the Consul's  
at*

*No 9*

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria,

November 18, 1898.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler

Assistant Secretary

Washington, D.C.

Sir.

In my despatch No. 4, May 23, 1898, I reported that the matter of the Minor Estate at Jaffa might require immediate action and I asked for permission to act should the emergency demand it. Such permission was granted by telegraph from the Department. There was a delay in receiving the Imperial Order referred to, from Constantinople, entering these lands in the name of the German occupant of each piece, which order embraced the Minor property. Besides this delay the entire autumn has been given up to preparations for the visit of the German Emperor, so that no actual settlement of this case has been made. Meantime I have studied the case carefully with the aid of the best legal talent in this region, and submit the following:-

The money was raised in America as a charitable contribution for a specific charitable purpose. (2) It was given in trust into the hands of Mrs. Minor. (3) Mrs. Minor left documents declaring this fact in the most positive manner. (4) Mrs. Minor, however, had a deed made out in her own name which is a perfectly legal document and is valid, and we can <sup>make</sup> it operative provided we can find any Minor heirs, notwithstanding the lapse of over forty years. (5) The property has never been diverted from charitable purposes, that is, the proceeds have always been used for such purposes and still so used. (6) If Minor heirs should come forward and claim it, it would be diverted from its original purpose. They could not claim it for themselves in face of the documents left by Mrs. Minor. (7) The United States Government cannot come forward in behalf of the Minor heirs and claim it for them, for that would be diverting it from its original purpose. (8) It is only the cost price amounting to something like four hundred dollars that the Germans propose to pay over to the Consulate. The property is now worth *ten or more times* this amount, having advanced in very recent years. The Consulate for the United States Government, has no right to this money as its own, and the Minor heirs have no right to it as their own, and what shall be done with the money which the Germans are willing to pay over to us?

My despatch of May 23 d was based upon the sup-  
position that the Mrs.Minor was the actual owner of  
this property. This ,I discover,was not the case.

Two ways seem just and feasible;-Let the entire  
property remain in the hands of the Germans for charit-  
able purposes,they guaranteeing that it shall always  
be for such use;(2)Let them pay the original amount  
paid for the property to the Consulate for the United  
States Government,and let it be devoted to some char-  
itable work in this country which is carried on by  
Americans.

Either plan contemplates an amicable settlement  
of this matter,which certainly is desirable.

Should Minor heirs appear we can,after a long and  
expensive process ,obtain the property for them;but  
they would hold it not by right but by a technicality.

Should we refuse the offer of the Germans,they  
will appeal to the Imperial Order refered to,to gain  
possession of the property.

By protests,we can put off the transfer of the  
property to the Germans on the ground that "Minor  
heirs may appear".Probably we could defer the transfer  
for some years.

But should we once admit to the Turkish authori-  
ties that there are no Minor heirs,they would disre-  
gard the Imperial Order,and claim and hold the prop-  
erty "for the Crown" in spite of Americans or Germans,  
or of both combined.

May I ask the Department to consider the two  
plans mentioned above,and advise me what to do.

I remain

Respectfully

Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

No.10

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria,  
December 3, 1898.

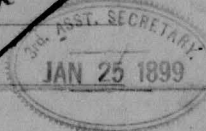
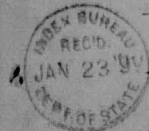
Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary  
Washington, D.C.

Subject

Loss By Exchange .



*Ad March 26*

*also to  
Constantinople  
Apr. 5. 99.  
also May 24. 99  
file*

*See information to  
Constantinople  
March 26*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON.

Edwin P  
Paragon

Mr. Cullton,

If the Ottoman  
bank will accept  
Merrill's drafts at  
the discount stated  
by Mr. Dickenson,  
Mr. Merrill should  
be instructed to  
dispose of his drafts  
to said bank.

Paragon

Apr 1. 99.

0568

*Chilton & Paragon*  
1899

Consular Bureau

MEMORANDUM.

March 24.

Mr. Chilton:

If the Ottoman Bank is willing to pay in Francs 99% of the face value of a draft, and if French money is current in Jerusalem or is convertible into current money at small expense, I do not see why we should give away money by permitting Mr. Merrill to sell the draft for 94% of the face value. As Mr. Dickenson has succeeded so well in getting the Ottoman Bank interested in purchasing all Consular drafts in Turkey (a saving to the Treasury of \$1200 to \$1500 a year), may he not be able to get the Bank through its agency at Jerusalem to offer to Mr. Merrill payment at reasonable rates in current currency of a kind satisfactory to Mr. Merrill ?

*G.H.M.*



Mr Chelton or

Mr Paragon

Send a copy embodying

the views and let me

see it.

be should give copy of

the correspondence to

Mr Dickinson

and see

Chelton &  
Paragon

99

Hon. W. C. Cridler

Mr. Branagan:-

We must accept both statements as true.

It appears, however, that the monetary conditions in Jerusalem have changed since the visit of the Consul General at latter place, early last year. I am, therefore, inclined to believe that Mr. Merrell has obtained the most favorable terms possible, and think that his action should be approved.

The Treasury valuation of foreign coins cannot (as stated by Mr. Chilton) be applied to the Consular Accounts.

Mr. Dickinson has succeeded in obtaining better terms than any of his predecessors in the matter of loss by exchange, except at Jerusalem, and I suggest that as both the Consul-General and Mr. Merrell have done, apparently, all that is possible, that the matter be closed as finally fixed by both of them.

I do not think that the expression of the views of the Auditor would aid the case, in the least.

It is true that the Auditor's office has within the past three or four years gone exhaustingly into this question; it is also true that up to this time little or no change has been made. The same conditions still exist to a great extent.

I believe that the Consular officers are honest, and obtain the best rates possible.

Respectfully,

M.

January 30, 1899.

Mr. Cridler  
I respectfully submit the  
above report of Mr. Morrison  
Feb 3, 98.  
Branagan

0570

No. 10

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria,  
December 3, 1898.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

The question proposed by you in your despatch No. II, dated November 9, 1898, has been asked repeatedly during the past twenty five years and each time this Consulate has responded in the fullest manner; both the interrogatories and the replies are on file in the State and Treasury Departments at Washington. The monetary conditions existing in Jerusalem have been explained to the Department and each time the explanation has been accepted as just and satisfactory.

The simple fact is that the United States dollar is worth in Jerusalem, when it reaches the hands of the consul or of any of the employees of the consulate, about ninety four cents. But the Government is bound and intends to put into his hands, - and has always done so, - a good dollar worth to him one hundred cents.

In answer to your suggestion that I "inquire at different banks to ascertain if more favorable terms could not be obtained" I would say that, as I have always in mind the interests of the Government, I have done this thoroughly and exhaustively. By special arrangement with our banker I have had, during the past summer, the rate of exchange reduced from seven to six percent, which I duly reported to the Department.

I will say incidentally that besides our banker there are but two other banks in Jerusalem, except two or three private Jewish bankers or money changers. The banks do not create the monetary conditions existing here, - they submit to them as does everybody else.

The matter of loss by Exchange I have worked out carefully and submitted the results, - chiefly because our Consul General seemed to doubt their correctness, - to the English Consul who has lived in the country since 1875 and been Consul in Jerusalem since 1891, to the President of the Credit Lyonnais Bank, to the President of the Deutsches Palaestina Bank, and to our Vice Consul who has been in business here for twenty years past, and they all testify that the figures are absolutely correct, and that the charge of six per cent loss by exchange is, in the monetary conditions

existing in Jerusalem, perfectly just.

Your reference to "one consulate where the loss by exchange has been reduced from ten to one per cent" cannot affect conditions in Jerusalem. There may be places where a consular draft commands a large premium; but were such the fact, it could not affect conditions here. I do not pass judgment upon the conditions existing at the post referred to, nor upon the monetary conditions existing in Constantinople, or anywhere else; it would be wrong for me to do so; I should thus be interfering with matters beyond my jurisdiction; I simply state the facts with regard to the monetary conditions existing in Jerusalem. That these conditions oblige this consulate to charge six per cent for loss by exchange is a matter beyond my control; and that the charge of six per cent for loss by exchange is perfectly just every business man in this city will testify.

The uniform attitude of the Department towards the Consulate in Jerusalem where special monetary conditions exist, where the Turkish Lira is not used as a basis in any business transaction, where in fact it is rarely seen, is well expressed it seems to me, in the Department's Circular of August 20, 1898, entitled "Rendering Accounts When Foreign Currency Is Employed", page 6, in the following language:—consular "officers cannot lawfully insist upon a basis which gives them a profit, nor do the accounting officers insist upon a basis which requires the [consular] officers to bear a loss from their private means".

I remain respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

*Seah Merrill*

U.S. Consul.

No.  
*Consulate General  
of the United States of America  
at Constantinople*

JANUARY 7TH., 1899.

(Memorandum accompanying Consul Merrill's dispatch No. 10 to the Department of State.)

The matter embraced in the Consul's dispatch has been the subject of voluminous correspondence between him and me, without result. During my inspection of the Consulate at Jerusalem, in April last, I made inquiries of the local bankers as to the rate of exchange and was informed by the manager of the Credit Lyonnais, on the 26th. of April, that he would then pay five francs, twelve and one-half centimes (Fres. 5.125) for each dollar of the Consul's fifteen days drafts on Washington. As this would result in a loss on exchange of a little more than one per cent (1%) I remonstrated with Consul Merrill in regard to the seven per cent (7%) loss on exchange which had been returned by his office and urged him to sell his drafts, thereafter, to the Credit Lyonnais. His answer was that the Turkish piaster was the legal currency of this country and that he should not be required to discount his drafts or take his pay in francs. The quotation obtained by me was in French currency, as French, English and Turkish money are all readily taken in Jerusalem. In a dispatch to this Consulate-General dated July 15th., 1898, Consul Merrill says; "Bankers here inform me that they can take sight drafts on America for 5.10 gold francs for each dollar, but they cannot agree to do this at any time throughout the year, i.e. regularly. They say further that for time drafts they cannot pay more than 5.05 gold francs for each dollar."

Upon my return to Constantinople I endeavored to arrange with one of the banks of this city to purchase

all

all of our Consular drafts in Turkey at a slight advance upon the current rate in Constantinople and on the 20th. of August an arrangement was made with the Imperial Ottoman Bank to purchase our drafts at the current rate at Constantinople, plus the cost of collection from the bank's correspondents and branches in the several towns where our Consulates are located. The percentages thus agreed to be added to the Constantinople rate were as follows:

At Alexandretta-----	3/8 of one per cent
" Beirut-----	1/4 " " " "
" Erzeroum-----	3/4 " " " "
" Jerusalem-----	3/8 " " " "
" Sivas-----	One per cent
" Smyrna-----	1/8 of one per cent.

The Consuls in all of these places were informed of this arrangement and all of them cheerfully accepted it except Consul Merrill, who informed me that he had arranged to reduce his loss on exchange from seven per cent (7 %) to six per cent (6 %). He also submitted to me an elaborate statement, explaining why the loss on exchange should be six per cent (6 %) at Jerusalem, the substance of which is that the bankers pay in gold for drafts and if the Consul wishes to obtain small or current money he must pay the money changer for converting this gold into silver piasters, metallics, or other copper coin.

My answer to this is that I know from actual observation and experience that the conditions to which the Consul refers are not confined to Jerusalem, that they prevail in Beirut, Alexandretta, Smyrna and Constantinople, and I presume in all the other considerable towns of the Empire. If the Consul wishes to avoid the exactions of the money changer he must retain for his personal use the small silver and copper money he

receives

*No*

*Consulate General  
of the United States of America  
at Constantinople*

receives for fees..

I have endeavored to present the question to Consul Merrill as fully and fairly as possible. I have explained to him that it may be an injustice to Consuls to have the Statute fix the value of English or French gold or the Director of the Mint fix the value of foreign currency, instead of leaving these values to be determined by each Consul, but as I understand the law and the Regulations bearing upon the subject, the Consul has no right to fix the relative value of U. S. currency and the currency of this country; that is fixed by the Treasury Department. Nor has the Consul the right to insist that he shall be paid in anything but gold. He is directed to sell his drafts to the best advantage and in the absence of proof to the contrary the Department must assume that he selects the most favorable medium. As I have secured a purchaser for his drafts, in the legal currency of the country, at a rate which would ordinarily produce a loss on exchange not exceeding one per cent (1 %), I cannot see how he is justified in selling his drafts to another purchaser at a loss on exchange of six per cent (6 %).

In my last dispatch to Consul Merrill on this subject, dated October 13th., 1898, I suggested that he prepare a statement of his views, which I would answer, and let the matter be submitted to the Department; but to this dispatch I have received no reply.

The rate of exchange quoted by the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the purchase of our drafts, on the 31st. of December, 1898, was \$4.41 for each Turkish gold lira. Upon that date the bank's correspondent at Jerusalem was

instructed

instructed by telegraph to buy Consul Merrill's drafts at the rate above quoted, plus the three-eighths of one per cent for cost of collection, which, at the Treasury rate, would produce a loss on exchange of less than three-fourths of one per cent. The Turkish gold lira has the same value in Jerusalem that it has in Constantinople and is readily convertible into French or English gold, but it must be conceded that small change in Turkey is everywhere at a premium.

It is not pleasant to differ with Consul Merrill, and I might be inclined to let the accompanying dispatch go to the Department without comment if it did not, in equity, involve the whole question of establishing in our Consular offices a minimum, and as nearly as may be, a uniform loss on exchange. If Consul Merrill is not obliged to accept gold piasters for his drafts, at the Treasury rate, the other Consuls in the Empire should not be held to a different rule, and the twelve to fifteen hundred dollars, which will be saved annually on this item, under the present arrangement, will be lost to the Government. It cannot be claimed with any fairness that a Turkish pound is worth four dollars, thirty-ninements in Constantinople, while its value in Jerusalem is four dollars, fourteen cents. If Consul Merrill is right, the value of the Turkish lira, as fixed by the Treasury Department, should be materially reduced.

Will the Department kindly advise me of its decision in this matter, for the guidance of myself and other Consular officers?

Respectfully submitted,

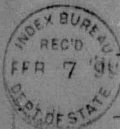
*Chas. M. Dickerson*  
U. S. Consul-General.

*One Bureau*

No. 11.

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, December 23, 1898.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary.

Subject

Question Respecting Deceased American Citizens

*ack in sense of the War Dept & my own home  
Cridler  
Done Feb 11.*

SOLICITOR'S OFFICE  
FEB 10 1899

Dear Mr. Cudler:

I agree with you.

According to the Council's statement, the Spaffordites would not come within the purview of art XXIII of the Consular Regulations (R.S. 1709) which prescribe the duty of the Consular officer only in cases where American citizens die intestate, leaving personal property.

In case of the naturalized Jews, <sup>whom you</sup> of which he speaks, he <sup>you</sup> should <sup>act officially</sup> in all cases coming

within the terms of the  
statute.

F.V.



Office of the  
Third Assistant Secretary.

Dear Van Dyke -

My view<sup>is</sup> that he is now  
compelled to look up  
trouble - especially among  
their Spaffordites -  
A. D. C.

No. //

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria,

December 23, 1898.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler

Assistant Secretary

Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Allow me to ask a question in relation to American citizens dying in Jerusalem or Palestine;--

In case the death is not reported to me, or in case it is intentionally kept from me, is it my duty to take any notice of it?

Article xxiii does not decide the question for me; it states that the consul is to "take possession of the personal estate", Par. 385; "to notify the Secretary of State" Par. 386; and other duties are defined. Par. 388 has the phrase, "when called upon to act", as if, possibly, he was not in every case bound to act.

The question has arisen in the following way;--Since mid summer, say July, four or five of the Spaffordite community have died but none of these deaths have been reported to me. In this matter the Spaffordites have ignored the Consulate entirely. One case, that of a young unmarried woman, is reported to have died under suspicious circumstances, but of the basis for such a report I have no direct knowledge or proof. Two cases were American citizens, a father and his son, but if the others of the four or five were likewise American citizens I do not know. I only learned of these deaths from one day to two weeks after the burial had taken place.

These cases with the exception of the very last one, were all buried in the Greek cemetery which is adjacent to the old American cemetery on Mount Zion. They were buried there by special permission, but the Greeks, it appears, fearing that they might wish to continue to bury in their ground and by and by claim it as their own, as they had done in the case of the American cemetery where they were also allowed to bury as a favor, positively refused such permission in the last instance. The Spaffordites asked the Governor to compel the American Consul to open the old American cemetery, which he refused to do. They obtained temporary permission from a native to bury in a certain spot on the slope of the Mount of Olives, and they are taking steps to obtain that piece of ground to control as their own cemetery. Having begun to bury their dead in a vacant plot of ground on the Mount of Olives, establishes a precedent and relieves me of considerable anxiety for they might attempt to bury

by force in the old American cemetery when they would have been resisted by force, and we have positive orders that they are not to bury in the new American cemetery since it is private property, as the old cemetery was.

The passing of the land immediately east and south of our old cemetery into the hands of the German Catholics as I have reported was done when the German Emperor was here, is very favorable to us because the Greeks who meddled in the matter, and the Mohammedans as well, are now out of the business entirely. Our old cemetery is bounded on two sides by the street and on two sides by German Catholic ground.

American citizens who die as members of the Spafford community leave nothing since they have nothing to leave. When they join that community they surrender all their property. Shall I force myself into that house where I am not wanted and where I shall be likely to be insulted, to look after "personal estates" which do not exist? I have reason to believe that the Spaffordites prefer that the number of deaths in their community should remain unknown.

In the case of some of our naturalized Jews deaths are not reported to the consulate. They are poor, they came from Russia, have been made citizens after a short process, are recorded in our books, and we are obliged to protect them. They have no friends in America, nobody knows where they lived in Russia, they have only a few acquaintances in Jerusalem, and unless they have money nobody cares whether they are dead or alive. When such United States "citizens" die and no one reports the fact to the consul till days or weeks afterwards, what is the consul's duty relative to Consular Regulations, Article xxvii?

It is ~~six~~ eight months since the Consul General was here and made an investigation of the Spaffordites and this Consulate has not yet been informed of any decision in the matter. Meantime the Spaffordites are diligently reporting that "everything in the recent investigation of the Consul General has been decided in their favor". Such a statement, constantly repeated, influences many persons, especially strangers, and embarrasses the consul in many ways. Of course I can say nothing since all information is kept from me. They likewise report that "a case is pending against Mr. Merrill in the State Department at Washington". To this report, frequently repeated, I can say nothing, because I know nothing. As to the decision of the Consul General, or of the Department as based upon his report, it seems to me that the Department might easily put me in a position to confirm or to deny such an assertion as quote above. Still, --- up to this time of writing I survive.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

*Delah Merrill*

United States Consul.

*Consulate General  
of the United States of America  
at Constantinople*

JANUARY 23RD., 1899.

(Memorandum accompanying Consul Merrill's dispatch No. II to the Department of State, respecting Deceased American Citizens.)

In view of the annoying reports being circulated in Jerusalem, to which the Consul refers, and in order that he and other parties in interest may have definite information as to my Findings of Fact in the investigation of the "American" colony at Jerusalem, I beg to suggest that Consul Merrill be furnished with a copy of my report.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chas. M. Dickinson*

U. S. Consul-General.



"Jerusalem" Mrs. B. B. B. B.  
156 East Fifth Street  
Cris, Pa. Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> 1898

ask. of  
Consul at Jerusalem  
Jan. 7. 99.

ASST. SECRETARY  
DEC 30 1898  
Ans May 23<sup>rd</sup> 99.

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler -  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. containing allegations against my official conduct while Consul at Jerusalem, <sup>made</sup> by the heirs of S. Karnstonum and Mayer Naetigall.

Concerning the accusations made by both sets of heirs I desire to enter a positive denial. No papers connected with either case are in my possession, but will be found where they belong, in the records of the Jerusalem Consulate. I appeal to these and am willing to abide by the evidence they furnish. You will there find whether these charges of mal-administration are correct and until these records tell their story I ask that the Department

must reserve judgment and not assume, as you seem to do in the last sentence of your dispatch, that I am guilty of the charges.

As to the Karnstorum allegations:— The widow and daughter signed no papers that had not been previously fully explained to them. They did receive money from me on two occasions that I remember. On my departure from Jerusalem this estate was not fully settled, but everything connected with it was turned over to my successor in the office. He has all the papers.

The assertion that the total receipts from the Karnstorum estate amounted to 3900 francs is false. There were three houses among the assets and were valued in the last will of S. Karnstorum at 38000 francs. One of these houses was sold by me for 18000 francs and the amount applied to pay debts of the estate. This sum was not sufficient to pay all claims as the deceased was heavily in debt.

All this was done in the years 1894 & 95 and until I left my post no word of complaint against any action in the matter was made by the heirs.

Nachtigall Estate:— In this matter I have never heard a word of complaint. It was all settled in 1895, as I remember, and the heirs expressed satisfaction as to the result. The appointing of Gabriel Farwagi, a clerk in the Consulate, as administrator was done at the request of the heirs, one of whom, the widow, was a resident of Jerusalem, the other two residing in New York City. Said Farwagi was in fact, as well as name, administrator. He sometimes advised with me, but that is all. I did not act in this matter simultaneously as judge, depository and administrator and the papers on file will prove it.

This Nachtigall affair was passed upon by your Department at the time my final report of it was made, and approved. This fact causes me to wonder why it is now brought up against me and charges entertained by you when I have no papers at hand to refer to. The four items which you call my  
my

4  
"present alleged indebtedness to the heirs of  
Meyer Nahtigall" were all in my report that  
has been approved.

Item 1. you will find authority for in the Consular Court rules.

Item 2. was authorized by the Nahtigall heirs before it was paid.

Item 3. See Consular Court Book, list of fees.

Item 5. I do not have any recollection of. I remember no note of \$500<sup>00</sup> having been credited to myself. There were various papers connected with this estate, but not one of them was drawn in my favor. I received nothing from this entire affair except the 2% on money deposited by me in a bank for which I had to pay for depositing and which was deposited at my personal risk. Item No. 3 was explained by me to the Department at the time and my explanation was adjudged satisfactory.

The only instance in which I was in error in this matter was in allowing Tarwage  
to

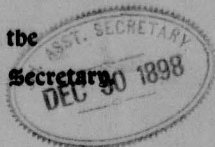
act as administrator without bonds. This was an error caused by my lack of knowledge of such affairs, but if any one has suffered because of it I am ready to make any restitution in my power.

I assure you that I am clear of any intentional guilt under any of these charges and that I did not personally profit at the expense of either of these estates. At the same time, if, after consulting my records, the Department decides that through any error of mine, intentional or unintentional, any one has suffered an injustice of any kind I am ready to pay the penalty.

Should my presence at the Department be of any assistance I will appear at any time. Praying for a suspension of judgment until the facts are clear. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant  
Edwin S. Wallace

Office of the  
Third Assistant Secretary

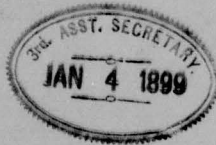


Mr. King

Index and send to  
Mr. Chilton. who will  
examine the whole  
correspondence in the  
light of Mr. Wallace's  
full explanation  
and report.

Audley

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
WASHINGTON. January 5, 1899.



Mr. Cridler:

Our action was based on Consul General Dickinson's inspection report.

He was mistaken in saying the <sup>Konstaroom</sup> estate was worth less than 3900 francs. It was worth 38000 less mortgages (13000) etc.

The widow and daughters went personally to Mr. Dickinson and complained that they had received nothing from the estate. This Mr. Wallace now *denies*, stating that they received money from him on two occasions which he remembers. He does not say how much.

The present Consul says in his No. 7 that Wallace turned over to him a "Statement of Account as Executor with estate of Shalom Kanstaroom", in which Wallace claimed to have paid to the widow 1370 francs. The statement also shows that Wallace collected for himself a depositary fee of 441.80 francs and an administration fee of 1,257.80 francs. Total 1699.60 francs, 300 francs more than the widow got. A brother of the deceased received 1400 francs.

The estate consisted of 3 houses valued at 38,090 francs. The liabilities, including mortgages, amounted to 17620.40 francs.

Mr. Wallace now states that he sold one house for 18000 francs, about enough to pay off the liabilities, leaving two houses valued at about 20,000 francs, according to his statement, to be accounted for.

The amount which he actually accounted for however

was



was-----4,469.60 francs  
Paid to Mrs. K. -----1,370 francs  
" " Isaac K.-----1,400 "  
Consul's fees -----1,699.60 "-----4,469.60 "

-----

In regard to the Myer Nachtigal estate Mr. Wallace admits that, through ignorance of the court rules, he allowed his clerk to act as administrator without giving bond. Mr. Dickinson describes this clerk as "irresponsible, with a bad reputation for integrity and ----- afterwards discharged by the consul for his dishonest methods". Mr. Dickinson continues:

"That Consul Wallace could have been guilty of such neglect and disregard of the Court Rules can only be accounted for upon the theory (which is clearly indicated by the record and such facts as I could obtain) that the whole administration of the estate was conducted and all the money of the estate was received and disbursed by Mr. Wallace himself, and that he was administrator in fact while his clerk was merely administrator in name."

Mr. Dickinson suggested that Mr. Wallace be directed to return to the heirs four fees, viz:

1. Fee of 37,50 francs for attendance of Consular employee at death of Nachtigal. Mr. Wallace replies that this fee is authorized by Consular Court rules. As the Consul's judicial acts are limited to the settlement of the estate, what is the use of having a Consular employe in at the death at the expense of the poor heirs? *Still if it was authorized, his explanation seems satisfactory.*
2. Attorney's commission of 5%-----1852.15 Mr. Wallace

says this was authorized by the Nachtigal heirs before it was paid. But would they have authorized it if they had known that no such charge was allowed? and who was the attorney? Wallace, or his clerk? and did either have a right to accept it?

3. Consul's commission on money deposited with him, 2%-527.20 Fs. Mr Wallace claims that he was entitled to this under Consular Court Rules. He claims that this is all that he received from the estate. His statement that he explained this to the Department at the time of the settlement and that his "explanation was adjudged satisfactory" seems to be incorrect. He sent his final account with his No.22 of *Oct. 1, 1894*, but in that despatch he said nothing at all on the subject, nor was his action approved. The despatch was filed without even acknowledgment.
4. Note for \$500 with which Wallace credited himself twice instead of once in his account.

Mr. W. says he remembers nothing of this.

Mr. Branagan has examined the accounts and thinks Mr. Dickinson was mistaken on this point. Mr. Wallace's system of bookkeeping is not clear, but Mr. Branagan thinks he properly accounted for this \$500.00 to the heirs.

*R.S.L.*

*Row No 12*

DIPLOMATIC,  
APR 25 1899  
BUREAU.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 5, 1899.

INDEX BUREAU  
REC'D  
APR 12 99  
DEPT. OF STATE

*copy to Turk  
Jews to Dept  
28/99*

ASST. SECRETARY  
APR 15 1899

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State

*Ans. May 3. 99.*

SUBJECT

Naturalized American Jews In Palestine

*Beu  
h. H.*

A serious matter for the Jerusalem Consulate.-  
Obstacles to the landing of Jews at Jaffa.-Danger of arrest  
of American citizens.-Jews evading the laws.-Zionist move-  
ment aggravating matters.-Turkish restrictions on American  
passports held by Jews.-Very few Jewish "visitors", chiefly  
"colonists".-Ambassador Straus and the Turkish Minister.-  
Double meaning of "en masse" to the Turkish authorities.-  
Condition of American Jews worse than formerly,-now the same  
as that of Russian Jews.-Influence of U.S. Consulate with  
Turkish authorities and Jews everywhere consequently de-  
siring American protection.-Methods of obtaining such pro-  
tection and great watchfulness required.-Selfish object of  
Jews in obtaining American protection.-Definite agreement  
with Turkey needed.-Words of Turkish Minister should be put  
in writing.-Contradictory statements of Turkish authorities.-  
No Jewish question when treaty with Turkey framed.-The Uni-  
ted States indirectly helping the Zionist movement and  
colonization schemes.-Burden of Jews upon this Consulate.-  
Compulsory registration and annual fee required.-Numbers now  
protected.-Cases of fraud.-Aid of Department implored.-  
These Russian Jews no sense of obligation to our Government.

No 12

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 5, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.-

Allow me to lay before you the following report relative to naturalized American Jews in Palestine.

Preliminary Statement

The Department is aware that a state of things exists in Jerusalem in connection with our naturalized American Jews, which is known in this Consulate as "The Jewish Question". In communications to the Department of State and to both the Consul General and the Legation at Constantinople I have referred many times to this question but have never presented the subject fully in any single despatch, or as fully as it seems to me the matter should be treated. I cannot now hope to discuss every phase of this question, but I wish to lay before the Department in as concise a manner as possible certain facts which will throw light upon the condition of things referred to.

Interview With Consul General Dickinson

When Consul General Dickinson was in Jerusalem in April 1898, I had a long interview with him relative to our naturalized Jewish citizens and showed him that they were increasing rapidly in numbers, that their many demands and frequent quarrels laid a great burden upon this Consulate, and that a considerable number of them appeared to hold passports to which they were not legally entitled. Many other phases of this question were discussed and he promised to lay the matter before the Department of State at Washington.

Landing of Jews at Jaffa

In their efforts to enter Palestine, Jews, including American Jews, have met with obstacles of many kinds. For example,-

Jews have been <sup>refused</sup> a landing at Jaffa and have been carried on up the coast to Beirut where a landing was effected.

Jews have been refused a landing at Jaffa and have been obliged to go away.

Jews have tried to land by purchasing the landing tickets of Cook's Tourist Company, hoping to get in as "tourists", but the device was discovered, in some cases considerable trouble ensued, and they have now, it is believed, abandoned the attempt.

Jews have been allowed to come in at Jaffa after the payment of a bribe.

Jews have been allowed <sup>to land</sup> at Jaffa by giving a guarantee (either themselves or their friends for them) that they would leave the country again in a specified time, thirty or ninety days.

In the case of certain American Jews who were not allowed to land at Jaffa I applied to Constantinople for instructions and received an answer as follows:-

"American citizens entering Turkey must conform to Turkish regulations".

In subsequent similar cases we have acted upon this order since we found it useless to try to force the Turkish authorities to violate their own rules.

Some American Jews who were refused landing at Jaffa went on up to Beirut where they effected a landing, and afterwards they made their way by land to Jerusalem. The police have spotted them, asked the Consulate to furnish the facts as to their nationality and their right to be here, and while the local authorities insist that these persons have violated Turkish regulations in entering the country we protest to the Governor that they are American citizens and have a right to remain. The matter rests at this point. We have feared that any day these parties might be arrested and imprisoned. An English Jew, under similar circumstances, was so arrested and confined for twenty four hours. For the honor of the American name we have made every effort to avoid a similar humiliation, but do not know what a day may bring forth.

#### Evading the Laws and The Zionist Movement

Jews coming to Palestine are subjected to severe restrictions, but they devise ways to evade every law that has yet been made. With or without permission they are determined to come here as colonists. The "Zionist Movement", talk about which is filling the air in England and to some extent in America, also, simply aggravates the matter and makes the Jews more determined to enter Palestine and the Turks more determined to prevent it.

#### Time restrictions on the back of Passports

So long as a restriction as to time of remaining in Palestine is written on the back of a passport held by an American Jew so long the Turkish authorities at Jaffa will obey it, and the Consul is practically powerless to compel the Turks to ignore their own law in favor of the American Jew. If it is proper for the Turkish authorities to write

this restriction as to time on the back of passports held by our Jews, then our Government ought certainly to give the Consul power to enforce the regulation, that is to send the persons away when the time has expired. If it is not proper for any restrictions to be so written, the United States Government ought to correct it and not leave it to the Consul to struggle in vain against the inevitable results.

#### Bona Fide Visitors Annoyed

The efforts of the Jews to evade the law have involved a few innocent persons in a great deal of trouble. The Turks suspect every Jew that arrives at Jaffa of coming as a colonist, hence they compel those who come as bona fide visitors, - as well as all others, - to give a guarantee that they will leave the country after a fixed period, say thirty days or it may be three months. Not five per cent of all the Jews that come to Palestine come as visitors; the rest come to reside, that is as "colonists".

#### Ambassador Straus's Statement

Our Ambassador referring to his conversation with the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, see letter of January 30, 1899 to Consul General Dickinson, says, -

"it was understood that American citizens should not be obstructed in visiting any part of the Ottoman Empire as was their right under our treaties. The object of the restrictive regulations was to prevent the entrance of Jews who come en masse for purposes of colonization in Palestine, as distinguished from individuals who come to live, to visit, or to travel".

In the face of this regulation no Jew would ever declare that he came to this country as a "colonist". The fact is, however, that they are constantly coming for that purpose and the Turkish authorities know it; hence they have been obliged to make a regulation that no Jew shall come here to reside. The words "en masse" must be defined so as to satisfy the Turkish authorities. Supposing the restriction as to Jews coming "en masse" were limited to a company of twenty heads of families or even individuals, these people would divide up into squads of three or five each and on the five or six steamers which touch at Jaffa each week they would all enter the country within the space of seven days. The Jews have resorted to this method of evading the law, and the Turks have shown their intention of preventing it. "En masse" means one thing when the Turkish Minister is talking to our Ambassador in Constantinople and quite another thing when he telegraphs to his officers in Jerusalem and Jaffa to prevent any Jews from landing.

Present General Condition of American Jews  
compared with their Condition Fifteen or Twenty  
Years Ago

After all the communications that have passed between this Consulate and the local Turkish authorities, and all the despatches and telegrams that have passed between this Consulate and the Legation at Constantinople or the Department of State at Washington since I entered this Consulate in 1882, to say nothing of the constant anxiety, worry, and friction that have been occasioned by this matter, the condition of American Jews has not improved in any respect; - on the contrary it is, in my judgment, worse than it ever has been.

Formerly they could enter the country without any restriction as to time of residence here being written on their passports; - it is not so now.

Formerly they could purchase land after a residence of from three to five years, and indeed fifteen years ago the time of residence was seldom mentioned; - now they cannot buy land without the strongest proof that they have resided here thirteen years, and even then the purchase is not completed without great difficulty.

Formerly an exception was made in some respects in favor of American Jews; - now they are placed on the same footing that Russian Jews have always occupied, - a most undesirable position to occupy.

Formerly it was not thought that American Jews wished to come here as colonists; - now since they have begun to come as colonists they are subjected to severe restrictions.

Formerly the word of the United States Consulate with regard to the citizenship, proper naturalization, and length of residence of an American Jew was accepted at once; now the Turkish officials ask many pointed questions and even demand to see the passports themselves, - which of course we do not allow.

Formerly if a complaint was made by an American Jew against a Turkish subject, which would properly come before the Turkish court, there was some chance of obtaining justice; - now in every such case of complaint a counter complaint or charge - generally baseless - is brought forward and the ends of justice are defeated.

In spite of all these unfavorable conditions the American Consulate has been and is still able to do more for this class of its citizens than any other Consulate in Jerusalem does for theirs. We do far more than the Russians, and more even than the Germans or English. We have always commanded the general respect of the Turkish authorities in this as in other matters.

Effect of our Standing on European Jews

In every Jewish centre in Europe it was known that American Jews in Palestine were much more favorably treated

by the local Turkish authorities than were those who were subject to any other government, hence there has always been a great desire on the part of Russian and other European Jews to place themselves under American protection. To accomplish this all sorts of methods have been resorted to, - bribes, - pleadings with tears in the eyes, - fraudulent certificates, - false swearing as to parentage, place of birth, residence in the United States, - using passports of people deceased, - purchasing passports of some person living and assuming the name of that person, - interlining passports with names additional to those originally included, - and still other methods. Every one of these specifications is based upon one or upon several instances of the kind specified that have come under my personal cognizance since I have been connected with the Jerusalem Consulate.

I assure the Department that it requires the most careful scrutiny to prevent improper persons from being enrolled on our books. In many cases it is next to impossible to ferret out the fraud and to bring to light the truth. Whenever one of these naturalized citizens appears in our office with a passport we take the utmost pains to ascertain if the person has a right to hold it; we feel that the United States has a right to be protected as well as these Russian Jews.

The primary object of most of these people is to reside in Jerusalem or Palestine, and they wish to be under American protection for the advantages it will bring them; that they may have the United States Consulate to help them in their troubles, and to shield them from the payment of certain taxes and the performance of certain duties which otherwise would be imposed upon them.

A Definite and Written Declaration Needed

What the case imperatively demands is some definite written agreement: - let a declaration be drawn up in as clear and unmistakable language as possible, let it be in two copies the one an authorized translation of the other, let duplicate copies be made and one deposited with the Governor of Jerusalem and the other in the United States Consulate at Jerusalem, and let the declaration be, namely,

That any American citizen of any race or religion holding a proper passport, shall be allowed to land at Jaffa or any other Ottoman port without any restrictions whatsoever: -

That such American citizens shall be allowed to visit any part of the Ottoman Empire or to reside in any part of said Empire without any restrictions whatsoever: -

There shall be no requirements whatsoever compelling such American citizens to leave this country at any fixed time: -

There shall be no objection of any sort whatsoever to such American citizens residing in the Ottoman Empire for a long or for a short period as they may choose: -

No restrictions as to time of stay in this country shall be written by any Turkish official in America or elsewhere on the back of any passport held by American Jews leaving the United States for Turkey: -

These regulations shall apply to American citizens

coming as families, also to those who come singly or in any number.

If such a Declaration were signed by the highest Turkish and United States authorities respectively, deposited with the Turkish Governor and the United States Consul in Palestine, a great burden would be removed from this Consulate; THEN IT COULD BE BELIEVED THAT THE TURKS ARE WILLING to allow American citizens irrespective of race or religion to enter the country freely; this fruitless warfare which has been carried on for years, of protests and letter writing, interviews and recommendations, misunderstandings and annoyances, would cease, and the friction which is constantly arising between the local authorities and the consul would come to an end.

#### Why a Written Agreement is Necessary

While the Turkish Minister in Constantinople is talking pleasantly to our Ambassador and telling him that "these regulations apply only to Jews who <sup>come</sup> en masse", and our Ambassador is writing to me that "this arrangement is perfectly clear and sufficient", the Turkish officials in Jerusalem and Jaffa, BY ORDER OF THIS SAME TURKISH MINISTER, are applying these restrictions rigidly to every individual Jew. Will the Turkish Minister put his words into writing? And will he agree not to write and send secretly to his officials here anything contrary to these words? In this matter I speak earnestly, plainly, and from actual experience and knowledge.

#### A Suggestion

When the treaty between the United States and Turkey was made the present condition of things was not contemplated simply because no human being could then have foreseen the overwhelming change that has taken place; and it has always seemed to me that to deny to one of the contracting parties the right to protect herself by new regulations so as to prevent a certain portion of her territory from being occupied by a class of citizens whom she has declared to be undesirable, is a hardship if not an act of injustice. It is certainly and unfriendly act towards a friendly Power. By insisting upon the literal sense of the treaty that American citizens shall be freely admitted to this country regardless of any restrictive regulations by the Turks, the United States Government practically becomes the agent of those societies whose object is to re-people Palestine with Jews. Turkey makes laws for her own protection; - the Jews find ways to evade them; - the United States Government demands that these naturalized Jews be allowed to enter this country; - the United States Government is aiding and abetting the "Zionist Movement" and Jewish colonization schemes simply because most of the Jews who come here come as colonists.

#### Many Phases of the Jewish Question

The landing of a Jew, one or many, at Jaffa is only a fraction of the "Jewish Question" as it is related to this Consulate. Questions arising as to the political status of these Jews relative to the Turkish government are likewise of secondary importance in the tax upon our time. Their constant demands upon this Consulate for assistance in almost all the affairs of life keep us more than occupied. No picture and no descriptive record could portray the variety and amount of work we have to do. Some of the matters are serious, while very many of them are petty and trifling. The Russian and German consuls are able to dismiss all trifling matters with a proper rebuke; the United States Consul cannot do this. My practice is to listen patiently to all complaints and requests, but I can never convince a Jew that his petty trouble has not international importance. If I decline to help them I am frequently threatened with a letter to Constantinople or Washington "showing that the Consul gives them no protection". --- The unappreciated service which this Consulate does for this class of "citizens" is simply immense.

#### Hints as to Methods of Relief

There ought to be a rule compelling this class of citizens to renew their passports every two years and when they do so to bring sufficient proof that they do not intend to reside in Palestine.

There ought to be a rule making registration compulsory. Some of this class do not come to the Consulate until they get into trouble and then for the first time we learn of their existence.

Besides being compulsory there ought to be an annual fee for registration. The English Consulate has an annual fee for registration and it helps to keep their list of citizens clean. The English have found that those who want protection will pay a few shillings yearly for it. Supposing there were an annual fee of one dollar per head the Government would receive, provided we could collect, enough to pay the salaries of our two dragomans. Protection ought to be worth something to these people. At present they pay no taxes, they do no service whatever for our Government, even if they have shops they import their goods from Europe and not from America, and they expect our Government through its Consulate to serve them in every legal matter that arises including their almost daily disputes and quarrels. A large part of our time during the year, I will say one third but probably it is fully one half, of the consul, two dragomans, two kawasses, and of our Consular Agent with his dragoman, is spent in trying to satisfy the demands made upon us by this class of citizens. When I entered this office in 1882 we had about one hundred and fifty of these people; in 1885 the number was, approximately, one hundred and eighty; now it is not far from eight hundred. Colonization schemes are sending them here in ever increasing numbers.

#### Lack of Scrutiny in Granting Papers

I think I could show the Department how citizen's papers are fraudulently obtained for these Russian Jews especially in New York and Chicago. Furthermore I have strong suspicions that certain persons make a business of obtaining fraudulent passports for these Jews, but this I cannot prove and in the nature of the case it would be difficult to prove it unless one came upon the evidence by accident. I am positive that not enough care is exercised in granting citizen's papers and passports to this class of persons. Let me mention

#### Case A.-

During my first term in this office, 1882-1886, a Jew wanted me to obtain for him a passport and to enroll him on our books as an American citizen on the ground that his father had once been in America. I examined his case thoroughly and told him that he had no claim whatever to be so recognized. He begged me to do it, and offered bribes, but in vain. My successor, however, found means to obtain for him a passport and enrolled him on our books accordingly. It was a case of downright fraud; but the Jew is now dead, and I refer to it as an illustration.

#### Case B.-

In 1885 a Jew came to my office with a pretended citizen's paper. After examining his case I wrote on the back of the document that the 'bearer had no right to protection'. The man took his paper, pasted a thick piece of blank paper over the back of it, went to Constantinople and obtained a passport on which he travelled in Europe. The pasted document was visaed twice in Egypt, and the passport no less than five times where the fellow had been running about the world as an American citizen. About a year ago or a little more, this Jew appeared in the office for protection and was asked for his citizen's paper. The dragoman noticed the unusual thickness of the paper, held it against a window pane saw my writing and signature, soaked the document in water till the sections fell apart, and the fraud was exposed.

#### Case C.-

In 1893 a Jew begged me many times to enroll him but I told him it was impossible for me to do so. This man was well known to us, we knew that he had always lived in Jerusalem and had never been away except a few weeks at a time during his life. One day he appeared in the office with a new passport in proper order, but I refused to recognize him. In the course of two months I received a rather sharp letter from the Department of State, written by some new man for the administration had recently changed-, asking me why I had not recognized this man and confronting me with a document from a lawyer in New York to the effect that the man was well known in that city, supporting his statement by an affidavit from several "reliable Jewish citizens" who knew him and that I was overstepping my duty in not enrolling him. I wrote to the Department that the man was a fraud, that the whole business in New York and the obtaining of his passport was

fraudulent, and that I should not recognize him. The result was that the name of this Jew never went on our books.

Out of many instances I have chosen three examples, not to criticize any one in particular, but to illustrate what I have said that the utmost care is required to prevent persons from obtaining citizen's papers and passports by fraud. Russian Jews are determined to obtain American protection if they can by any means accomplish it, and had I not exercised constant vigilance our list of this class of citizens would be larger by several hundreds than it is now.

More honesty also would be a good thing in the offices in New York and Chicago where naturalization papers are granted. This week a Jew appeared in our office, in trouble, and wanting protection, but without papers. His answers to my questions were as follows:- "I was naturalized in the City Hall, Chicago", - "it was late in night just before an election"; "I gave my papers to a man and have not seen or heard from him since"; "this was five years ago just before an election".

#### How Far Will The Department Support Me in enforcing the Laws?

In "The American Passport, Its History, &c", Washington, 1898, there are rules which if enforced might remove some of these names from our list. For example, - "permanent absence" p.203; "left immediately after naturalization and never returned" pp.205,206; "obtained naturalization to avoid certain duties" p.207; "no property, or business relations in the United States" p.208; "declared intention to return to the United States negated by continued residence abroad" p.209; "do not prove by any action their declared intention to return to the United States to reside" p.209.

Some of our people have resided here for many years and have never returned to the United States. The inference is that they do not intend to return. Their own testimony in such cases is worthless, and the fact must be learned by other means than direct inquiry.

Some of our people have purchased houses in which they have lived for several years with no apparent intention to go away.

Some do a small business but import their goods from Europe if they deal in imported goods at all, and have no business relations with the United States.

In many cases the naturalization papers are dated in New York or Chicago one day and the passport is dated at Washington the next day immediately following, or almost immediately following. For example, -

A. Oct. 13, Oct. 14; - B. Feb. 24, Feb. 25; -

C. June 21, June 22; - D. Sept. 17, Sept. 19.

How can this be possible? I think we have a score, perhaps fifty such cases.

Russian Jews reside in the United States just long enough to obtain, - when they do not devise means to obtain



them in less time than the proper limit of residence-, their citizen's papers and passports, and leave immediately thereafter for Palestine. I call these people "Russian Jews" because that is their proper title. To call them "Americans" is an insult to American civilization. The mere fact that a Russian Jew holds in his hands a passport from the State Department at Washington does not make him civilized, does not lift him up from degradation and ignorance, does not impart to him any knowledge or appreciation of the United States Government, its institutions and laws, does not put into his mouth or the mouths of his children a word of our language, DOES NOT AWAKEN IN HIM ANY SENSE OF OBLIGATION TO THE GOVERNMENT FROM WHICH IN THIS FOREIGN LAND HE DEMANDS PROTECTION. He has become an American citizen simply for the advantages, -material, political, and other which such citizenship will bring to him.

Conclusion

It may seem like boasting but I am confident that in this whole business there has been exercised a great deal more solicitude and care for the honor of the American name by the present consul at Jerusalem than the Department is aware of; it is no fiction when I say that the burden of these Russian Jews upon this Consulate is very great; that this class of citizen are a menace to our friendly relations with Turkey; and that because of them the fair name of our country is in jeopardy. Hence I firmly hope that the subject will receive either from the Department of State or from our Legislators, or from both, the earnest consideration which its gravity demands.

I remain respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

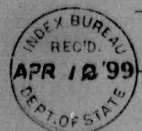
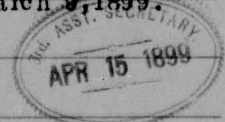
*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

*Copy No. 13*

*Ans Bureau  
Mc Emory*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 9, 1899.



Selah Merrill, Consul

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State

*Ans. Egypt  
Beirut via  
Apr. 20.99.  
Ans. June 24.99.*

SUBJECT

A Consul reporting officially upon the condition of things in another Consular District.

No. 13

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 9, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

Allow me to call attention to the following matter:-

In the Advance Sheets of Consular Reports, January 23, 1899, pp. 2 - 4, is a report by G. Rie Ravndal, United States Consul at Beirut, upon "Jews in Palestine".

All of this report, except a few lines, pertains to my Consular District, and the figures and statements it contains are not all correct. Sometime since I notified the Department that I was preparing a special report upon Jews and Jewish Colonies in Palestine and that report is partly completed.

Have I a right to go to Smyrna or to Constantinople and report officially upon the condition of things in those districts? Has another United States consul a right to report officially upon the condition of things here unless specially authorized so to do by the Department of State? What has been done I consider a breach of courtesy which demands an apology from some one. I would not myself be guilty of such an act of discourtesy for any consideration whatsoever.

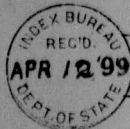
I remain respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant

*Salah Merrill*  
United States Consul.

*Ans Bureau*

*Copy*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 11, 1899,



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State

*Ans. Apr. 26.*

SUBJECT

Acknowledging despatch, unnumbered of February 10, 1899,  
work on report of naturalized American Jews.

Mr. Chelton  
ack and say his report  
of March 12, 1899, on the  
subject of naturalized  
American Jews in Palest-  
tine is being considered.  
A. H. M.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 11, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.-

Your unnumbered despatch dated February 10, 1899, has been received and in reply I would say that no other person in the world knows the condition of things in this Consulate or is more solicitous about them than the present Consul, and my report of March 5, 1899, will show the Department how serious I feel the present matter to be. I am glad that my brief account of the work of this Consulate, unnumbered despatch on January 3 d 1899, moved the Department to call for a

"report on the status of persons, chiefly Jews, claiming the protection of this Consulate as naturalized American citizens".

During the past year I have paid a great deal of attention to this matter and the work is far from completed. It is slow work because we have to summon the people, explain what is wanted, have several long interviews, and perhaps fail at last to accomplish all we desire because there are so many doubtful cases and so much uncertainty. This work I am pressing as fast as I can consistently with the regular duties of the office.

All the Consulates in Jerusalem have, within ten or more years past, had a time of cleaning up their lists of citizens and the English government has dropped a great many whose cases were doubtful. Our list ought to be cleaned up in the same way. If these Russian Jews want to reside in Palestine it would be better for them to be under Turkish protection than under ours, -but they want American protection and will have it if possible.

I shall await with interest a definite reply to my report of March fifth.

I remain respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant

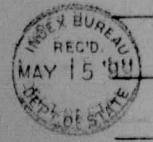
*Seah Merrill*

United States Consul

*Schickel*

*Copy  
No. 14*

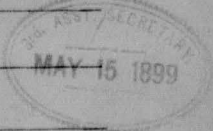
United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 18, 1899.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State.



SUBJECT

Estates of Nachtigal and Kanstoroom:-  
reply to despatch No. 14, January 7, 1899.

*44  
ack. by form of  
copy to Mr. S.S. Mallon  
May 23.*

No. 14.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 18, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.-

In reply to your despatch No. 14, January 7, 1899, I beg to state the following particulars:-

Two letters are on file in this Consulate, written by Mr. Farwagi in Arabic and signed by Mr. Wallace, both dated May 24, 1894, numbered respectively 24 and 25, both sent to the Governor of Jerusalem; No. 24 asks that Gabriel Farwagi having been appointed be confirmed to act as Power of Attorney for Simon Nachtigal and his sister in the settlement of their father's estate, and the other, No. 25, asks that Farwagi be confirmed as "administrator with power of attorney" for Zibiah Nachtigal the minor child of Meyer Nachtigal deceased. Different words are used in the two letters but the design of both appears to have been the same, namely, to enable Mr. Farwagi to transfer real property belonging to the estate of Meyer Nachtigal.

Two receipts are on file from the two children of Meyer Nachtigal, Simon and Bella, dated February 28, 1895, identical in form, namely, "Received of Gabriel Farwagi the attorney for the estate of my late father Meyer Nachtigal the sum of, &c."

Since receiving your despatch I have written to Mr. Farwagi asking him how he considered himself related to this estate and in what capacity he acted, and in reply he says:-

"Mr. Wallace was the only administrator of the estate of Meyer Nachtigal and all money was paid to him, some by me and some by the creditors themselves".

"I considered myself as attorney for Simon Nachtigal and his sister, and the representative of Mr. Wallace in his capacity of attorney for the widow and child, and Mr. Wallace was the only administrator and distributor of the estate."

"The attorney's fees were paid to me by Mr. Wallace".

"I had nothing to do with the Zibiah Nachtigal estate as Mr. Wallace was her attorney and the distributor of her estate."

"I received from Mr. Wallace my legal fees".

The note of \$ 500 to which reference is made, was not credited twice, having been properly entered on the debt and credit sides of the account.

Since I entered the office in April 1898 no complaint has been made to me respecting the settlement of the Meyer, or the Zibiah Nachtigal estates.

I have had an interview with the Kanstorooms and they say that Mr. Wallace sold the house; they admit that he used the money properly to pay debts with; but they claim that Mr. Wallace kept back for himself eighty or one hundred, which belonged to us. Napoleons

I had to approach them cautiously lest their suspicions be aroused and the matter reach the ears of M. J. Franklin, an American Jew called "Dr. Franklin", whom we know had no good will to Mr. Wallace. The Kanstorooms gave me a receipt or statement of their business which Mr. Wallace had given them, - it was in his own hand writing, - in which his charges for administration were 1075 francs; - in the consular record book the amount is 1125,10 francs; in the final account left with me it is 1257,80 francs. - In this statement which the Kanstorooms hold Mr. Wallace's fees for depositing money was 390,80 francs; in his final statement left with me it is 441,80 francs. - These two amounts may be what they meant when they said that Mr. Wallace "kept back for himself" the amount as above stated. They did not say that they meant these two amounts, that is my inference, since the sum is about eighty five Napoleons.

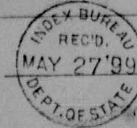
I remain respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant

*Selah Merrill*  
United States Consul.

*Copy  
No 15*

*Scheita*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, April 29, 1899.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State.



*Ans June 26. 99.*

SUBJECT

Minor Estate of The Mount Hope Property, Jaffa.  
Guarantee of the Temple Society to manage the charity in accordance with the wishes of the original donors.

SOLICITOR'S OFFICE  
JUN 23 1899

*McCarr*  
*Draft something*  
*for me to see*  
*Cridler*

Dear Mr. Cridler:-

See instruction of December 24, 1898, to the consul at Jerusalem (my draft) herewith. We informed the consul that this Government could not compromise the matter or guarantee that no claim against the property would ever be made by the heirs of Mrs. Minor. We instructed him: "You are accordingly instructed not to intervene in the matter. You may, however, inform the present occupants that this Government has no disposition to interfere so long as the property continues to be devoted to the purpose which it was originally purchased."

ASST. SECRETARY  
JUN 23 1899

Consul's Bureau  
JUN 24 1899

The consul has intervened in the matter, and instead of informing the society, as instructed, "that this Government has no disposition to interfere so long as the property continues to be devoted to the purpose for which it was originally purchased", has given <sup>*the Society*</sup> a written guarantee on the part of the United States that this Government has no "intention" to interfere so long as the property continues to be devoted to the purpose for which it was originally purchased.

My idea was that if we kept hands off, the heirs, if any, of Mrs. Minor (the deed of the property having been made in her name) to whom the property had been deeded would be in a position to assert their rights to the same in the courts; and in default of the appearance of heirs, so long as the property was devoted to the purpose for which it was originally purchased, this Government naturally had no disposition to interfere. As it seems probable now, after a lapse of forty years from the death of Mrs. Minor, that no heirs will appear, and as it is true that this Government does not intend to interfere so long as the property is devoted to the original beneficial purpose, it perhaps is not worth while to disavow the action of the consul. His attention should, however, be called to the fact that he disregarded the Department's instruction.

*F.V.*



Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

June 19, 1899.

Mr. Gridler:

This matter has been held because Mr. Chilton was expected to return to the office. I now suggest that it be referred to the Solicitor for an expression of his views inasmuch as he has had the case before him.

M. L.

0600

**Consular Bureau.**

**MEMORANDUM.**

M. June 2.

Mr. Chilton:

Mr. Merrill seems to

have gone us one better. This property was bought with American money and the deed was made in the name of Mrs. Minor, an American citizen. "The deed is a perfectly legal document & is valid." But Mrs. M. has been dead 40 years and the property has not been claimed. Germans have taken possession & are using it for the original charitable purpose. On Dec. 24 we told Mr. M. not to intervene but to

inform the present occupants that this Govt. "has no <sup>disposition</sup> ~~desire~~ to interfere so long as the property to be devoted to the purpose for which it was originally purchased." What M. has done is this: Instead of informing them that this Govt. "has no <sup>disposition</sup> ~~desire~~" to interfere, he has gone before the German Consul in his official capacity & has signed a guarantee practically giving the German Temple Society unrestricted control over the property with the understanding that the U.S. Govt. has no intention to intervene." The benefits of the insti-

0601

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, April 29, 1899.

No. 15

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.-

I have the honor to inclose herewith a document relative the Minor Estate or, as it is best known here, The Mount Hope Property in Jaffa, which will explain itself. The document is in the form of a Guarantee given by the officers of the Temple Society and properly authenticated before the German Consul, to this Consulate that they will manage said property so as to carry out the wishes of the original donors of this charity who were Americans. This Guarantee is the voluntary act of the Temple Society although the drafting of it is entirely my own.

It will be seen that we make no pledges and assume no obligations whatsoever. Moreover the document has not changed existing conditions. It puts on record the condition of things already existing and shows how the Temple Society has regarded this trust and what its intentions are with regard to it in the future. It is for us, therefore, and important gain. Should there be hereafter any disposition to divert these funds, or to evade any obligation, we have a basis of appeal and protest. It is probable that the small cemetery mentioned in the document will always be cared for; but the conditions of the region where it is situated have entirely changed within the past thirty years and may change more in years to come, hence I thought best to provide, <sup>against</sup> any desecration or neglect by adding Section Two. Moreover conditions might arise when Americans would be debarred from any benefit of this charity, hence Section Three was added. ---- It should be added that hitherto there has never been any disposition manifested to neglect this cemetery, or to debar sick Americans from a share in this charity, or to divert the funds from charitable purposes as was originally designed.

I believe the Department has been informed that it is only within a few years past, say eight or ten years, that this property has yielded any income. Previous to that time, being far from town, it was exposed to robbers, the taxes and other expenses of keeping the place in existence were considerable, and had it not been for the care of the Temple

MEMORANDUM

Consular Bureau

tution are secured to American citizens only in this limited degree: "Since it is impossible to estimate in money the amount of benefit to be granted to such persons, or to designate the number of persons who shall receive such benefits, the matter is left, as has hitherto been done, to the judgment of the Officers of the Temple Society." In other words, in consideration of our promising not to intervene in behalf of possible claimants, we receive no new advantage. We furthermore agree that the Temple Society may use its own judgment without let or hindrance, <sup>in managing the property</sup> as it sees best.

We told Mr. Merrill distinctly that this Govt. cannot "compromise the matter nor guarantee that no claim will ever be made by the heirs of Mrs. Minor

G.A.M.

Society this property would many years since have passed beyond the reach or right of any claim to it either by Germans or Americans.

It has required great care to prevent this property from reverting to the Turks, and in this matter I have had the efficient aid of our Consular Agent Mr. Hardegg and of our dragoman Mr. Gelat. Had it not been for them this property would already have been lost and the German Government and the United States Government would be equally powerless to recover it. Complications may arise in the future which we do not now dream of; but so far as the Temple Society are concerned they have certainly shown their good faith by giving us this Guarantee, and I trust that everything has been done in accordance with instructions from the Department as expressed in your despatch No. 12, December 24, 1898.

Of this Guarantee one certified copy is in the hands of the Officers of the Temple Society, another certified copy is on file in this Consulate, and a simple copy is herewith inclosed.

I remain respectfully Your Obedient Servant

*Salah Merrill*

United States Consul.

Inclosure as above.

Copy

Agreement between the Temple Society, Jerusalem, and the United States Consulate respecting the so called Mount Hope property in Jaffa.

Considering the mutual interest of the Americans and Germans in a certain piece of land in Jaffa sometimes called The Minor Estate and sometimes The Mount Hope Property, the land having been purchased with American money exclusively and the property managed from the very first exclusively by Germans who paid all taxes and other expenses for thirty years when the property yielded almost nothing; the proceeds having always been devoted to charitable, chiefly to hospital purposes; and as the result of many interviews and some correspondence during the past twelve months between the Germans in whose care the property now is and the United States Consul at Jerusalem as representing the United States Government at Washington;--the following paper has been drawn up by the two parties in interest showing the mutual understanding as to this property,--said paper taking the form of

A GUARANTEE

by the President of the Temple Society (German) in Palestine on behalf of the same, namely,--

The so called Mount Hope property, situated in Jaffa, Palestine, originally bought in 1855 by Mrs. Clorinda Strong Minor an American woman now deceased with American money contributed for the purpose by various persons in America, the proceeds of which were designed according to original documents to be used perpetually for benevolent and charitable purposes, said property having been so managed by the agents of said Minor and since 1869 by the Officers of the said Temple Society in Palestine who received it from the agents of Mrs. Minor,--

(1) It is hereby GUARANTEED by the undersigned President of the Temple Society and in behalf of said Society that said property shall be managed by us in the manner which in our judgment will best accomplish the ends designed and the proceeds perpetually devoted to the purpose designated, as we understand it, by the original donors.

This GUARANTEE is given by the President on behalf of said Society on account of the fact that the United States Government has expressed its intention with regard to this property in the following language:--

- The United States Government has no intention
- to interfere so long as this property continues
- to be devoted to the purpose for which it was
- originally purchased .-----Despatch No. 12, dated Washington, D.C., December 24, 1898, from the Department of State to the United States Consul at Jerusalem.

(2). The undersigned also on behalf of the said Temple Society guarantees to preserve intact and inviolate the small burial lot or cemetery situated on this property, in which the bodies of both Germans and Americans are buried,

and in which was likewise buried the body of Mrs. C.A. Minor November 6, 1855, the original agent in the purchase of this property.

(3). It is further understood and agreed by the President of the Temple Society and in behalf of the same that, considering the origin of this charity, American sick persons shall not be debarred from the benefits of it;—and since it is impossible to estimate in money the amount of benefit to be granted to such persons, or to designate the number of persons who should receive such benefit, the matter is left as has hitherto been done, to the judgment of the Officers of the Temple Society who administer this charity.

(Signed) Christoph Hoffmann, President of the Temple Society  
Samuel Hoffmann, Doctor of Medicine  
Hugo Wieland, Merchant.

(Signed) Selah Merrill  
United States Consul  
Jerusalem, Syria, April 27, 1899.

Mr. Christoph Hoffmann, President of the Temple Society, and Messrs. Samuel Hoffman, M.D., and Hugo Wieland, Merchant, all living at Jerusalem, have this day in accordance with legal proceedings, acknowledged their foregoing signatures.  
Jerusalem, April 28, 1899.

(Signed) Dr. von Tischendorf  
German Imperial Consul General



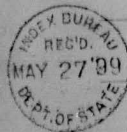
With Dispatch No. 15, April 29, 1899.

*Copy*

*Hecker*

No. 16

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, May 2, 1899.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State.

*Ans. June 14.*

SUBJECT

A Russian Jew, calling himself Aby Schactman, demands American protection. Been four years without papers and taken no steps to secure them. Has "copy" of naturalization paper which may belong to some other Aby Schactman. Wants American protection for sake of convenience.

Instructions asked as to his right of protection.

SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

JUN 1 1899

Dear Mr. Cudde:

To say the least,  
the facts stated cast  
great doubt upon the  
right of the applicant  
to claim American  
protection. The Com-  
missioner <sup>will</sup> was fully justified  
in withholding protec-  
tion, and unless  
satisfactory evidence  
of bona fide naturaliza-  
tion and of intention  
to return to the United  
States to reside per-

manently and perform the duties pertaining to American citizenship is presented, <sup>he</sup> should <sup>continue to</sup> decline to grant protection.

Concerning the proof of citizenship requisite in case of a naturalized citizen applying for protection, <sup>the</sup> Consul <sup>are</sup> may be referred to Par. 151 Consular Regulations which relates to applications for passports. The same <sup>proof</sup> should be required <sup>in</sup> applications for protection.

that is required upon  
applications for pass-  
ports.

Enclosed for you in 4 V.  
guidance a copy of the rules  
governing the granting  
Send the Consul also  
a copy of the <sup>pamphlet</sup> present  
rules governing applica-  
tions for passports if  
he has not already  
been furnished a  
copy

and issuing of passports

Sam  
and Melbourne:  
as above indicated



Office of the  
Third Assistant Secretary.

*M. Chilton*  
*ack in view of*  
*W. Van Deyne's memo.*  
*Indy.*

6.16

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, May 2, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

Sir.

Instructions are asked of the Department in  
the following case:-

A Jew, calling himself Aby Schactman, wants American  
protection.

He states that he is between 31 and 34 years old.  
Claims that he was born in Russia.

States that he went to America between 1882 and 1884.  
Resided in New York.

Claims that he was naturalized in Chicago in 1894.

By last Post he received from Chicago a "copy"  
of a naturalization paper, Superior Court of Cook  
County, dated September 14, 1894, signed by Stephen  
D. Griffin. - He did not write for this paper himself,  
but got an acquaintance here to write to an ac-  
quaintance of this acquaintance, who secured the  
"copy" for him. - No description of the man is given,  
the paper may belong to some other Aby Schactman  
now residing in Chicago.

This man left America soon after he was naturalized.  
Claims to have resided in Africa more than one year  
after leaving America.

Has resided in Jerusalem more than two years.  
When he left America he took no papers with <sup>him</sup> and has  
had none since.

He has been in some trouble recently and comes to the  
American Consulate for protection.

Thus far we do not recognize him.

After receiving the paper as I have mentioned, by  
the last Post, he demands protection and de-  
mands a Testberch on which he can travel.

He is very <sup>anxious</sup> about returning to America, and does not ap-  
pear to have any sense of responsibility to the  
United States Government. - In this respect he is  
like all our Russian Jews.

He evidently, like all these Russian Jews, wants to use  
the United States Government and <sup>its</sup> protection as  
a convenience.

When

When to day he demanded protection and a Teskereh I replied, - "You have waited four years without protection and have taken no pains to secure any papers, I think you can wait six weeks longer till I can make your case known to the authorities at Washington".

I told him that he ought to go to America and secure the proper papers, - that the protection of the United States was something to be deserved, and not something which the United States or its Consuls could throw away broadcast. This is what indiscriminate naturalization of Russian Jews amounts to.

After four years' delay as explained above, does this man deserve protection?

On the meagre information at my command can I protect this alleged "Aby Schactman" when this paper may belong to some other Aby Schactman?

I remain respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

*Jerusalem*  
362 West Seventh Street. Cons. Bureau.  
Erie, Pa. May 31<sup>st</sup> 1899.

Mr. Tho. W. Cridler

Assistant Secretary of State

Washington D.C.



*Copy to Merrill June 22. 99*

Sir: - I am in receipt of your communication of the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. with two inclosures, viz: - dispatch No. 58 of Consul General Dickinson and dispatch No. 14 of Consul Merrill, all relating to my official actions in the settlement of the estates of Shalom Karnetorum and Meyer Nachtegall. In reply I beg to submit the following:

I have now in my possession a copy of my final account with the Karnetorum estate. With this I can give a clearer explanation and a more specific one than I did in my letter to you under date of Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> 1898. From this final account I find that the value of the Karnetorum estate was 38090 francs. Where Consul General Dickinson found that Consul Wallace's account as executor shows total receipts amounting to less than 3900 francs I do not know. The fact is the Consul General is mistaken, as

2

he will discover if he takes the trouble to examine the matter. Kindly look at the final account with that estate as I left it, a copy of which is on file in your Department. An inspection of this account will certainly satisfy you as to the value of that estate and as to the charges I made as executor. When I consider the nature and amount of the work I did in settling this estate - most of it entirely outside the province of a Consul's duties - I do not regard, nor did the heirs at that time, that the charge was excessive. The charge of 1257<sup>80</sup> francs was fair and was honestly and laboriously earned, and had the will appointed another than the Consul as executor the charge for services would have been much more. The fact that the deceased designated in his will the Consul as executor should not relieve the estate from paying for services rendered.

In answer to the charge made by the Karnstorff heirs that I never paid them any money I must again refer you to my final statement. You will there find that on May 4<sup>th</sup> 1894 I paid them 420 francs; on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> 160 francs; on Sept

23<sup>th</sup>

25<sup>th</sup> 1400 francs; on Nov 13<sup>th</sup> '94 200 francs.  
 For these several amounts receipts were taken  
 at the time of payment and were put on  
 file in the Consulate. Numerous bills against  
 the estate were paid and property transferred  
 to the heirs.

I again assert that no paper of any kind  
 was ever by me presented to the Karnetovian  
 heirs for their signatures until it had been  
 fully explained to them in their own language.

In my letter of Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> '98 I said "Until  
 I left my post no word of complaint against  
 any action of mine in the matter was made  
 by any of the heirs." On a misunderstanding  
 of my meaning the Consul General rather  
 severely called me to task. I did not intend to  
 convey the meaning that no complaint had  
ever been made, but that it was not made  
until I left my post. I know as well as he  
 does that such a complaint was made  
 in his presence just before I left Jerusalem.  
 But previous to that time there was a period  
 of nearly three years, or from June 20<sup>th</sup> 1895  
 until

until about April 20<sup>th</sup> 1898 during which such a complaint could have been made and would have been had there been any grounds for it. The fact is that no such complaint was made and that on the other hand the heirs expressed themselves as satisfied with all that had been done.

Consul Merrill gives the cause of the present dissatisfaction in his mention of our so-called "Dr." Franklin. This man has been the cause of much unnecessary trouble to the Consul. The reason of his present enmity to me is this. He was a depositor in Frutiger and Cos' bank in Jerusalem at the time of its failure. The assignees of the bank claimed that the Karnstorums estate ~~owed~~ the bank 5000 francs. They gave to said Franklin an order on me for this amount. I refused to pay it on the ground that the assignees had not proved the validity of their claim. Franklin felt and said that I was benefitting the Karnstorums at his expense. Since then he has used every means in his power - one of which

which is a tongue facile in lying - to injure me. I assure you that he is back of the Karnstrom complaints; being careful, however, to conceal from them that it was their money he wished me to pay him. Still you think simply that you may have some idea of the animus that is back of all this.

In re Nachtigall Estate.

Concerning this I have no written memoranda and must trust to memory for some of the facts. Permit me, however, to remind you that early in 1895 my final account with this estate was rendered to the Department. At that time no criticism was made. An inquiry concerning the charge of 2% for depositing, and one concerning the appointment of Gabriel Farwagi as attorney for the heirs, was made to me by your Department. My answers to those inquiries were given at the time and as no further communication on either matter was addressed to me, I think I was justified in concluding that

that the reasons given were sufficient

In the list of fees in the Consular Court book for Turkey there is a specification of 2% for depositing. I was depository for this estate and as the deceased died intestate I was ex officio executor. I did deposit all money and a package of valuables in a bank for safe keeping. I was charged by the bank for this. I made no money out of this transaction and Consul General Dickinson's quiet assumption that I did is wholly unwarranted and I protest against it. He is not the judge in this matter. His opinion that "it would be an extremely dangerous practice to permit him (the Consul) to have a financial interest in any matter calling for the exercise of judicial discretion" is good law, but has nothing to do with the case. I had no financial interest in the case and the Consul General has no right to assume indirectly that I had and then argue according to the assumption.

The appointment of Gabriel Farwagi as attorney for the heirs of the Nachtigall estate was made

made by said heirs themselves. They wanted a man to represent their interests and asked me to suggest one. I did so and they sent a power of attorney under which said Farwagi acted. They approved his course and also his bill when it was presented and authorized me to pay it.

I was under the impression that Farwagi was administrator of this estate when I wrote you on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> '98. I was mistaken in this as I learn from Consul Merrill's dispatch No. 14. The whole matter had been forgotten by me, hence the mistake. The Consular records evidently show that all the acts of settlement were performed by me or under my direction by employes of the Consulate. I am therefore responsible for all acts performed and stand ready to make good any loss the heirs sustained.

The amount of 37<sup>50</sup> francs allowed a consular employe for attendance upon the Nachtigall estate at the time of Nachtigall's death

8

death was granted by me for extraordinary services performed by him. A ceterum warranting the payment is printed in the Consular Court Book in use in the Jerusalem Consulate. This payment was also approved by the Widow Nachtigall.

For none of the many services rendered by me to this estate did I receive any remuneration of any kind from the estate or any of the heirs.

There are no other matters in your letter of May 23<sup>rd</sup> '99 or either enclosure that seem to me to call for comment by me.

I therefore submit the above as my explanation of the various criticisms and charges made by the Karnstorums and Nachtigalls; adding only this, that while I promise to make good any loss any of these parties have sustained through any act of mine, it will only be after clear proof that wrong has been done them.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant  
Edwin S. Wallace



Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

Mr. Can:

Suggest that Mr. Day's  
draft of this matter. As it  
is for one merely getting  
ball and accomplishing  
nothing. Dickinson's state-  
ment of facts is about right.  
So is Wallace's. They however  
differ in their ideas as to the  
judicial duties of a Consul.  
The controversy <sup>will be</sup> whether the  
Consul has or has not authority  
to do so. Why not drop the matter,  
as no one has complained to

the Dept. or asked that  
Wallace be made to  
respond?

The whole discus-  
sion started in Dickin-  
son's inspection report.  
Wallace attended to the  
matter in a rather ignorant  
sort of way - but he was  
probably following blindly  
established precedents.

E.H.M.

Office of the  
Third Assistant Secretary.

in Chelton

Before giving copy to Mr.  
Dickinson & Mr. Herries  
perhaps the record should  
be looked up carefully  
and cited in the instruc-  
tions for a fuller and  
better understanding  
A. J. M.

*Handwritten signature*

*As Bureau  
Report  
A. J. M.*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, July 17, 1899.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.



*See instructions to  
Construction Dept  
March 26*

*Further Act  
March 26*

*Ask copy to  
Constantinople  
Aug 24 99*

SUBJECT

Loss by exchange at Jerusalem consulate.  
Consul acting in strict accordance with Consular Regu-  
lations -----No Imperial Ottoman Bank: reputed "agent"  
will not pay required backshish or bribe to become its  
representative. ---Reasons why most suitable bank has been  
selected. ---Money changers an inevitable element in mone-  
tary affairs; current money absolutely in their hands; Voucher  
in proof of this. ---The case simple, illustrated by a Gov-  
ernment official in the city of Washington. ---Gold piast-  
res and Turkish liras not in use. ---Francs the basis in  
all Bank transactions. ---Banks will not furnish current  
money except at a loss to the consul. ---Unfortunate that  
this matter has never been settled. ---Hope of consul for  
permanent settlement and proposition for the same. ---Neither  
the Government nor the consular employees to be wronged. --  
This a serious personal matter because consul's statement  
of facts have not been credited. ---Earnest consideration of  
the subject urged, and a permanent settlement pleaded for.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, July 17, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 21, May 24, 1899, with inclosure No. 63 from the Consul General at Constantinople, dated May 2, 1899, both relating to the matter of loss by exchange at this Consulate.

According to Consular Regulations, Par. 578, "the consul is expected to use his best discretion to negotiate his drafts at the most favorable rates". This provision of the law I have complied with in the strictest manner possible. Moreover by this Article the consul is regarded as competent to do this, -until he is proved to be incompetent. As I have had no intimation that the latter has been done I must protest against the matter being taken entirely out of my hands, and against my being directed to use a banking firm (which does not exist in Jerusalem) which the Consul General chooses for me. Further, I have a right to call attention, -which I do most respectfully-, to Consular Regulations, Par. 7, which states that a Consul General has nothing to do with the accounts of consuls.

I wish to state four points as follows:- (1) I think that there is a misapprehension either at Constantinople or at Washington, or both, in regard to the facts in this matter; (2) I consider the implication that the consul in Jerusalem has been charging a rate of loss by exchange which he had no right to charge as extremely unjust; (3) I am certain that the Consul General's plan would rob the consul and the employees of this consulate of a part of their just dues; (4) and I think that there can be an arrangement made which will be just to all parties concerned.

Imperial Ottoman Bank

The Imperial Ottoman Bank has no representative here. The manager of the Deutsche Palaestina Bank said to me, -  
" we are not their representatives except in your matter; they telegraphed to us to accept your drafts at a certain rate " .

He added, -

" we cannot become their agents without paying them backshish, and we are not able to do that " .

Were there such a bank here the Turkish officials would be likely to patronize it; but the Governor and the Turkish officials in general do their business at the Credit Lyonnais. The Tobacco Regie ( a monopoly of the Turkish Government ) do theirs with a Jewish banker, - a private bank owned and carried on by an individual Jew. When the German Emperor was here in October of last year the Imperial Ottoman Bank established a branch in this city which did very little business and which lasted less than three weeks.

Certainly there is here no Imperial Ottoman Bank or representative of the same where we could do the consulate business, that is, put in our drafts and leave our money on deposit.

The Deutsche Palaestina Bank is not a suitable place for us. The managers are men worthy of respect, but they are not strong financially. They are trying to build up a business on the ruins of a broken and defunct bank, and may in time succeed. To say nothing of my own money, I have no right to risk in this bank the money of the employees of this consulate for which I am in a measure responsible.

We cannot sell our drafts here or there and keep the money ourselves. We have no safe in which to keep anything, besides the plan would be very inconvenient.

Cook's Bank where we at present do our business, keeps our money and we consider it safe in their hands. This is an English firm, long established and reliable. When the annual rent money for the consulate has to be advanced for an entire year as is the custom, the other banks would charge us interest at the rate of six or eight percent. Cook's Bank advances us the money without interest. If I am competent to judge, Cook's Bank is, at present, the best place for us to do our consular business.

If the Consul General's plan which in several communications during the past twelve months he has urged upon me, were adopted it would make a difference of one hundred dollars in my salary annually, and the employees of this consulate would suffer in proportion. But I have no idea that the Government wishes me to make this sacrifice or intends that I shall do it. There is a serious misapprehension of the monetary conditions existing in Jerusalem which I have previously explained and which I will explain again:-

Suppose you, in Washington, draw one hundred dollars from the Treasury. You want to pay your servant, car fare, grocer, milkman, &c., but you cannot do so with the money you have received without loss; - to pay these bills you need current money which you must get and get ONLY from money changers. In changing your money you lose from four to eight per cent. Everybody in Washington is dependent upon these money changers. Your money is worth one hundred dollars, - LESS WHAT YOU ARE OBLIGED TO PAY THE MONEY CHANGER.

It seems to me that there is no mystery about this; - and this is precisely the condition of things in Jerusalem.

See inclosure No. I, relative to Money Changers in Jerusalem.

The fact that in Jerusalem there is no current money except in the hands of these money changers, cannot be ignored, - it must be reckoned with. The Government puts into the hands of the consul in Jerusalem a dollar on the supposition that it is available, in Jerusalem, for its full value. To make up any discrepancy is what loss by exchange is for. Of this the Department's circular of August 20, 1898, is plainly confirmatory.

I do not understand why this Consulate should be compelled to use a money standard which does not exist, - that is gold piasters. Practically the standard might just as well be Chinese money or Russian money. We have nothing to do here with gold piasters, or with Turkish Liras. Jerusalem, although in Turkey, is as independent of gold piastres and Turkish Liras as it is of United States paper money. Francs are the basis here.

I have asked four of the five bankers here ( one is absent ) how much they will pay me in current money for every one hundred dollars, drafts at fifteen days sight on Washington. They all reply that in order to do this they must buy the necessary current money of the money changers, which I could do as well as they themselves and save expense. They would charge something for their trouble, and there is considerable variation in their respective estimates for this service. They could not fix a regular price for current money for at times it is scarce and high, say at harvest time, during the yearly conscription of soldiers, during quarantine, and during the season of travellers.

They all make their calculations on the basis of francs.

This is the third time that I have served the Government as consul at Jerusalem, and I feel disturbed that this matter of loss by exchange has not long since been settled permanently on a clearly defined and just basis. The question has been up for consideration five times at least during the past twenty five years, and everytime after explanations have been made it has been settled in favor of the Consulate.

Cannot there now be made some permanent settlement? Cannot the Department and the Consul make some arrangement of this matter that will be satisfactory?

I am on the ground and have been for a number of years and I am sure it should not be called boasting when I say that I think I understand the monetary conditions of Jerusalem as well as anyone. All I contend for is simple justice

to all concerned; and in making any arrangement the Government on the one hand must not be defrauded, and on the other the consul and the employees of the consulate must receive their just dues.

When I entered the consulate in 1898 the rate charged was seven per cent; as this seemed to be too high I changed it to six per cent. I still think that a fairly just rate; but I now propose that five per cent loss by exchange be the fixed rule in this consulate until circumstances arise which in the judgment of the Department of State together with that of the Consul acting at the time, seem to require another rate.

At this rate the consul and the employees of the consulate would in general save themselves from loss, - sometimes they would lose and sometimes they might gain a fraction of one per cent. But the matter would be settled, - and the consul here, whoever he is or may be, would not be living under the suspicion that he is taking advantage of the Government by charging a rate of loss by exchange which he is not entitled to charge.

In connection with my statement that all the banks here do their business on the basis of francs, I would say that the regular and uniform price of a dollar in Jerusalem is five francs. American paper money or drafts on America bring five francs per dollar. There might be exceptional cases where a banker needed a draft at once, or where a slight advantage might be gained over a rival, and he would offer a few centimes more; but the universal rule is as everybody will testify, five francs. But in the Treasury Department's Schedule a dollar is worth five francs and eighteen centimes. The one per cent cost of collecting mentioned in your despatch, added to eighteen makes twenty three centimes, or four and three fifths per cent. This is very near the five per cent that I have mentioned.

A fixed rate is necessary, and a particular bank also, for two weeks before the end of the quarter we begin to make out our quarterly papers. The consul cannot wait till the last day of the quarter and then go about to the different banks to sell his drafts at auction.

The several communications that I have received from Constantinople and Washington regarding this matter lead me to think that my STATEMENTS OF FACT are not credited and that my experience and judgment are not confided in. The matter therefore becomes a personal one, - both serious and painful. But there is no officer in the service of the Government that is trying more conscientiously, honestly, and loyally to do his duty than myself. I am occupying a

responsible post and I feel that the honor and the money of the Government are sacred objects committed to my care so far as this consular post is concerned. Hence I trust that the subject I have been discussing will receive the earnest consideration which it deserves.

I regret the length of this letter, but if it shall lead to a settlement of this question that is business like and just to all parties I shall be glad.

Coming under the head of Correspondence Relative To Accounts, Consular Regulations Par. 95, it is sent directly to the Department of State.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

Mr. Carr:

I recommend that this be referred to the Consul General at Constantinople for explanation. The Consul at Jerusalem reports the interference of the Consul General which has frustrated the coming of money for the post and has by sending this despatch directly to the Dept. deprived us of the advantage of Mr. Dickinson's comments thereon.

Mr. Dickinson informed the Dept. distinctly in his No. 63 that the Imperial Ottoman Bank had instructed its correspondent at Jerusalem to take Mr.

9,001  
17 45  
11 54  
12 11  
11 19  
12 11  
12 11  
12 11  
12 11  
12 11

Handwritten notes, possibly a list or account, with some numbers and names visible. The text is partially obscured by the binding of the book.

1837  
1838  
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1848  
1849  
1850

Mr. Merrill's statement has  
depreciated of less than 1%

Mr. Merrill replies that the  
London Bank has no representation  
in a franchise & that the  
London Bank reports by Mr.  
Dickinson refuse to do what  
he states they will do.

This naturally calls for an  
Explanation from Mr. Dickinson  
before we give a decision.

Without questioning the truth  
of Mr. Merrill's statements, it seems  
strange that he has the power ac-  
cording to his statement, to con-  
vert the percentage of loss by ex-  
change. He says when he took

Handwritten notes on a separate piece of paper, partially obscured and difficult to read. The text appears to be a list or set of instructions, possibly related to the financial discussion on the adjacent page.

change it now 7%. This he re-  
duced to 6%. Now he proposes  
to fix it at 5% adding: "At  
this rate the Com. & his employes  
would in general save than they  
gain lose - sometimes they would  
lose sometimes they might gain  
a fraction of one percent. Then  
why has none been changed? Of  
course we can't fix a rate, the  
prevailing rate must be ac-  
cepted. The first thing is to find  
what is the most favorable  
rate. Mr. Dickinson says  
10%. Mr. Merrill says 5%.  
Mr. Merrill wishes to continue  
selling his drafts to Cook's bank  
home. Cook's agent is Stephen  
Mr. Merrill's Vic. Com. & Co.

S.H.M.



Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

Mr. Murphy.

You have had  
this correspondence.

Please prepare a  
report with a  
view of finally  
disposing of the matter.  
barr.

COPY

Inclosure No. I.

To the U.S. Consul  
Jerusalem

Dear Sir.-

All the current money in Jerusalem  
is in the hands of the Money Changers and the cost of chang-  
ing Napoleons into current money varies at different seasons  
from three and one half to seven and one half or even eight  
and one half per cent.

I am an American citizen and have been ~~in~~ in the money  
changing business in Jerusalem for six years.

There are about fifty money changers in this city.

Respectfully Yours

(Signed) Samuel Raffalowich  
Jerusalem, July 10, 1899.

Seal,-

S. Rafalowich & H. Lipkin  
Jerusalem, Palestine

Consular Bureau.

COPY

MEMORANDUM

Inclosure No. 1.

Mr. Carr:

I recommend that the U.S. Consul in Jerusalem be forwarded to the Consul General at Constantinople. All the current money in Jerusalem is in the hands of the money changers and the cost of changing the Napoleons into current money varies at different seasons from three and one half to seven and one half or even eight and one half per cent. I am an American citizen and have been in the money changing business in Jerusalem for six years. There are about fifty money changers in this city.

Respectfully Yours  
 (Signed) Samuel Rafalovich  
 Constantinople, July 10, 1899  
 Seal, -  
 S. Rafalovich & H. Harkis  
 Constantinople, Palestine  
 had instructed its correspondent at Jerusalem to take Mr. Carr to his statement, to cover the percentage of loss by exchange. He says when he took Carr.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

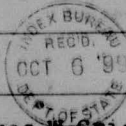
Rec'd. Sept. 21st 1899.

Forwarded Sept. 22nd 1899.

1617

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, September 6, 1899.



Hon. Thomas W. Cridler

Assistant Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Amurath Jerusalem  
10/2-1899

Sir:-

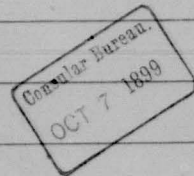
I inclose herewith petition of Shukri Jacob Moussa, Dragoman of the United States Consulate in Jaffa, to the Department of State asking for a small pension for his aged mother whose husband was for twenty five years Dragoman without pay in the consulate at Jaffa.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

Selek Merrill

United States Consul

Dept. is not aware of any law under which such pension can be granted.



Jaffa August 26 1899  
Selah Merrill Esquire  
U. S. Consul  
Jerusalem

Dear Sir;

I wish to make a request  
of the United States Government  
and will ask you respectfully to  
forward my letter to the proper  
authorities at Washington, for a reply.

I am Dragoman in the  
United States Consular Agency  
at Jaffa and have occupied this  
position for 4 years.

My father was dragoman  
in this Agency for 25 years.  
Neither my father nor myself ever  
received any salary. I do not ask  
for any favor for myself, but my  
mother is now old and I wish  
to ask if the U. S. Government is  
willing to make her a small  
present of money, or to grant  
her a small allowance yearly  
while she lives, my father's

long and faithful services might  
be acknowledged in this way and  
the money would be a great comfort  
and help to my widowed mother

Yours Respectfully  
Shukri Jacob Harusa  
Bragomani

*Copy*

No. 18.



U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE  
Rec'd. *Sept 21st 1899*  
Forwarded *Sept. 22nd 1899*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, September 9, 1899.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

*Further Ack'd  
April 3/01*

*Added by form  
Oct 23 '99*

TO

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.



SUBJECT

Vice Consulate for Holland established and  
Conspectus of all the Consulates in Jerusalem  
and Jaffa.

*Consulate General  
Oct 1 1899*

No. 18

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, September 9, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

The Government of Holland has recently established a Vice Consulate in this city and a German, Mr. E. Schoemann who is engaged in business here, has been appointed to the post and, on the 10th of June, entered upon the duties of the office. Hitherto for many years our own consulate has done for the subjects of Holland any friendly service that from time to time was required; but that necessity no longer exists. Our services consisted in helping travellers in various ways and in helping Jews out of trouble. Formerly we did the same thing for the Swiss, but for a number of years past they have been assisted by the German consulate. Friendly offices we still do for the occasional visitors from Mexico and the South American States, as it is most natural for them to look to us, their nearest neighbor, in such matters.

I take this opportunity to present to the Department a conspectus of the different consulates in Jerusalem and Jaffa, up to the present date, giving the name, rank of the officers, number of employees, honorary employees, salaries, rent, ownership of consular buildings, and some other facts which may be of interest.

There are ten consulates in Jerusalem.

Holland.	Vice Consul.	No Salary.
	Dragoman	Honorary
	Kawass	Servant of the Consul, paid & clothed by him.
		Office in his place of business.
		Two thirds of all fees retained by the Consul and one third sent to the Consul in Beirut.

Russian.	Consul General	Salary	\$5,600
	Chancellor	Salary	2,000
	Dragoman	Salary	1,600
	2nd Dragoman	Salary	744
	3d Dragoman	Salary	648
	Jewish Clerk	Salary	624
	Native Clerk	Salary	336
	1st Kawass	Paid	192
	2nd Kawass	Paid	168
	3d Kawass	Paid	168
	4th Kawass	Paid	168

For incidental expenses of the Consulate the Government allows per annum 400

Kawasses have, extra, one new suit every two years.

Everything is paid for by the Government, stationery, flags, ceremonies, &c.

The ceremonies obligatory upon the Russian Consulate, chiefly ecclesiastical which means political, are very many and very costly.

The Dragoman is a person in the Consular Career. The 2nd and 3d dragomans are natives of this country.

The Government owns its consular buildings which are also the private residence of the Consul.

The Government likewise owns a large house where all the employees, except the kawasses, have rent free. This is in addition to their salaries.

German.	Consul.	Salary	\$3,375
	Chancellor	Salary	1,250
	Dragoman	Salary	975
	Clerk	Salary	600
	1st Kawass	Paid	180
	2nd Kawass	Paid	180
	3d Kawass	Paid	180
	4th Kawass	Paid	180

The kawasses provide their own clothes.

Government pays all miscellaneous expenses, stationery, flags, &c.

Government owns its consular buildings, - no office rent, no house rent.

No Vice Consul  
No honorary employees

The "Clerk" is a German.

Austrian.	Consul.	Salary	\$2,500
	Dragoman	Salary	600
	1st Kawass	Paid	180
	2nd Kawass	Paid	180

Government pays clothes of kawasses, each a new suit every two years \$50, 100  
Consul allowed for all miscellaneous expenses 1,900  
From this sum \$400 is paid for rent.

French.	Consul General.	Salary	\$4,400
	Chancellor	Salary	1,400
	1st Dragoman	Salary	700
	2nd Dragoman	Salary	480
	3d Dragoman	Salary	240
	1st Kawass	Paid	145
	2nd Kawass	Paid	145
	3d Kawass	Paid	145
	4th Kawass	Paid	145

Each kawass receives extra, annually,  
for new clothes 60 dollars, total, 240

The 1st Dragoman is a person in the Consular Career.

The Consul pays from his salary his own house rent.

No Vice Consul  
No honorary dragoman or kawass.

Government pays all other expenses, stationery, flags, &c.  
Official fees are reported to the Government.

Greek.	Consul.	Salary	\$1,600
	Dragoman.	Honorary	
	One Kawass	Paid	150

Consul allowed for rent	-	-	400
" for ceremonies			200
" for stationery, &c.,			100

The Kawass finds his own clothes.

Official fees are reported to the Government.

The Consul has almost no office work, - duties chiefly ceremonial (ecclesiastical).

Have <sup>almost</sup> no Jews, - were got rid of at time of war between Greece and Turkey in 1897.

Spanish.	Consul.	Salary	\$2,000
----------	---------	--------	---------

Dragoman.	Honorary		
-----------	----------	--	--

One Kawass	Paid	144	
------------	------	-----	--

Kawass has extra, every two years, for clothes			40
--	--	--	----

One Kawass, old, who draws a pension, per month	-	-	4
---	---	---	---

Consulate is the property of the Government.

There are very few Spanish people, or subjects here, and the Consul has practically no business, and no fees.  
-The large number of "Spanish Jews" in Jerusalem are all Turkish subjects, their ancestors having settled here centuries ago.

Italian.	Consul.	Salary	\$3,900
----------	---------	--------	---------

Chancellor-Interpreter	Salary	720	
------------------------	--------	-----	--

Dragoman	Honorary		
----------	----------	--	--

1st Kawass	Paid	212	
------------	------	-----	--

2nd Kawass	Paid	212	
------------	------	-----	--

Kawasses pay for their own clothes.

Consul pays rent of office from his salary.

Government pays other miscellaneous expenses, flags, stationery, &c.

Consul retains fifteen per cent of all fees, - the balance goes to the Government.

The Consul has very little business.  
All ecclesiastics of whom there are many, - the Latin Patriarch himself is an Italian, - come under French protection.

English	Consul.	Salary	\$4,000
	Chancellor	Salary	750
	1st Dragoman	Salary	500
	2nd Dragoman	Honorary	
	1st Kawass	Paid	132
	2nd Kawass	Paid	132
	3d Kawass	Paid	66

Each Kawass has, extra, every year a new white skirt or native dress.

Each Kawass has, extra, every two years, for a new uniform 45

The salary of the consul is nominally \$3,500 but for the supervision of the Jaffa Agency for the good conduct of which he is responsible, he receives \$500, making the amount \$4,000 as above stated.

The Chancellor has the official title of Pro Consul. He is never called Dragoman.

The English system is wholly unlike our own: The Government knows about what the annual expenses are and makes an allowance, a lump sum, for the purpose of consular expenses. The Consul pays all bills, rent of office, Pro Consul, Dragoman, Kawasses, and all incidental expenses from this lump sum. The only exceptions are flags, postage, and telegrams. The English consulate does a great deal of telegraphing. These exceptions are ~~are~~ accounted for by vouchers, - for other expenses no accounts are rendered and no vouchers given.

The annual sum allowed for such expenses is \$1,750.

In case of extraordinary expenses on some unusual occasion, the Consul can send in the bill to the Government for payment.

Consul pays from his salary his own house rent.

Consul supervises the Jaffa Agency for a certain sum as above stated, but he pays his own travelling expenses.

Rent for consular office is paid from lump sum above mentioned.

United States	Consul	Salary	\$2,500
	Vice Consul.	Not paid.	
	Interpreter.	Salary	600
	Dragoman	Salary	100
	1st Kawass	Paid	200
	2nd Kawass	Paid	200

Kawasses provide their own clothes.

Government pays rent of office, telegrams, postage, stationery, flags, &c.

Government requires voucher for every item expended.

Official fees reported to the Government.

Notarial fees retained by the Consul.

The "Interpreter" of the consulate is always spoken of as Dragoman.

NOTE:- Whenever "clothes" are mentioned <sup>in this report</sup> the official suit or dress is meant.

The amount paid for office rent by each Consulate cannot be accurately determined since three consulates are owned by their respective governments, and all except the United States have consular office and residence combined.

The total cost, annually, for each consulate cannot be definitely ascertained since rent and miscellaneous expenses cannot be considered, but approximately it is as follows:-

Russia	\$12,048
France	8,040
Germany	6,920
England	5,848
Italy	5,044
Austria	4,450
America	3,600
Greece	2,450
Spain	2,212
Holland	0

Note.-Governments owning consulates in Jerusalem pay no taxes to the Turkish Government.



Governments owning consulates, -German, Russian, and Spanish.

Consulates in consular residence, -all except the American.

The Vice Consul for Holland has his office in his place of business.

Kawasses in all the consulates, -are chiefly Mohammedans; -a few are Christians.

Dragomans in all the consulates are natives or Ottoman subjects. This is the law.

This does not include the Dragomans who are in the "consular career".

Four Governments have men in the Consular Career, -French, German, Italian, and Russian.

Employees in the different consulates including the Consuls:

Holland	3	
Russian	11	3 Russians, -Consul, Chancellor, and Career
German	8	3 Germans, -Consul, Chancellor, and Clerk.
Austrian	4	1 Austrian, -Consul.
French	9	3 French, -Consul, Chancellor, and Career
Greek	3	1 Greek, -Consul.
Spanish	3	1 Spanish, -Consul.
Italian	5	2 Italians, -Consul, Chancellor.
English	7	1 English, -Consul.
American	6	2 Americans -Consul, Vice Consul.

The Chancellor or "Pro Consul" in the English consulate is a native with a United States naturalization and passport and registered in our books as an American subject.

Employees in the Jaffa consulates:-

Holland	3
Russian	5
German	5
Austrian	3
French	5
Greek	4
Spanish	5
Italian	5
English	5
American	5

#### JAFFA

The same governments are represented and there are the same number of consulates as at Jerusalem.

Austria.	Consul	Salary	\$ 800
	Dragoman	Honorary	
	Kawass	Paid	120

The Consul's title of "consul" is honorary.

Consul receives as Post Master of Austrian Post Office, from the Austrian Lloyd Company - - 400  
Consul does not trade.

France.	Vice Consul	Salary	\$1,600
	Two Dragomans.	Honorary	
	1st Kawass	Paid	95
	2nd Kawass	Paid	95
	Consul allowed for incidentals	-	400
	Consul does not trade.		

Germany.	Vice Consul	Salary	\$2,500
	Secretary	Salary	600
	Dragoman	Salary	350
	1st Kawass	Paid	110
	2nd Kawass	Paid	110
	Consul does not trade.		

Greece.	Vice Consul.	Salary	\$ 980
	Dragoman.	Honorary	
	Two Kawasses	Unpaid	
	Consul does not trade.		

Spain.	Vice Consul.	Salary	\$ 400
	Two Dragomans.	Honorary.	
	Two Kawasses.	Unpaid.	
	Consul is allowed to trade.		

Russia.	Vice Consul	Salary	\$2,400
	1st Dragoman	Salary	500
	2nd Dragoman	Honorary	
	1st Kawass	Paid	145
	2nd Kawass	Paid	145
	Consul allowed for incidentals		400
	Consul does not trade.		

Italy.	Consular Agent	Not paid.
	Two Dragomans	Honorary.
	Two Kawasses	Not paid.
	Consul acts as Vice Consul for Portugal and Roumania	
	Consul allowed to trade.	
	Consul receives 70 p.c. of the fees.	

Holland.	Vice Consul.	Not paid.
	Dragoman.	Honorary.
	Kawass.	Not paid.
	This Vice Consulate established recently.	

England.	Consular Agent	Not paid.
	Two Dragomans	Honorary.
	Two Kawasses	Not paid.
	Consul receives one half the fees.	
	Consul does not trade.	
	Consulate under direct supervision of the Consul at Jerusalem.	

United States.	Consular Agent	Not paid.
	Two Dragomans	Honorary.
	Two Kawasses	Not paid.
	Consul has one half the official fees.	
	Consul allowed to trade.	
	Consul has flags, stationery, telegrams, &c., from the Government.	

#### REGISTRATION and NUMBER OF SUBJECTS

England...	British born	- -	120
	Jews	- -	250

Registration is, annually, five shillings. Omission to register involves a fine of forty shillings. Where not due to culpable negligence the party is obliged to pay only for the back years during which he has omitted to register.

- Included in their 'subjects' is a class of 'protected Jews'; - Jews who have gone to some British Colony where they could become naturalized after a residence of three years. They become naturalized, take their oath that they will always reside in the Colony, and the next day or week with their naturalization papers in their pocket they start for Jerusalem. This practise became so common that the Government had to interfere to control it. This class are registered, receive certificates of 'protection', and as soon as they misbehave their protection is withdrawn.

France....	French born	- -	250
	Jews	- -	200

Registration for native born is, annually, \$1.00  
Registration for protected subjects is 2.00  
The class called 'protected subjects' are chiefly Jews from the French Colonies, to whom the same rules apply as in England and for the same reasons.  
- The native born French are mostly priests, monks, nuns.

Italy . .	Native born	- -	300
	Jews	- -	10

Registration is, annually, \$2.00. For poor people it is forty cents.  
- Outside of priests, monks, nuns, they have only twenty five or thirty people.

Greece .	Greek born	- -	150
	No Jews		

- Registration varies from 40 cents to \$8.00.  
A 'council' decides as to the means of the party and the amount to be charged. This money goes to the support of the consulate.  
- Greek subjects belong chiefly to the religious orders.  
- There is a curious law that if a man, Greek born, becomes a priest he at once and thereby becomes a Turkish subject.

Greece continued:-

-Births are registered without charge, but if there is a delay of more than six months the parents are subject to a fine of 4 dollars.

Germany. German born - - 550  
Jews - - - - 350

-German born subjects register on arrival for a fee of \$1.50. Not obliged to register annually, but if after ten years they fail to re-register they are dropped.

-Births are registered, -fee \$1.50.

-Protected subjects must register annually and receive certificate, -fee \$1.50..

Austria. -Subjects about 3,000.

-Have less than ten Austrians in distinction from Jews.

-Have no naturalized subjects.

-Most of their subjects are Jews born in Austria.

-Registration annual, -fee \$1.00.

Holland. Native born - 10  
Jews - - - - 25

-Registration annual, fee \$2.00

Spain. . Subjects native born 1  
Jews - - - - 120

-Registration annual and certificates given \$6.00  
One certificate serves for a single family.

Russia. . Subjects native born- 200, -estimated.  
Jews estimated by the consulate officials, -  
4,000 to 5,000

-No register of any kind is kept.

There is no fee, -and no penalty.

-Passports are good for five years, and after that time the holder must renew it at or through his own home that is his place of residence in Russia.

-If a person comes to the consulate with his passport in proper order he is recognized.

There are thousands of Russian Jews in Jerusalem that have never reported themselves to the Consulate and whom the Consulate does not recognize in any way and does not wish to have anything to do with. The Consulate simply ignores them.

From 3,000 to 4,000 Russian Pilgrims visit Jerusalem every year. The last season the pilgrims numbered 6,000. This was an exceptional year.

The magnitude of the Russian Establishment in Jerusalem is simply surprising. They have a compound surrounded by a massive wall twelve feet high, comprising twelve or fifteen acres where are grouped the Consulate, Church, Hospital, Hospital for Contagious Diseases, Pilgrim House for Men, Pilgrim House for Women, the Archimandrite's Establishment, the Administration Buildings for the Palestine Society, and the Employees' Building outside, which together with the land must easily be worth one million or one million and a half dollars. They have vast property besides, but I mention only the group of buildings connected with what are called The Russian Consulate Grounds.

America...Subjects - - American born 50  
Jews - - - - - 800

A Register is kept in the Consulate, -this the Government requires, -but it does not require any of our citizens to register. Some citizens register willingly, others do with reluctance, and others decline to be registered at all. For the lack of a regulation of this kind it is very difficult for the Consul to keep a list of American citizens. This matter ought to be corrected by our Government.

-There is no fee for registration, -another thing that ought to be corrected.

There have been thirty or fifty arrivals of Jews this summer who are not yet counted, and there are many others whom we cannot get to register. The number 800 is approximate (See next page).

In regard to the Jews, subjects of the different consulates, I have given definite numbers. But for well known reasons Jews do not like to report themselves to the consulates and it is difficult to obtain exact figures. Still the numbers stated must approximate nearly to the actual numbers.

Since the time of the Crusades France has <sup>for some centuries</sup> considered herself the natural guardian of the Holy Places of Jerusalem and Palestine, and hence it comes that whoever is connected in any way with these places, to whatever Catholic country they may belong, is under the protection of France. Hence it follows that a very large proportion of all the ecclesiastics of this country receive French protection. This has always been acquiesced in by the ecclesiastics themselves, but in recent years the Italian, Austrian, and German governments have protested against their people being treated politically as French subjects. The matter is at the present time being seriously agitated.

The Russian and French Governments do not allow their official consular correspondence to pass through the Turkish mail, but each consulate has a special postal messenger who goes back and forth between Jerusalem and Jaffa with all official letters.

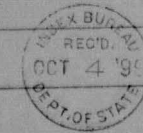
The Spanish custom of allowing a small pension to a person who has all his life been a faithful of that government in its consulate, seems very reasonable and one to be highly commended.

The attention of the Department should be called to the very efficient service rendered by our two dragomans, or our Interpreter and Dragoman. More competent men could not be found. For precisely similar service Russia pays \$3,952,- France pays \$2,820,- Germany pays \$1,575,- and England pays \$1,250; while the United States is willing to pay only \$700. The dragoman and clerk service in our consulate should be raised, in compensation, to \$900 or \$1,000 at once. Considering the competency of the men and the amount of work done by them as compared with other consulates, -work which is constantly increasing because of the influx of Jews-, this increase in salary would be only a matter of simple justice.

Regretting the length of my Report, I remain  
Respectfully your Obedient Servant

*Selah Merrill*  
United States Consul.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, September 15, 1899.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT

Proposition for 5 per cent loss by exchange at the  
Jerusalem consulate and the same explained.



✓  
Ack  
March 26  
See instruction to  
Coulterburgle  
March 26

*Prof. ... 267.*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, September 15, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Your despatch No. 26, August 24, 1899, leaves the matter of loss by exchange still open and as there will not be time to receive your "further instructions" as promised before the papers for the present quarter must be made out, I shall act upon the proposition which I made in my letter of July 17, 1899, - a proposition which I consider in every way fair - namely, 5 per cent, accounted for as follows:-

A dollar is worth here 5 francs only.

I am entitled for every dollar, - See Treasury Value of Foreign Coins, - to 5 francs and 18 centimes.

That is 3 and 3 fifths per cent.

Add one and 2 fifths per cent (which is not enough) for banker and money changer, will make 5 per cent.

Gold piastres we do not hear of or know about any more than we do of Russian money.

My accounts for the present quarter, September 30, will be based upon the above proposition the justice of which I feel that the Department will perceive at once.

I remain respectfully

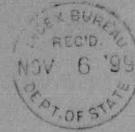
Your Obedient Servant

*Selah Merrill*  
United States Consul.

This matter is  
in controversy  
between Jerusalem  
and Constantinople.  
A reply from latter  
place is expected.

89-Dec 15

*Handwritten initials*



U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE  
Rec'd. *Oct 19th 1899.*  
*Forwarded " " "*

No. 17.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, October 11, 1899.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To  
Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT

Lena Radinsky landing at Jaffa.  
Acknowledging Despatch No. 27, and inclosed letter of  
A.D. Radinsky of September 8, 1899.

*Ack by Merrill to  
A.D. Radinsky  
Nov 10/99*

*fr A.D. Radinsky Sept 8/99*

*7-24-10*

No. 19.

United States Consulate.  
Jerusalem, Syria, October 11, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir, -

Your despatch No. 27, September 13, 1899, is at hand with inclosure from A. D. Radinsky of September 8'99 respecting his mother and her landing at Jaffa.

Mrs. Radinsky with six children arrived as stated. She was asked by the Turkish authorities to make a deposite of money but, as they wanted the consul to keep it which he would not do, she paid nothing. She left her baggage as stated. At our request she got from her luggage such things as she needed and left the rest "till she should go away", - that is from the country. She told us yesterday that she expected to go away in November.

Mrs. Kutzik mentioned in the letter, with her two grown up children, are leaving the country this week.

The above is all that I need to say respecting the particular cases mentioned.

To give you an account of what takes place at Jaffa would be to open up the entire Jewish question. This question gives us a great deal of trouble. You will recall my very long report to the Department of March 5th last, and I have sent two or more long and full reports to the Legation since that date. In fact more than half our time is spent in connection with this class of people, trying to force an entrance for them into this country contrary to Turkish <sup>rules</sup> and protecting them after they have landed. We have a list, received from the Turkish authorities here, of forty two persons whom the Turks wish us to send away from Palestine. So long as the two governments do not take hold of this matter and settle once for all there will continue to be trouble. The Jews are bound to come here, - the Turks are bound to prevent them; - the consul manages all cases himself so far as possible, and it is only when this dead weight of Jews gets too heavy that he appeals to Constantinople or Washington.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd *Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1899*

*Forwarded Sec. 2nd 11*

*16.20*



United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, November 4, 1899.

*Approved  
Dec 21*

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.-

Our Vice Consul Mr. Herbert E. Clark, has sent a request for a leave of absence to visit Egypt on business, and, according to Consular Regulations, Par. 472, I have granted his request. The Leave is to commence on and including October 26, and is to continue three months. Should the quarantine be raised earlier, he will return to his post before the expiration of the time specified, and perhaps will do so in any case.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.



*Handwritten initials*

DEC 16  
DEPT. OF STATE

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1899

Forwarded Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> "

No. 21.

EX. BUREAU  
RECD.  
DEC 16 '99  
DEPT. OF STATE

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, November 10, 1899.

BUREAU OF APPOINTMENTS  
DEC 21 1899  
Department of State

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

*Check of Bond  
to Lucas June 8/1900*

Sir.

The letter from the Department addressed to  
the United States Vice Consul, Jerusalem, containing bond and  
documents, was received by me and has been duly forwarded to  
Mr. Herbert E. Clark who is at present in Egypt.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

*copy*  
*No. 22*

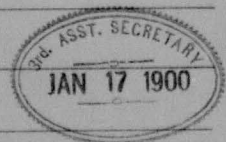
U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd *Dec 19th 1899*

*Forwarded " " "*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, December 12, 1899.



*Added to  
Creditor  
Jan 19 1900*

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Subject

Answering inquiry respecting absence of consul

N<sup>o</sup> 22

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, December 12, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

Sir.

Your No. 28, November 11, 1899, is at hand and in reply I would say that my absence in May was duly reported both to the State and Treasury Departments; the Vice Consul acted during my absence; his certificate of my absence, and his waiver of salary were duly prepared and forwarded; I stated also that my absence was to consult Dr. George E. Post, an eminent American physician residing in Beirut. I supposed that every formality was complied with.

I was not absent in June as your letter states, nor at any other time than as reported above; in fact this brief absence which I could not foresee or get permission for, - is the only absence I have had ever although I am serving my third term as consul. - Your letter leads me to think that there is some misunderstanding somewhere.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

*Copy No. 23*

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

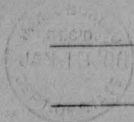
CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd *Dec 29th 1899*

*Forwarded " " "*

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, December 18, 1899.



**FILE**

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State.  
Washington, D.C.

Subject

Acknowledging President's Proclamation of November 21st  
respecting the death of Vice President  
Garret Augustus Hobart

№ 23.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, December 18, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt  
this day of the President's Proclamation dated November 21st  
respecting the death of Vice President Garret Augustus  
Hobart on the 21st of November 1899. The flag will be  
displayed at half mast as directed in the Department's  
circular of same date.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

*copy*

No. 24



U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 1900.  
Forwarded " "

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, December 20, 1899.

↓  
Further ad'd  
April 3/01.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.



*B. 1.100 allowed  
May 12, 1900*

Subject

Employees in this consulate, - their efficient  
character and meagre pay: request that their pay  
be increased.

No. 24

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, December 20, 1899.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Allow me to call attention to the employees of this consulate and particularly to their pay. The men, four in number, Interpreter, Dragoman, and two Kawasses, are reliable and thoroughly efficient in every way. The work of this consulate is, as the Department well knows, only in part commercial; it is largely, very largely connected with a considerable body of Jews, 800 or 900 in number, foreign Jews holding American passports, - looking after their interests, helping them out of trouble, and defending their rights. This work is unpleasant and frequently difficult owing to the peculiar character of these people and partly to our peculiar relations to the Turkish government.

Our employees are hardly able, on the salaries they now received, to make both ends meet. Their salaries at present are, Interpreter \$600, - Dragoman \$100, and Kawasses each \$200, making \$1,100 in all. I respectfully ask that the salaries of these men be raised as follows: - Interpreter \$200, Dragoman \$100, Kawasses \$50 each, making an increase in all of \$400. This would necessitate an annual appropriation for this purpose of \$1,500 instead of \$1,100 as at present.

Allow me to refer to my despatch No. 18, September 9, '99, at the closing paragraph.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

*Isiah Merrill*

United States Consul.

( Memorandum from the Consul-General, accompanying Consul Merrill's Dispatch No.24 to the Department of State)

Consul Merrill asks for an increase of salary for each of his subordinates and employes. From a careful inspection of that Consulate I concur in his request that \$50 per year should be added to the wages of each cavass. If the Department is unable to make this allowance by reason of its available funds, <sup>being insufficient,</sup> an increase should certainly be given to the cavass Francis Tarsha.

In regard to an increase of salary for the Interpreter, A.T. Gelat, I beg to call the Department's attention to my report dated June 16th. 1898, after my inspection of the Jerusalem Consulate, in which I refer to Mr Gelat as follows: "He

"He is in my judgement the ablest and most valuable subordinate in our Consular Service in Turkey so far as I have had any opportunity to observe. He speaks fluently and writes readily the English and several other languages; he is a demonstrated success as a business man, having had 12 years of business experience in England and several years in Jerusalem and he has excellent judgment, tireless industry and the confidence of officials and the people to an unusual degree. I am the more willing and glad to record this strong opinion of Mr. Gelat because my inspection of this and other Consulates has given me an unfavorable opinion of the most of our Levantine employes. Where one of them proves his value by his integrity and fitness, he should be encouraged to remain in the service and to this end I trust the Department will find an early opportunity to increase Mr. Gelat's salary. I make this recommendation without his suggestion or Knowledge, simply because I know he cannot afford to remain, and, apprehend he will not remain, at the salary he now receives unless he is held by the honor and immunities attached to his position." .

My supervision by correspondence of the Jerusalem Consulate has increased the estimate of Mr Gelat's value which I expressed in June 1898. The work of that Consulate is not



renumerative to the Government, but it is difficult and trying to an unusual degree. In this work Mr. Gelat's wisdom, knowledge, discretion and energy are well-nigh indispensable, and my impression is that 1000 dollars per year for such service as he renders would be a moderate salary.

Dated at Constantinople, January 6th. 1900.

*Chas. M. Dickenson*  
Consul-General.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL, *Cons. Bureau*

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. *Jan. 3/4/1900*

*Forwarded " " " Report*

*Jan 10*  
No. 25

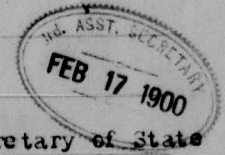
United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, January 12, 1900.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington



Subject.

Instructions wanted, -namely, -When Turkish official refuse to sign disbursement receipts, can the <sup>Consul</sup> sign, or declare the amount disbursed?

No. 25

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, January 12, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler

Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Please give me definite instructions in the following case:-

We need a voucher receipt from the chief of the Telegraphic Bureau for our disbursement account, but this Turkish <sup>official</sup> positively refuses to sign any receipt.

We have the same difficulty with the Turkish official at Jaffa who furnishes the Statistics of Navigation. This is not because of ill will towards us, for we are on good terms, but some Turkish officials fear something terrible will happen to them if they sign any paper for a foreigner.

These are not the only instances where officials have refused to sign receipts, and we have had them signed by proxy. I do not like to do that.

In cases where Turkish officials refuse to sign receipts will the Department accept <sup>the statement</sup> ~~the statement~~, sworn to or without that, as to the amount disbursed?

I have mentioned this matter in a recent letter to the Treasury Department.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM

FEB 23 1900

Mr. Brannagan.

Is it not perfectly proper in a case like this for the consul to submit his personal certificate in lieu of a voucher? harr.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, January 8, 1900.

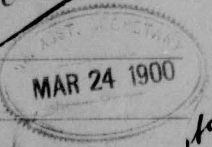


Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State.

✓ Recd March 26



See instructions to Consul General March 26

Subject.

Loss by exchange at Jerusalem consulate.  
Question at issue.-Monetary conditions in Jerusalem.-  
Turkish gold unknown.-Not Turkish but French gold the  
basis.-Pay of consul and employees at Jerusalem consulate.-  
Value of U.S.dollar.-Jerusalem banks.-Cannot get Turkish  
gold.-Must use French gold at 5.18 francs per dollar.-  
Government loses only seven centimes loss by exchange.

Mr. Carr,

The Consul's certificate or explanation in his dispatch transmitting accounts in support of such items that are not supported by vouchers will be acceptable to the Department.

Mr. Merrill should be informed that it is irregular to correspond on such subjects with the Auditor. The Auditor has no authority to instruct him on matters of this nature.

Correspondence with the Auditor is confined to salary & fee accounts, also to accounts for Relief and protection to American Seaman.

Brannagan

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, January 8, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

The following communication is made necessary by the fact that by the last post I received from Consul General Dickinson a copy of his despatch to the Department of State, No. 89, dated December 15, 1899, relative to Loss by Exchange at this office.

Chief Question at Issue.

The chief question at issue is as follows:—Have the consul and employees of this consulate a right to receive from the Government, for their services, one hundred cents for every dollar, or only 95 or 96 cents for every dollar. I claim that we have a right to one hundred cents for every dollar;—the Consul General takes the opposite view.

Monetary Conditions in Jerusalem.

A Turkish official in the government here told me that "in regard to money transactions Jerusalem is an exception to all other cities in the Turkish empire." This fact, well known to every resident here, I have repeatedly stated and illustrated in many ways, but the Consul General persists in his denial and continues to assert that the monetary conditions are precisely the same in Jerusalem as elsewhere in Turkey.

Turkish Gold not Current in Jerusalem and practically Unknown.

Our Vice Consul who has been in business here for twenty or more years past, for many years handling from twenty five to thirty thousand pounds a year, states that in every thousand pounds gold (Napoleons of all sorts, English, Turkish, &c.,) the average was not more than one Turkish pound. Within the past week I have asked the managers of the four (there are now only four) existing banks if they had any Turkish liras:—One replied,—"we have none, we never keep them". The second replied,—"we have none and very seldom see them". The third replied,—"we have had a dozen perhaps; if you want some we will send out among the merchants and try to find some for you". The fourth replied,—"we have a few only".

### Turkish Gold not a Basis in Money Transactions.

This is implied in what I have stated in the last paragraph. It is known to everybody; but I will quote the Turkish official above referred to who stated: "Turkish gold is not the basis of money transactions in Jerusalem". For residents of Jerusalem to reckon by it is awkward and inexact. In fact nobody does it.

### French Gold, Napoleons, the Basis of Money Transactions.

The Governor, the Turkish officials, the consuls, the missionaries, the banks, and all the prominent merchants do their business on the basis of Napoleons.

A reason for this may be the fact that Jerusalem is dominated by great French convents and vast religious establishments which is not true of any other place in the empire; and that these establishments have made it necessary that French gold should be the standard. I do not assert that this is the real reason; but having stated the fact that French gold is the standard here I do not need to account for the fact.

As a side-light on the matter of money it should be stated that, practically, all the gold used here has to be imported into the country. This has to be highly insured. The freight has to be paid and, on such a valuable commodity, the rates are specially high. These two items cost not less than one per cent. Certainly this fact has to be considered.

### Pay of the Consul and Employees of this Consulate.

The consul and employees of this consulate are paid in United States money, but they actually receive their pay in French gold, or Napoleons. They are not paid in Turkish gold because it does not exist in Jerusalem. They are paid in French gold on the basis officially stated in the Consular Regulations, namely, 5.18 francs for every dollar.

On this basis all our invoices are made out. For an invoice the Government charge is \$2.50; but we do not accept 12.50 francs as payment. We multiply \$2.50 by 5.18 francs; result 12.95 francs. Everybody knows that this is correct. We never make out invoices in any other way or in any other money.

### Value of a United States Dollar.

The universal and permanent value of a United States dollar in Jerusalem is five francs; that is, five francs is all we can get for it. The Consul General seems to think that this amount is all that we should receive for a dollar, and all that we have a right to expect. His letter (page 5) makes this evident. For an English sovereign he received 25 francs, which was "13 cents in excess" of what he should have received. But 25 francs multiplied by 193 (rule of the Consu-

lar Regulations) makes \$4.825, the amount of United States money actually realized, - a considerable difference surely.

My statement (see Consul General's Letter, Page 6) that his plan would make a difference of \$100 annually in my salary, he thinks is incorrect, and the inference is that I receive that amount of money from the Government which I have no right to receive. Let us see:-

The Consul General declares that a dollar is worth 5 francs; - the United States Government says that the dollar is worth 5.18 francs.

The consul and employees here receive \$2500 plus \$1100, making \$3600. This multiplied by 5 gives 18,000 francs.

But 3600 multiplied by 5.18 gives.. 18,648 francs. Difference between Consul General and United States Government is 648 francs, - \$125.00

The Consul General wants me to charge the Government one per cent (about that) for loss by exchange. - I make out a draft for \$100, add one percent, making \$101: - the banker pays me five francs a dollar, result 505 francs. But the U.S. Government has pledged me 518 francs. I lose 13 francs on every hundred dollars. Does the Consul General really desire me to lose this amount?

I have sent around to the four banks and asked what they would charge me for a draft for \$100 on New York; one says "5.22 francs" . One says "5.24 francs" . All say, - "never less than 5.22, frequently 5.25 francs per dollar" . - They reckon the dollar as the U.S. Government declares, that is 5.18 francs, and not as the Consul General wishes, namely, five francs.

### Jerusalem Banks

The Consul General implied if ~~he did~~ not strictly enjoin <sup>with that view</sup> me, to deal with the Deutsche Palacstina Bank. This I simply refuse to do, for this bank is the weakest of the four now existing in Jerusalem, and has not the confidence of the public.

Since 1891 we have had four bank failures here, the last within a few months, and in them all American citizens were numerously represented. During the past two months our office has day after day been full of Jewish citizens, small depositors in this bank, crying, begging, pleading, demanding that we get their money for them, even cursing us because we do not get it. Having had a great amount of trouble from this source I do not propose to jeopardize the money of this consulate with a bank that has no public credit and only a very small amount of capital.

### Irrelevant Matters

The Consul General says he is "confident that office rent and the expense of living in Jerusalem are considerably less than they are in Constantinople and Smyrna, and not

larger than they are in Beirut". On the other hand English and American missionaries who have spent their lives in Palestine and Syria, and I will add to this list the present English consul in Jerusalem who has spent all his official life in Damascus, Beirut, and Jerusalem, a period of twenty five years, declares that the cost of living is considerably greater in Jerusalem than it is in Beirut, and that rents are in Jerusalem fully one third higher than in Beirut.

Second:-Mr. Merrill\* has a larger salary than any other consul in the empire, nearly as much as the Consul General\*. (Page 6) ---The Department will notice at once the incorrectness of this assertion.

To have been absolutely fair the Consul General should have referred to the volume of work at this consulate, which is three times that of any other consulate of ours in Turkey. Our work is not shown in the number of invoices made out or in the number of despatches written to Constantinople and Washington, but in helping and controlling the very large number of naturalized Jewish citizens to say nothing of some turbulent elements outside of our Jews. The fact is that we try to manage these difficult, annoying, often very troublesome matters ourselves without referring them to Constantinople or Washington. While we are attending to one Jew case we could make out twenty or even fifty invoices, and enjoy peace besides.

But all these matters are irrelevant and I refer to them simply because the Consul General has done so. Salary, rent, expenses of living, work, &c., have nothing to do with the right or wrong of the question whether this consulate should receive five francs for a dollar, or 5.18 francs.

#### Precedent

This matter has come up repeatedly during the past twenty five years and every time it has been settled in favor of this consulate. As a lawyer I presume the Consul General has been known to lay much stress upon "precedent"; why does he ignore it in this case?

The Consul General complains that I did "not honor him with a reply" to a certain letter. It was simply because I felt that the matter lay between the Department of State and its employees at Jerusalem, and I did not wish to prolong a useless discussion. In fact I regret exceedingly that the Consul General has felt it necessary to draw me into this controversy which comes altogether too near being personal when he suggests<sup>(pl)</sup> or asks if "there is any string on the sale of his (Mr. Merrill's) drafts". This controversy carried on now for nearly two years, has been a source of worry to us of this consulate, and has taken much time from the regular and arduous duties of this office. When I first, Consul General Dickinson I sincerely hoped that our rela-

tions were to be friendly and helpful. To say the least this controversy has been unfortunate.

At this point I re-read the Consul General's letter and what I myself had thus far written. I trust I have said nothing discourteous to Mr. Dickinson.

Secondly:-The impression left on my mind is that all the while the Consul General is thinking that we in this office should be compelled to use Turkish gold.-This is simply impossible for the reason that we cannot get Turkish gold. Thirdly:-It seems to me that his contention for a small loss by exchange at this office is more than met by the fact that the Government loses about seven centimes only.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Salah Merrill*

United States Consul

#### Postscript:-

As a matter of courtesy I have sent an exact copy of this communication to Mr. Dickinson.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE  
Rec'd *Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> 1900.*  
*Foid. " 9<sup>th</sup> "*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, February 24, 1900.

*26*

*Ans Bureau*

INDEX BUREAU  
REC'D  
MAR 23 '00  
DEPT. OF STATE

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

ASST. SECRETARY  
MAR 26 1900

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

*Approve & say  
the Dept. papers as  
improperly in printing  
leave to come to the  
U.S. if asked for  
provided the  
Clark's  
Main Counsel  
Shaw's  
long &*

Subject

Leave of absence of Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark  
for 100 days commencing January 20, 1900.

Ref. to Department's Letter of Dec. 21 st 1899.

*Granted  
March 28 1900*

Consular Bureau.

MEMORANDUM.

FEB 10 1900

Mr. Cridler,

I understand  
you have the other  
papers on this subject.  
bars.



No 26

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, February 24, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

Sir.

Yours of December 21 st 1899 granted Vice consul Herbert E. Clark leave of absence for ninety days commencing on the 26 th of October. Mr. Clark returned to his post on the 2 nd of January and duly reported the fact to this consulate. He stated in his letter that he should be obliged to be absent on account of his business affairs two or three times during January, February, March, and April, and he would like a new leave of absence to cover the entire period between the 20 th of January and the 23 d of April, say for 100 days, "although" he adds "I shall during that time be in Jerusalem as many as forty days probably". Paragraph 472 of Consular Regulations seems to give me authority to do this, consequently I granted his request for the 100 days.

Mr. Clark also stated in his letter that his business might require that he visit the United States the coming summer, for which he would ask special permission at the proper time.

Should he ask for such leave is there any impropriety in granting his request ?

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

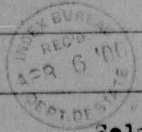
*ms. C.*

*Cong Bureau  
Frankfort  
Cuda*

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE  
Rec'd. *Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1900.*  
For'd. " " "

No. 27.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 15, 1900.



*Check & Audit  
informe April 13 1900*

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington



Subject.

Consul asks for leave of absence for sixty days  
with option from May 5 th, or from July 5th, to visit  
Paris Exposition and London.--John Dickson, H.B.M.  
Consul in Jerusalem to act.--Consul is serving  
his third term and never has had a leave of absence.

No. 27

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 15, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I would respectfully ask for a leave of absence from my post to visit the Paris Exposition and to extend my visit to London. I ask for sixty days' leave with the option of choosing my time either (1) on and from the 5th of May, or on and from the 5th of July according as may suite my convenience a little later; - it is impossible to determine just now.

I propose to ask John Dickson Esquire, my English colleague here, to act in my place for signing documents, &c., which he is willing to do. I am on the best of terms with Mr. Dickson and our respective interests are in many respects identical so that in most cases he will know at once what should be done. Mr. Gelat our efficient dragoman will do most of the work with the advice of Mr. Dickson when necessary, and I feel safe in leaving the matters of the consulate in their hands.

Vice Consul Clark's absence a part of the time (as it appears now) would make it impossible for him to attend to any matters that might arise.

Once in <sup>the</sup> 8ties I asked for a leave of absence for 60 days, which was granted, but the cholera came and prevented my leaving, - at least I thought I should be needed at my post so I did not avail myself of that leave. - Otherwise I have never asked for a leave and have never had one. My absence of six days in May of last year the Department knows all about.

I remain respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant

*Selah Hill*

U. S. Consul.

P.S. Some years since  
I acted for the English  
consul for a period of  
six months.

*Open  
See Consul General's Appro-  
val on back of this page.  
Aidlin*

CONSULAR BUREAU.  
NOTED.

*Cons Bureau*  
*Noted*

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. *May 17th 1900*  
For'd. *1, 19th "*



United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, May 8, 1900.

*ack. 4/13/00*

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.



Subject

Marriage of Leroy David Dickinson and Florence  
May Durgin, with Certificate.

*Application for leave  
of absence approved  
March 22, 1900  
Leroy D. Dickinson  
Consul General*

CONSULAR BUREAU.  
NOTED.

0

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, May 8, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

In accordance with Consular Regulations, Paragraph 418, a certificate of marriage between two American citizens residing in Jerusalem, Leroy David Dickinson and Florence May Durgin, aged 31 and 19 respectively, this day solemnized in this consulate, by Rev. Alfred Williams Anthony of Lewiston, Maine, is herewith forwarded to the Department of State. A copy of the same certificate has been given to each of the contracting parties. - This is the first marriage in the case of each of these persons.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*  
United States Consul

One inclosure  
Marriage Certificate

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA.

CONSULAR BUREAU  
NOTED.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.- DICKINSON - DURGIN.

I, Selah Merrill, Consul of the United States at Jerusalem hereby certify that on this the 8th day of May, 1900, in this Consulate, Florence May Durgin, aged nineteen, born in Kittery, Maine, and now residing in Jerusalem, and Leroy David Dickinson, aged thirty one, born in Spencer, Ohio, and now residing in Jerusalem were united in marriage before me and in my presence by Rev. Alfred Williams Anthony of Lewiston, Maine, who is authorized by the laws of said state to perform such a ceremony.

In witness where of I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the seal of this Consulate this eighth day of May, 1900.

*Fee \$1.00*



*Selah Merrill*  
*M. S. Consul*

Consular Bureau.

JUN 18 1900

*28*

No. 28

*Cons Bureau  
Ad By [unclear]*

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. *May 29<sup>th</sup> 1900.*

For'd. *June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1900.*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, May 19, 1900.

*Ad'd by [unclear] for [unclear]  
June 19<sup>th</sup> 1900*

RECEIVED  
MAY 15 1900  
DEPT. OF STATE

Selah Merrill, Consul,

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY  
JUN 16 1900

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington

Subject

Vice Consul Clark's leave of absence to visit the  
United States, -120 days from May 14.

Consular Bureau.

JUN 18 1900

No. 28

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, May 19, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Your despatch No. 33, March 28, 1900, granting leave of absence to Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark, was duly received. As stated in my despatch No. 26, February 24, 1900, Mr. Clark left on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January and returned to his post on the 23<sup>d</sup> of April. During that time Mr. Clark was at his post for two periods, one of 23 days and one of 8 days, in all 31 days.

According to your permission granted in No. 33 as above Mr. Clark has left for Europe and the United States expecting to return by the middle of August. But the delays occasioned by quarantine are so great and so uncertain that I have granted him leave for 120 days, beginning with May 14, 1900. I will duly report the date of his return.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*  
United States Consul.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
JUL 2 9 12 AM 1900

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

Cons. Bureau  
Confirm 25

Confirmed  
2 July

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

From Jerusalem  
July 2, 1900

Received

9 A.M.

SECRETARY  
JUL 2 1900

Criles

State Dept  
Washington, Columbia Dist.

Number thirty-four received

portions of articles were  
not [See.]

swat mine sie despatch

starting on tenth on

leave to Paris

Merrill

*La*

*✓ Aug 31 1900*

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL  
CONSTANTINOPLE  
Rec'd. *July 17 1900*  
*For'd. " " "*

No. 29

RECEIVED  
JUL 30 1900  
DEPT. OF STATE

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, July 2, 1900.

DIPLOMATIC  
AUG 4 1900  
3rd ASST. SECRETARY  
JUL 30 1900

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State

*copy to Turkey  
Aug. 7c*

Subject

Department's despatch No. 34 in reference to  
writings alleged to be derogatory to the Sultan.

The Cristian Herald goes over the world and quite a number of copies reach Turkey and the articles were before the eyes of the Turks an entire year before my firman was granted. To the granting of my firman there was no objection.

Mr. Hay in his letter of the 11th of June has emphasized the absurdity of calling attention to these letters three years after the alleged offense was committed and after the Turkish government had allowed me to work two years under its firman which was unconditional. Indisputably there is some sinister motive.

In the autumn of 1886 and in the early part of 1894 Raouf Pasha and Ibrahim Pasha respectively gave me cordial personal letters speaking in the highest terms of our relations and of my management of the affairs of the consulate as connected with their own people.

My relations with the present governor Tewfik Pasha are very friendly. I am certain that neither he nor the officials about him have ever complained of me to Constantinople. If I give offense why should the complaint come from the Turkish officials with whom I am constantly associated? Coming from elsewhere and from outside it carries with it its own condemnation.

The Turks ought not to be allowed to make capital by calling me "Reverend". I protest against being called thus. I was in a theological seminary, went thence to the army as chaplain. I received the titles A.M., D.D., and LL.D., "for special services in biblical learning", -and not as a clergyman. They might call me Scientist, Naturalist, Explorer, to any of which titles I might from my life work have some claim.

When this reaches the Department the affair may be over; but I wish to put myself on record in regard to this vexatious occurrence.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUL 4 9 49 AM 1900

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

Cridler,

Washington. D. C.

Shall I go on leave? Answer.

Merrill.

*Valid  
M. subject  
Dept. future  
action after receipt  
you despatched  
July 5, 1900  
Merrill*

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

WU WH KQ WA 10 Words.

From Jerusalem,

July 3, 1900.

Received 10:57 P.M.

*Cons Bureau  
Conform  
Confirm  
7 July*



TELEGRAM RECEIVED

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

Com. Bureau  
Interm

*[Handwritten initials]*



From Jerusalem

July 4, 1900.  
Received 10 A. M.

*[Handwritten]* Criller  
Washington D. C.

*[Handwritten]* confirmed  
July 6, 1900.

*[Handwritten]* I disavow responsibility



*[Handwritten]* See additional dispatch.

*[Handwritten]* Merrill.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd July 11<sup>th</sup> 1900  
For'd "

*Len*  
No.30.

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, July 4, 1900.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary



Subject: -

Acknowledging despatch No.35 June 15, with explanations additional to my despatch No.29 relative to articles alleged to contain statements unfriendly to Turkey.

No.30.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, July 4, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Your despatch No.35 June 15, is just at hand. I have sent you a telegram as follows:- "I disavow responsibility. See additional despatch".

To what I said in my No.29 of July 2nd I wish to add what did not occur to me at the time, namely, that when I was appointed consul in 1898 I wrote to the editor of the Christian Herald about any unpublished material which I had prepared in 1896. I had forgotten what I had written but I requested him specially to see <sup>that</sup> anything which might be construed as reflecting on the Turkish government should be omitted. About that time I made another special request that in publishing anything that I had had a hand in preparing my name should not be used.

These facts show my anxiety, two years ago, to avoid having anything attributed to me which might be thought unfriendly to the Turks.

Since coming here early in 1898 I have written nothing except two simple articles and very brief, one about the school of the American Friends in Rammallah, 9 miles from Jerusalem, and the other about the visit of the German Emperor. These articles were harmless, - they praised everybody.

My official duties at this post are arduous, - I have no time for writing, - I do not do any writing for the press.

The Consular Regulations require that I refrain from writing anything prejudicial to the Turkish government. This principle I have faithfully acted upon. A sense of honor and obligation compels me to do this even were there no such regulation in our consular rules.

Any charge from whatever source that I as consul have violated official courtesy to the Turkish government by anything that I have written is absolutely baseless.

To summarize:-

Material prepared by me early in 1896, four years ago. (2) Extensive changes made in same by the editor without my knowledge or approval. (3) My urgent request, 2 years ago, that my name be omitted entirely. (4) My urgent request that any statements which might be thought to reflect on the Turkish government be omitted. (5) If after all this there are unfriendly statements in the articles as published I repudiate them and disavow all responsibility for them. (6) I do not write for the press. (7) I have obeyed strictly the Consular Regulations touching this matter. (8) As consul I have never written anything reflecting on the Turkish government.

In putting on record any facts bearing on my case I wish to refer to the "Droit International" which is standard law in Turkey, which says that if a consul is appointed to any place in the Turkish dominions the government has a right to reject him without giving reasons. (2) If however a consul has been appointed and granted an exequatur the government cannot dismiss him except for three reasons, -

1. If he goes beyond the limit of his duties
2. If he mingles in the internal affairs of Turkey
3. If he belongs to some society unfriendly to Turkey.

As I read the law the Turkish government is required to prove any charges made under these three different heads.

As consul I have never interfered in Turkish affairs by word or deed. As a consul I have never written anything that can be called unfriendly to Turkey. I have always studiously avoided doing this. That I have violated courtesy in any way cannot be proved.

After my telegram of the 1st I thought that, in the circumstances, I ought not to leave my post without full permission to do so, hence I telegraphed on the 3d, - "Shall I go on leave. Answer".

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

Office of the  
Third Assistant Secretary.

*Mr. Smith:*  
Please send copies of these two despatches & the Dept's reply of the 3d instant, to the Charge at Constantinople for his information referring to previous correspondence -  
*A. H. C.*

*Aug 26 4/23  
6/27/1900  
250*

*in  
Merrill*

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

WU 6 Wa,

Jerusalem. 8.

Cridler,

Washington. \*  
*wait*

Shall ~~not~~ additional letter to-day.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

10 9 13AM 1900

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

Rec'd 11:10 P.M.

July 9, 1900.

(No Signature)

*Conformed Aug 13, 1900*

[\* See correction attached]

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

JUL 12 9 10 AM 1900

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE  
U.S. SERVICE.



To State Dept.

Cable Company New York says, our six from  
Jerusalem, 9th, Cridler: "Shall wait additional letter  
to-day"; repeat "Shall wait additional letter to-day".

Young,

Washn., July 11, 1900.

9:59 P.M.

Mr. Buck.

This refers to cable received on the 9th inst.  
for Mr. Cridler from Jerusalem as follows:

"Shall wit additional letter to-day."

The above is in answer to our request to have it  
repeated.

*Fitzsimmons.*



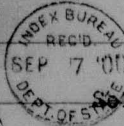
U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> 1900.  
Fold. 4 24<sup>th</sup> 1901

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, August 10, 1900.



Salah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State.

Rec'd April 3, 1901

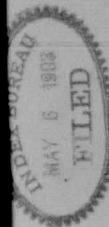


Subject

The United States Consulate, -The Spaffordite or so-called "American Colony", -and The American Cemetery in Jerusalem.

Summary: -

American cemetery and Spaffordite community not two questions, must be considered together. Baldwin's letters examined, falsehoods exposed. An insult to Mr. Dickinson and to the Legation. Spaffordites no rights of any kind in American cemetery; buried in American, German, and Greek cemeteries; cases similar; if property rights acquired in one were acquired in all. No body of Am. Spaffordite in Am. cemetery; should be told they have no rights there. Pretended interest is for malicious annoyance. -Eighteen years of neglect show that Spaffordites have no interest in bodies or graves of members who die. Graves obliterated through their neglect. Use "bones of members to uncover rottenness and wickedness of U.S. government and the Church". Cemetery matter not quarrel between different sects of Am. residents, -they united in feeling and action. Spaffordites defy all law; plotting to injure Am. interests; to prevent sale of cemetery; to prevent Am. residents burying in new cemetery; to induce Turkish government to demand recall Am. consul; to poison minds of Turks and Arabs against the U. S. government. Department being at distance possibly may not have realized fully the situation. -Consul been obliged to carry on struggle without aid from Department. Spaffordites disgraced Am. name in Jerusalem. -Injunction to prevent them calling themselves an "Am. colony". -Out of 120 souls less than 20 are Americans. Ten or more nationalities make up this 120 souls. -If allowed to call themselves an Am. colony should organize under Am. law. -Business men of Jerusalem a right to demand this. -Spaffordites do not want this. -Many nationalities enable them to evade responsibilities. -Declaration from Department needed. -Help needed for unfortunates who are defrauded of their money and driven from Spafford house. -American cemetery legally sold. Not subject to Turk. law controlling cemeteries because not recognized by Turk. law as such.



Consular Bureau.

SEP 24 1900

No. 31.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, August 10, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I am in receipt of a despatch from Consul General Dickinson, Constantinople July 2, 1900, with three inclosures: -1. John Hay to Lloyd C. Griscom, June 8, 1900: -2. Edward E. Baldwin to Lloyd C. Griscom, April 13, 1900: -Same to same May 1st 1900, the last having appended a document in Arabic and Turkish.

As I desire to lay before the Department some facts relative to the Spaffordite community in this city, and since the affairs of this community and the American cemetery are so mixed that they cannot be considered as two questions, I shall base the present despatch upon the documents just mentioned and what I have to say will be comprised under the following general heads: -The United States Consulate, -The Spaffordite or so-called "American Colony", -and The American cemetery in Jerusalem.

I. Baldwin's letters examined and their falsehoods exposed.

In his letter of April 13 Baldwin, speaking of the removal of the bodies from the American to the English cemetery says, -

"the bodies above mentioned...were two years ago last September (1) secretly dug out of their graves (2) and dragged from their coffins, (3) without any notice to the friends and relatives of the deceased, (4) and were broken into short pieces that they might be put into boxes 30 inches in length, (5) which boxes were unnumbered, (6) and there being more than one body put into one box, (7) in which boxes they were carried by night ...and were put in a confused pile into a pit in the English cemetery".

The numbers in this extract are my own. Each and every one of these seven statements is an absolute and malicious falsehood and known to Baldwin and the Spaffordites to be such; and were either he or Mrs. Spafford to make oath to these statements or to any one of them they would perjure themselves.

Baldwin continues, -

"these facts" (the above seven) "were ascertained through the intervention of the British government which caused the pit to be opened in a fruitless search for

the body of a British subject'.

This statement is absolutely false. The British government did not interfere in any way. On the contrary Baldwin & Co., made deliberate representations to the person temporarily in charge of the cemetery who, because he was thus misled, allowed Baldwin and party to open the depository where the bodies had been placed.

The Spaffordites appealed to the British consul in Jerusalem for redress and the matter was referred to the British Embassy in Constantinople, and thence to Lord Salisbury. Lord Salisbury decided that 'the entire matter should be left in the hands of the American consul in Jerusalem'. Through the kindness of my colleague the British consul here I have seen Lord Salisbury's letter and the despatches from the British Embassy in Constantinople.

Baldwin appends to his letters a document in Turkish and Arabic which he calls a 'certificate' from the Turkish authorities declaring, he says, that 'the land in which these bodies were buried is wakuf property'. His statement is untrue, yet he asserts it in both of his communications. There is neither declaration nor hint in these documents that the property in question is 'wakuf'.

Baldwin's letter is simply an insult to Consul General Dickinson. It is an insult likewise to the Legation. It appeals to the Legation and at the same time serves notice in form of a threat on the Legation that should it confirm Mr. Dickinson's decision they will appeal to the State Department. Impudence could not go further.

2. The Spaffordites never acquired any property rights or any right of control in the American cemetery.

In the cemetery belonging to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions the Spaffordites were allowed by courtesy to bury their dead. (2) In the cemetery of the German Temple Colony in Jerusalem they were allowed by courtesy to bury some of their dead. (3) Likewise in the Greek (church) cemetery they were allowed to bury other of their dead until they were told that there was no more room for them.

These three cases are similar in every respect.

Upon the generous and kind act of the Presbyterian Mission the Spaffordites are founding a claim to ownership. They wish to dictate what shall be done with this property. But the permission of the Presbyterian Mission did not convey any property rights. If it did, then by the courteous act of the Greek and German authorities the Spaffordites have become joint owners and directors of those two cemeteries, respectively. The absurdity of such a claim is apparent, and were they to assert such a claim with either of these two

bodies they would find themselves and their claim summarily dealt with. Their action towards the Presbyterian Mission is a shameful abuse or an act of kindness which, in the minds of all right thinking people, carries with it its own condemnation. - The sole motive in their action is malicious annoyance and a desire for revenge. This will appear more fully later.

3. Attitude of the Spaffordites towards the bodies of members who die and their neglect of the graves. Mrs. Spafford has said repeatedly to different individuals during the past eighteen years that they did 'not care for the bodies of their friends', that 'the body was nothing to them'.

Mr. Constantine Antoszewsky a member of this colony, on July 28, 1900, appeared before me and made oath to the following statement, - see inclosure No. 1.

The matter of the American cemetery was often brought up and spoken of in the public meetings by Mrs. Spafford, Lord, Jacob Eliyahu, and Edward F. Baldwin. Mrs. Spafford often said that God would use the bones of our members we buried there 'as a means to uncover the rottenness and wickedness of the American government as well as the Christian church'. 'We don't care about the bones' Mrs. Spafford would say, 'but we do want to uncover the awful deeds of consuls and missionaries'.

In all the years that I have been consul here the Spaffordites have never even visited the graves of their friends. The grave-digger naturally put the few loose stones that were taken from the earth while the grave was being dug, around the mound, but the Spaffordites never put even a loose stone at the grave of any of their members much less any proper head-stone. At first I urged them to mark the graves in some suitable way. But their reply was that 'they did not care to do it'. The result was that several of the mounds as left by the grave digger as just explained, disappeared. The earth settled, the rains in winter did the rest. The graves were obliterated. This remark applies especially to the graves in the American cemetery.

Was this the fault of consuls or missionaries? It was inexcusable neglect on the part of the Spaffordites themselves for they had a number of able bodied men who were always idle.

The graves of their six members that were buried in the Greek cemetery are also obliterated for I have visited the spot within a week past. They also buried at four different places in the open fields where it was convenient for them to do so. Four of these graves which I have also visited during the past week, have been obliterated and some of them were levelled off by the Spaffordites themselves. Not a stone, nothing whatever marks the places where the bodies were laid.

Baldwin in his letter to the Legation of April 13, says they want access to the ground "that they may restore the mounds". Again he says, "access given to arrange the graves". In the light of what is well known in Jerusalem of their manner of treating the graves of deceased members such language is mockery.

Whence this sudden spasm of interest in "restoring mounds" and in "arranging graves"? There is only one motive in this pretence, their desire to obtain revenge.

In the same letter Baldwin gives a list of ten persons buried in the American cemetery. In his next letter that of May 1st, he says again, "in which ten of our dead were buried".

They buried eleven of their dead in that cemetery, and this fact shows how little interest they really take in their members who die, they cannot even count. They keep no list, why should they? This was not a slip of the memory, it illustrates their utter indifference to their deceased members, and this indifference has been their invariable rule and practise for eighteen years past.

#### 4. No body of a Spaffordite American now in the cemetery.

No Spaffordite American or naturalized American subject is buried in the Presbyterian cemetery. The bodies were all removed to the English cemetery by the consent of the Spaffordites themselves, but not in the manner described by them for none of them were present at the time to see what was done. Mr. Baldwin in his letter says that two bodies still remain in the old cemetery, Olsen and Strand. Olsen (about 40 years old) was a Dane who had no relatives or friends in the colony or in Jerusalem. He was entirely alone; and till now neither his relatives in Denmark nor the Danish government have made any protests or said anything about the body. The Strand case was that of a child 16 months old. Strand and his wife are Norwegians. Can this Norwegian couple (they have no other children), dictate what shall be done with this lot, American property, simply because they were allowed to bury their dead child in it? It is certain that they have taken no step in this matter to which they have been forced by Mrs. Spafford. What right have American Spaffordites to interfere in the control of this lot so long as there is no American Spaffordite buried in it?

#### 5. This cemetery difficulty is not a quarrel among American residents in Jerusalem.

There may be an impression in the Department, I felt quite sure that at one time there was such a feeling in the Legation, namely, that this cemetery matter was simply a quarrel among the American residents or American religious (Christian) sects in Jerusalem. This is not true in any sense, and this is not the correct way to state or to think of the case.

There are a few American residents in Jerusalem and they represent different religious bodies; but there is no quarrel among them, no dispute, ill-feeling, or even misunderstanding about the cemetery. On the contrary there is the utmost unanimity in the matter.

But there is also in Jerusalem a company calling themselves "The Americans". They are spoken of as the so-called "American Colony", while they are best known as "The Spaffordites". They are not recognized in any society in Jerusalem. They have nothing to do with schools, churches, or missions, they are in fact bitterly opposed to them. The leaders of the community defy all law both human and divine and boast that they are superior to all law by order of Mrs. Spafford husbands and wives (Christian families) are separated, a curse is pronounced upon offspring, Mrs. Spafford declares that "mothers with children are just like street 'sluts with puppies'" (sworn statement), they cohabit according to the inclination of "affinity" provided they do not bring forth children, and Mrs. Spafford demands that she be worshipped as God. - To call such a company "a religious sect", "a Christian sect", or "one of the Christian sects in Jerusalem" is downright blasphemy.

It is not to be wondered at that the Department and the Legation should fail to realize the gravity of the situation. Mr. Dickinson knows a little of this but only a little for while he was here the Spaffordites were on their good behavior.

Nor is it to be wondered at that the decent people of Jerusalem are surprised that the United States government should allow this moral plague spot to exist under the name of "The American Colony". It is due to the foreign officials and residents here that the U.S. government take steps to suppress, at least to disown this disreputable community especially when it can be so easily done.

#### 6. The Spafford community working against American interests.

It is this company that is trying to interfere and injure American interests in Jerusalem. They are aware that the decent people of the city do not approve of their ways and they are angry and are bent on revenge.

They are trying to persuade the Turkish government to refuse to legalize or permit the sale of the old cemetery although they have no rights in that lot and should be told at once that they can have no voice in the matter.

They are trying to influence the Turkish government to prevent bona fide American residents in Jerusalem from burying their dead in the new American cemetery.

When the first interment was made in that lot we had no permission from the Turkish authorities to bury

6  
there, and the Turks had a right to protest. No protest was made by them, and the only protest was made by the Spaffordites who wrote a bitter letter to the governor against our action. The governor showed his friendliness by sending the letter by the hand of his private secretary for us to see.

They have for a long time been trying to persuade the Turkish government to demand the recall of the U.S. consul in Jerusalem. The Department knows how they have succeeded in hunting up newspapers scraps or articles written four and a half years ago by a private citizen in order to prejudice the Turkish government against the Jerusalem consul, thinking by humiliating a faithful officer of the government, to obtain revenge not only against that particular officer but against the government itself.

These are the people who boast that they have the ear and the influence of the Turkish Minister Ali Ferrough at Washington. He has certainly taken their part, and were my matter taken out of diplomacy and put into the courts a strong case could be made against this man as being an accomplice with these people who are intriguing against American interests and plotting to injure the United States government. Why should not complaints be made against him and his recall be asked for?

Not only do they break up Christian families but in the same way they are destroying the happiness of Moslem families; and moreover they are constantly poisoning the minds of the Turks here against foreigners, foreign schools, missions, foreign influences of all kinds, and worst of all against the United States Government, making them believe that it is cruel, oppressive, corrupt, and that all its official live by bribes. That household, to say nothing of its moral character, is certainly a hotbed of disloyalty.

7. The consul feels that in this struggle with these disreputable and disloyal people the Department has not stood by him as it might easily have done.

For more than two years the consul has not reported the actions of these people for two reasons, (1) he knew that the Department was seriously occupied with other matters; (2) but chiefly because he expected by every mail that directions would come to hand affording relief. Till now no relief has come and the consul has waited in vain.

The grounds for hoping for relief are as follows:— Early in 1898 the Department sent a special officer to Jerusalem to investigate the affairs of the Spafford household, which he did, obtaining a mass of evidence sufficient to have put it beyond the power of these people to impose longer

upon the public and to carry on their intrigues against schools, missions, private character, the consulate, and the United States government. — So far as the consul knows no use whatever was made by the Department of the information and evidence thus obtained. The silence of the Department simply emboldened these evil-doers to boast that the U.S. government was with them and not long after Mr. Dickinson left they entered more persistently than before into their nefarious business of intrigue. I feel that had the Department taken a firm stand when Mr. Dickinson's report was sent in, this scandal conjured up by the Spafford Bureau and Ali Ferrough would never have been launched.

I feel that I have a right to say that at no time has the Department realized the gravity of the situation.

8. The American name disgraced by the Spaffordites.

If the United States government has a right to protect its flag from abuse it must have the same right to protect its name from improper use. For fifteen years past the American name has been disgraced in Jerusalem by the presence and actions of these people calling themselves "The Americans".

An injunction ought to be served forbidding this miscellaneous lot of people from calling themselves "An American Colony". Only a few out of the 120 souls in it are native Americans, so far as I know 6 adults and 9 children 5 of the children having recently reached the age of twenty one. The members belong to several different nationalities, — American, English, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Polish, Servian, also Turks or Arabs, also Roumanian, Indian, and Jerusalem Jews.

9. Should be compelled to organize under some rules and some government as a matter of justice to the business interests of Jerusalem.

If they are to be allowed to call themselves an American colony they ought to be compelled to organize under some system of rules as a partnership, corporation, or community, and made subject to American law. Every member who joins the community should be compelled to sign rules to the effect that to whatever nationality he belongs he is while a member subject to American law. The community would then have some legal standing, debts could be collected and business transacted in the ordinary ways. This the Spaffordites do not want. A chief object in welcoming as many nationalities as possible has been to make it easier for the leaders to evade responsibilities. — When the Antoszewsky case came up last spring Baldwin made this declaration to me; — "Mr. Merrill, we have so many nationalities in our house now that you will soon involve <sup>yourself</sup> in trouble if you attempt to institute any legal proceedings against us".

They claim that they have no spiritual head, no legal or civil head, and that they have no rules. These points are insisted upon ~~stingily~~ and constantly. But it is only pretence. They claim to have all things in common, that is they have equal rights. But as soon as a member dares to differ in opinion with Mrs. Spafford he is turned out of doors at once. So here is a head, and a rule after all. As soon as some creditor asks for payment and an attempt is made to take some of their property, they at once have individual owners and are sure to name some one who is not an American subject. Here is a second rule, or a professed principle violated. When a member joins them he is required to put in all his property of what ever sort and in whatsoever part of the world it may be situated. Here is a third rule. If he becomes dissatisfied and wishes to leave he has no money to enable him to get away. He has been compelled to burn his bridge behind him. This Mrs. Spafford foresaw and planned to make her victims powerless. When he is turned into the street not a dollar of all that he has put in is ever restored to him. Here is a fourth rule, and all these rules are very strict. Yet they have no rules.

They claim that they have no interest whatever in the bodies of their members who die, and their treatment or rather neglect of the graves of their members for the past eight or ten years proves this, but when they think they can injure some one they assume an attitude which would lead a person to suppose that such graves were precious in their sight and that the members were bound together by the most sacred pledges and by the closest ties of kindred and affection. All the while they are making these pretensions they have not placed even a loose stone to a single grave, they have in fact with their own hands levelled off some of the graves, - some of those in the field, so as to obliterate the spot entirely.

When the name 'American' is attached to such proceedings the consul and the foreign residents in Jerusalem cannot be blamed for saying that the American name is disgraced by these people.

10. A declaration from the Department needed as a moral argument against the Spaffordites.

The Department is of course on the side of law and order, but a public declaration to that effect is greatly needed. A brief statement could be made setting forth the real character and practises of that house and showing the immoral tendencies of the life of that community, which the Consulate and foreign residents of the city could use in justification of their attitude towards these people. Such a declaration made up perhaps of extracts from the evidence taken by Mr. Dickinson, is necessary to counteract the influence of the Spaffordites who are constantly busy insinuating their poison into individual minds and especially into the minds of travellers. The moral sense of travellers,

their sense of decency would be appealed to and the effect of such an argument would be fatal to the Spaffordites.

11. The cemetery legally sold.

Although the lot in question has always been known as a burying ground or cemetery there was never any service or act of dedication setting it apart for such purpose.

No firman or permission of any kind was ever granted by the Turkish authorities recognizing this lot as a cemetery and it is not known to Turkish law as such. Therefore Turkish law cannot now interfere and control this lot by laws which govern cemeteries.

The lot has been sold to the Latins and all formalities complied with except the final one, that of passing the deed, and for this a special order is required from the Foreign Office in Constantinople to the Governor of Jerusalem that the legal transfer should be made.

12. The Department's advice needed as to what should be done with individuals or families who wish to leave the Spafford house.

From time to time some persons come to their senses and realize what a creature <sup>Mrs. Spafford</sup> actually is and what dupes she has made of them, and they wish to get away from her presence and power; but they find that their money has been taken from them (see No. 9). If they remain in the house they are prisoners and slaves; they have no reserve money anywhere; if they leave they find themselves in a strange city dependent upon charity. There are only a few foreigners in Jerusalem who could possibly give them aid, certainly money could not be obtained from them for a passage to America or elsewhere. There are persons in the house now who would gladly get away but cannot. - Mr. Antoszewsky, wife, and three small children were last winter turned out of the house at 8 o'clock at night. It was dark, cold, and raining and the streets were muddy. Some one kindly took them in for the night and after <sup>that</sup> friendly individuals saw that they were not allowed to starve. It was a case of cruelty. The man's only crime was that he differed in opinion from Mrs. Spafford.

This case enlisted the sympathy of all the foreign residents in Jerusalem, and this sympathy was a condemnation of the wicked Spafford woman. Money has been raised by contribution to take this family to America, - they were American naturalized citizens; - but there being so few of us here who are able to contribute for this purpose it was a great task and could not be repeated.

Can the Department suggest any way by which such cases can be helped?

10  
I very much wish that Mr. Dickinson who is now in America could be asked to consult with the Department about the extremely important matters contained in this despatch.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

Inclosure:—

Sworn statement of Antoszewsky July 28, 1900.

COPY

Inclosure No. I, with despatch No. 31, August 10, 1900.

- The matter of the American cemetery was often brought up
- and spoken of in the public meetings by Mrs. Spafford, Jacob Eliahu, and Edward F. Baldwin. Mrs. Spafford often said that
- God would use the bones of our members we buried there
- as a means to uncover the rottenness and wickedness
- of the American government as well as the Christian
- church. "We do n't care about the bones", Mrs. Spafford would say, "but we do want to uncover the awful
- deeds of consuls and missionaries".

(signed) Constantine Antoszewsky, a member of the so-called "American colony".  
Jerusalem, July 28, 1900.

"Personally appeared before me Constantine Antoszewsky an American citizen residing in Jerusalem, known to me to be such, signed the foregoing statement in my presence, and declared under oath that the statements made in the same were true to the best of his knowledge and belief".

- In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
- and the seal of this consulate this 28 th day
- July, 1900".

SEAL

(signed) Selah Merrill,  
United States Consul,  
United States Consulate, Jerusalem, July 28, 1900.

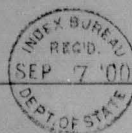
"Gratis"

Office of the  
Third Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Chilton

Mr. Dickinson is in  
this city & I want to  
talk with him on these  
two subjects. Have  
some one prepare  
me a full report of  
the correspondence for  
convenient reference.  
He will be here for  
several days only -  
perhaps two or three at  
most  
Cridler

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE  
Rec'd. Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> 1900  
Frid. 11 24<sup>th</sup> "



United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, August 13, 1900.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State.

Subject.

Forwarding sworn statement of Mr. Constantine Antoszewsky an American citizen regarding the character and doings of Mrs. Anna Spafford the head of the so-called "American Colony" or Spafford House in Jerusalem.

Some explanations added by the Consul and charges mentioned that can legitimately be made against Mrs Spafford.



Consular Bureau  
SEP 24 1900



No. 32.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, August 13, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I inclose herewith a copy of a statement made by Mr. Constantine Antoszewsky an American citizen who for more than four years past has been a member of the so-called 'American Colony' in this city, respecting the character and doings of Mrs. Anna Spafford the head of this colony which is commonly known as the 'Spafford House'.

One of Mr. Antoszewsky's sworn statements was forwarded with my despatch No. 31, August 10, and is not included in the present inclosure.

As a matter of policy Mr. Antoszewsky couched his statements in the mildest form. His wife testified that many of the most damaging things against Mrs. Spafford her husband had failed to write, and that many of those which he had described were too tamely expressed.

It seems to me that it is time the Department took some decided action regarding this disreputable house; and I sincerely hope that my despatch No. 31 and the present one will be considered while Mr. Dickinson is in America as he can confirm and supplement what I have said.

Since 1882 I have had these people under my observation. I have wondered at Mrs. Spafford's power. Some persons are disgusted and repelled by her, while others she fascinates. It has been suggested many times that she has some hypnotic gift; but if so she uses it not for good, only for diabolical purposes.

From a large number of facts that have come to my knowledge from time to time I am certain that her notions wild and vague as they appear to be, centre in the sexual relations. On this subject she is actually morbid. Besides all that has come to light previously Mr. Antoszewsky told me of some indecent things which he was not willing to put on paper.

So far as I can analyze Mrs. Spafford's notions they appear to be like this:—The body and all that pertains to it, passions, appetites, &c., can be spiritualized and become absolutely pure. In that case, or state, there is no more law human or divine; there is no Bible; no Christ; no sin; no sacraments; no marriage; no offspring; these all belong to the flesh which is vile, —one must rise above them. But once thus risen, sublimated, etherialized, spiritualized, unhumanized, Anna Spafford-ized, all appetites and passions are pure, holy, heavenly; then two "pure affinities" can sleep together in one

bed, -there is no sin, it whatever, -provided they do not happen to have a baby. That undoes the whole business. I can not discover any other object or purpose in Mrs. Spafford's teaching and practise than this, that two such 'affinities' get together in one bed, -nothing regarding education, morals, religion, politics, civilization, the affairs of this world or the world to come.

In separating husbands and wives and appointing to the husband a 'helpmeet' there is openly offered to such couples an opportunity for improper conduct. As to the poor wives thus defrauded Mr. Antoszewsky testifies that they are wretched and some of them have threatened to commit suicide.

Mrs. Spafford's cruelty to those of her household is notorious. Some of the members have actually died of neglect. There is nothing in the relations of husbands and wives that is kept secret from the young persons even the young children in the house and her talk is sometimes vile. The whipping of children is frequently done by persons other than the parents, frequently without the knowledge of the parents, Mrs. Spafford commanding a person to whip a child, to whip girls on their naked bodies, and the person is obliged to do it.

The young children are taught that the only Christians in Jerusalem are in that house; outside of it there are none, only selfish wicked people. If anyone dares question the authority of this "Christian woman", this "divine person", even suggest a difference of view, he is called 'a devil', and told that he is 'going to hell'. This goddess has a lot of profane words at her command besides a large outfit of anathemas which she fires off at the poor victims she wishes to crush.

Among the charges that can legitimately be made against Mrs. Spafford are the following:-

Extravagant assumptions of equality with God.

Defiance of all law human and divine.

Disregard of the sacredness of marriage ties.

Corrupting by example and language the minds and morals of young persons and children.

Immoralities practised by herself and inculcated in others in the name of religion.

Utter indifference to the conduct and morals of her followers so long as she herself is worshipped as divine.

Fraudulent means of extorting from her dupes all their worldly property.

Teaching that debts and other obligations are not to be paid.

Inhuman treatment of some of her victims when they are sick or dying.

Shameful neglect of the bodies and graves of her followers that have died.

Turning into the street any member of her household whom she cannot reduce to actual slavery to her person.

Constant declarations and insinuations against the

United States government designed to prejudice against it the minds of Arabs and Turks. Destroying the domestic happiness of native families Turks or Arabs by fascinating husband, son, or father and drawing them away from their own homes. Constant and open hostility to all American interests in Jerusalem.

Her household is a mixture of sensuality, selfishness, slavery, disloyalty; and all the while she is sheltering herself and all that she does <sup>or causes</sup> under the name 'American'.

Respectfully

Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul

Inclosure, -

Constantine Antoszewsky's statement.

Postscript:-

It is a curious circumstance that those who left the Spafford House earliest and those who left it latest during the past eighteen years, people who never knew or saw each other, all make the same or similar statements respecting its character.

Copy

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Pages 1-18.

Sworn statement of Mr. Constantine Antoszewsky an American citizen and a member of the so-called 'American Colony' in Jerusalem, respecting Mrs. Anna Spafford and the household of the Spaffordites or so-called 'American Colony'.

I am<sup>2</sup> a member of the so-called 'American Colony', Jerusalem, and have been since November 27, 1895 when I joined them in Chicago, Illinois, and since April 6, 1896 I have lived with them in Jerusalem.

My wife did not wish to come with me but being unwilling<sup>ly</sup> to be separated from her husband felt, for that reason, compelled to come. When we joined the household in Chicago we had two children. Mrs. Annie Spafford who is the leader of the colony, was very antagonistic towards my wife from the beginning because she would not acknowledge her (Mrs. Spafford) as the head. For this reason Mrs. Spafford always called my wife 'a devil' through all these years and declared again and again that God would strike our children dead. Many a time Mrs. Spafford would send from five to fifteen members of the house with a message to my wife that she was opposing God, -which always means Mrs. Spafford, and that for this reason the children would be taken away from her by death. One morning when I was not in my room, and the children were yet in bed, the whole of 'The Assembly' was sent by Mrs. Spafford to our private room to declare to my wife that there was idolatry in the room because she (my wife) loved the children.

August 4, 1896, the same year we came from America, a daughter was born to us. After a few days Mrs. Spafford said to me that my wife was no more to me than any woman on the street and that I had no right to kiss my wife any more than

any woman on the street, simply because my wife could not see that Mrs Spafford was inspired and that every word which she uttered was from God. But at the same time Mrs Spafford was accustomed to kiss and embrace me and this she has done all through these years, and besides she has acted thus with all the brothers she has chosen.

This is not all. Mrs Spafford chose an unmarried woman to be as she said, -- "a helpmeet to me" to stand with me against my wife who would not acknowledge Mrs Spafford as the head. This "helpmeet" assigned to me by Mrs Spafford, would run after me for weeks to attract my attention. For weeks she would take her seat beside me in our public worship. Whenever I went for a walk with some of the brothers and sisters, she would be sure to come also, and take my arm, &c. - But when all the scheme failed to attract my attention Mrs Spafford sent another unmarried woman to me who spoke to me very plain, thus: -- "Why do you run away from a sister whom God appoints for you, that you two should be one? Your wife is opposing God, therefore a sister must take her place. I assure you that I speak from God". --- She spoke with such authority that I readily understood that it was from Mrs Spafford. I was not mistaken, for after a short time Mrs Spafford herself told me that God wanted me to be with this sister as much as I could and that I should dare to stand against my wife and beware of her for she was "a devil" "and would certainly pull me down to hell". --- Even the new helpmeet herself corroborated my suspicion that she was sent from Mrs Spafford. Having received such authority from Mrs Spafford my new helpmeet was crazy to run after me till I was disgusted and would not per-

mit such conduct any longer. Thus, through my avoiding and ignoring the new helpmeet my silent protest was soon felt.

(Other married men in the colony have also their 'helpmeets' instead of their wives),

Mrs Spafford then persuaded me to leave the room of my wife and sleep in a different house three quarters of a mile distant. The last time I stayed away from my wife thus for seven months; but often I stayed away from her for weeks together. My wife protested against it entreating me not to leave her alone, not to disgrace her good name as a wife, - for certainly she has been a faithful wife to me and a loving mother to the children. She and the dear little children were beseeching me with tears in their eyes not to leave them. My wife begged me to read the Bible with her and pray with her that she might see with me alike. But when I told these things to Mrs Spafford she warned me not to do it saying that she 'would rather read the Bible and pray with Satan than with your wife who is opposing God'.

Mrs Spafford herself has a 'helpmeet' a man about 36 years old, who is not her husband. Mrs Spafford and this man whose name is Jacob Eliahu, a native of Jerusalem, are constantly together. Most of the time they have rooms adjoining each other entirely to themselves in which rooms they sleep and often remain in them for two or three days and nights. In such cases the food is carried to them, and the best food too, and no one dares to ask why they act thus. Often they lock the doors of these rooms while they are staying in them. Brother Jacob is a terror to all who would dare to say or whisper a word against Mrs Spafford; she would defend him in

any and everything.

Very often Mrs Spafford would say to my children, 'do not obey your Mamma for she is opposing God'. Sometimes I thought my wife would become insane and would say this to Mrs Spafford who replied, 'Let her go crazy'. On one occasion my wife was much distressed and acted as one doomed to be hung. When I told this to Mrs Spafford she said, '-we will hang her', and then added, 'we will hang her flesh'.

In September 1899 my youngest daughter Rebecca became suddenly ill and went into spasms. Mrs Spafford told me that her daughter Bertha asserted that it was a punishment from God because the child was illegitimate being born in the colony. This assertion of Bertha Mrs Spafford agreed to and corroborated, thus insulting the innocent child as well as the parents. This young girl Bertha, only 22 years old, has drunk to the full the spirit of her mother, -the spirit of an autocrat. Bertha Spafford rebukes old and young alike so that every one trembles before her exactly as before her mother. Often she would say to the brothers and sisters of the house, '-You don't believe yet that every word which my Mamma speaks is from God'.

Marriage is condemned and forbidden in the colony entirely. Mrs Spafford says that 'marriage is simply a license to sin'. It is often condemned in the meetings before all, the young and old, before the boys and girls and compared with a dogs' life. A mother is always compared to a 'female dog and her pups'. Mrs Spafford often said in the morning worship, '-these wicked women, these wives, these mothers, these devils are not any better than a female dogs with her pups'. Other

things were said by Mrs Spafford openly and before all the young boys and girls (14 years old and upwards) in the meetings that I would be ashamed to repeat.

A great pretence is made of peace and harmony. When a traveller happens to come to the house and asks, -'Do you never disagree in this house?', -the reply is always, -'Oh no, certainly not; we fear disagreement more than death'. They add, -'When two cannot agree in this house we all stop our work and make peace'. This is false for there are many in the house who cannot and do not agree with each other. There is a lack of harmony between the members and frequent disagreements and even quarrels. These are never made public. Last fall in September or October I came suddenly upon Mr Rudy and brother Elias in the hall and they were having a serious dispute. I told them that our purpose in being here was to agree, to become one. I mentioned the fact to Mrs Spafford who said, -'Oh yes, I know they can't get along these 17 years; I am glad you told me; I will speak to them'. -Sisters Johanna Brooke and Mary Adams; Fred and his wife Ella; Ella and Emelie Henwood; Ella Mayers and Mrs. Spafford; Mrs. Spafford and Mina; Mina and Tillie Borg; Tillie Borg and Mrs. Joseph; every one in the house knows that there are frequent disagreements and disputes between those I have mentioned. Brother Joseph disagrees with the American brothers; the American brothers with the Swedish brothers. Every one knows that Mr. and Mrs. Strand quarrel with each other; Mrs. Strand quarrels with Mrs. Spafford and in fact with most of the sisters. Brother Edward told me that he did not agree with his children. Mrs. Piazza and Mrs. Dinsmore are treated by Mrs Spafford like little children although both of them are

mothers. Mrs. Spafford told me that my wife had only a small mind, was like a child and ought to be fed with a little spoon.

Mrs Ella Meyers has to look on in silence and see her husband going about with Miss Emelie Henwood! Mrs Meyers is very unhappy. She sits in her room by herself and weeps bitterly. Most of the time she is ignored by the members of the colony and is often called 'a wicked <sup>Woman</sup>', - 'a devil'. Often she asked for money to return to America. Sister Mina is very unhappy and wanted many times to go to America. She even packed her trunk to go! Every little while John Johnson wants to go back to Sweden. About a year ago when he was dangerously <sup>ill</sup> with fever Mrs Spafford said to me, - 'Oh, I am so glad he is sick because he is not able to run away to Swedea God put <sup>him</sup> on his back, let <sup>him</sup> lie there'.

Only about two months ago Mr. Shelborg said, - 'I wish that I and my children were back in America'. But he was sick with fever at the time and Mrs Spafford said she was 'glad of it'. -

Mr. Vantiss who has a wife and three nice children said again and again that he wished he could go back to America. Only about two months ago Mrs Piazza <sup>announced</sup> her desire to leave the colony.

Miss Adams and Miss Mina even wanted to commit suicide because they were so unhappy. Mrs Spafford warned me not to tell about Miss Adams' intention to any one.

I have heard a large number of the members of the colony declare that they wanted to run away from it but for fear they might sin 'against God' by such an act they still remain



in it.

Miss Johanna Brooke was rebuked by Mrs Spafford many times even in the meeting, and even also in prayer time. Poor Miss Brooke is kicked about by Mrs. Spafford, and often ignored entirely by her for weeks and months together. She is sixty years old and a member of the colony for about seventeen years.

The same treatment is true of Mrs Mary Sylvester who came to Jerusalem with Mrs Spafford eighteen years ago.

Brother Elias a native of Jerusalem and a member of the colony for about seventeen years told me a year ago that he was greatly discouraged. His health is poor and he has sleepless nights. Mrs Spafford told me that he lost his health in the colony by cooking for years over a charcoal fire.

Certie and Anita Baldwin were asked by Mrs Spafford to leave the house for good.

I know that there is very little harmony or unity in the household except among three members, Mrs Spafford, her daughter, and Jacob. It is claimed that these three are one. But I have witnessed discord and disputes among these three. So long as Bertha and Jacob confess that they believe that every word which Mrs Spafford utters is from God, there is unity and peace; but let them tell Mrs Spafford that black and is black and white is white, there is a tempest.

On one occasion Mrs Spafford asked me to whip a young girl, about fifteen years old, on her naked body without even letting her mother know of it. This I did because Mrs Spafford commanded me to it. Even the mother herself of this girl, whose husband died in Jerusalem, and who is the mother

of seven children, was threatened to be taken to the donkey's stable and beaten as her daughter had been.

About three months ago my own daughter who is nine years old, was invited to Beirut on a visit and with childish frankness said that she would like to go. Mrs Spafford told me that the child had committed an awful sin to be willing to go away from the house and she commanded me to "whip her hard for it".-I obeyed. Mrs Spafford wanted me not to tell my wife about it.

Another girl 12 years old was whipped at the same time, and for the same reason, and without letting her mother know about it.

I have a father's heart and now that I see things as they are I wonder that I did not rebel against this cruelty of Mrs Spafford. I wonder that I could obey her cruel commands. I was laboring under a terrible delusion and I long that all my brothers and sisters in that house should be freed from this thralldom. I am more than thankful that my dear wife bore with me all these years and never embraced this delusion of Mrs Spafford as I did.

Mr Charles Stone who could not see that Mrs Spafford was from God, in his last sickness was left to himself without any help and without any one being with him when he died. This happened the next day after our arrival in Jerusalem. Mrs Spafford knew that he was a very sick man because the Doctor on board the steamer had told us so; but because he could not see God in Mrs Spafford did a terrible crime thereby and as a consequence Mrs Spafford let him die without the slightest attention or help.

Mrs Lind the mother of seven children became very ill in the autumn of 1898. She never agreed with Mrs Spafford so was hated for it. Mrs Spafford commanded that this woman be removed to a house three quarters of a mile distant and away from her husband, children, and mother. A girl who was Mr Lind's 'helpmeet' was allowed to be with her. After some weeks this unfortunate woman was dying and then at midnight they sent for her husband who came to see her in her very last moments. Just about one month before Mrs Lind's death her daughter Carrie seventeen years old, died. Mrs Spafford said of both Carrie and her mother, while they <sup>were</sup> ill to death, - 'they like to remain sick for the sake of the better food they can get'. Six days later after Mrs Lind was dead, her mother died. Mrs Spafford said that she 'knew that these three women would die'. About two and a half months later her son Andrew, twelve years old, died, and about three years ago her baby died. So in three years five of the family died and five remain alive .

While I was in the colony seventeen died.

Mrs and Mrs Strand's little baby, 16 months old, was whipped in a cruel manner not by the parents however, but by strangers. Soon after the poor baby died.

When I joined the colony in Chicago I owed a friend of mine \$25, and when I sold our cottage and wanted to pay my debt, I was not allowed to do so. I was told that 'the kingdom of God was first' and that I 'must not try to save my reputation by paying my debts'. There are others in the colony who were commanded to do the same, and who had to obey.

Whenever anyone said that he or she wanted to return

to America Mrs Spafford would condemn them every time for it telling them that they were 'going to the devil'. Mrs. Spafford says that any one who would leave them 'is a devil'. Since they forcibly turned me out of the house they do not salute me or my wife, nor my innocent children. Mrs Spafford told her people that they 'should not salute a devil', so they think of us.

Mrs Spafford claims that she is not a natural woman and that every word which she says is from God. She says she gets messages directly from God and there <sup>are</sup> numbers of books of hers filled with such messages. When Mrs Spafford sends a message to some one in the house it is always said that 'God says so and so'. Even every chapter that is read in the meeting of the colony Mrs Spafford says, -'it is given supernaturally of God'. For this reason every one in the colony is afraid of Mrs Spafford because she threatens them with death. I myself was constantly in fear of death both for myself and my children.

At last I could not stand such a life any longer and I thought I should go crazy. About the middle of December, 1899, I said to Mrs. Spafford and her daughter Bētha that I believed with all my heart that she was an autocrat and that her daughter was following in her footsteps. Even <sup>then</sup> I feared that I had done wrong and tried to repent; but in a few days I repeated the same thing to her again. I took four other members of the house and told <sup>them</sup> the same things and also some awful deeds of ~~deeds~~ Mrs Spafford but of which she would never repent. Finally brother Jacob who is the mouth piece of Mrs Spafford sprang upon me shaking his fists to my face and shouting, -'blasphemy, blasphemy, go to the devil'. ----

I still wanted to think myself in the wrong but could not convince myself of this.- All Christians outside the colony are called 'liars',-'blasphemers',-&c.,&c.

But are the other members of the household happy and satisfied ? Certainly they are not. Mrs Spafford has said many times both in the meetings and to me personally that no one understands the life of this house except herself her daughter Bertha and Jacob. Mrs Spafford also told me more than once, she has done this within two years past, that this same Jacob ran away from her for good while they were in America five years ago, but had returned and that she had 'to hold him all these eighteen years as a horse'. The reason of this was Mrs Spafford said, that 'Jacob did not want to share Bertha with another man'. When I spoke about my troubles to Mrs Amelia Gould so called 'sister Elizabeth', who came to Jerusalem with Mrs Spafford eighteen years ago she frankly told me that I did n't need to think my case was unique for she also had to pass through the same temptations and even now is fighting such thoughts as mine as much as ever, and all she could do was to be drowning them every moment. Many others have told me similar things and even confessed such thoughts publicly in the meetings. I certainly have witnessed and suffered pains that this Mrs Gould was treated by Mrs Spafford worse than a dog. Mrs Spafford herself told me that Mrs Mary Whiting, did not want to return to Jerusalem while she was in America five years ago; but as the children wished to return she returned with them. Mrs Mary Whiting is treated in a terrible manner by Mrs Spafford

and her two children. John and Ruth have no respect for their mother. I have heard John Whiting telling Mrs Spafford how that his mother wanted to "love him as a hug" and that he could not bear to look at her. Mrs Spafford would say that John was perfectly right in hating his mother as long as she was not subject to God (which always means to Mrs Spafford ). The Gospel which is preached by Mrs Spafford at the colony is this, - "You must hate your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, I mean hate sin in them". The "sin" always means when one does not acknowledge Mrs Spafford as the head.

It was in December last 1899 that Mrs Spafford asked Mr Samuel Page and his daughter Florence to leave the house. Mr Page and his daughter came to Jerusalem with Mrs. Spafford eighteen years ago.

Mr William Rudy who came with Mrs Spafford to Jerusalem eighteen years ago, while on his way to Jerusalem about one year since from a recent visit to America, with some new comers, had in his room one of these, namely, a young woman who had her husband and her two small children with her. This woman came to him frequently in his room at night dressed only in her nightgown, and was in the same bed with him. The above Mrs Spafford told me herself word for word, and she said also that this woman and Mr Rudy confessed this to her.

Mr. Ed. F. Baldwin who has been a member of the community since about nine years, confessed in the meeting in June or July 1898 that Mrs Spafford was a "humbug".

Since I joined the colony my wife and I have been very unhappy. I was under the spell or delusion of Mrs Spafford and my wife was wretched. Some times she would exclaim to the members of the household, -'I am an American citizen and I have a right to worship God according to the dictates of my own conscience'. -But to this the reply was always, -'you are a devil, -you are a devil; -don't smear over things with God'.

(This word 'smear' is used a great deal, and they mean by it that the person has no right to refer to God, and that if they do so they blaspheme God. This they call 'smearing over things with God'. )

Consequently my wife was ignored by the whole of the colony. A number of times my wife asked for money to return to America but was refused. Mrs Spafford even told me to take away my children from my wife which I tried to do several times .

My heart bleeds for the wrongs I did my poor wife Jessie and my innocent children. But, thank God, we are reunited now and are very happy. I am inexpressibly happy that I am free from the delusion to which I was so long in terrible and slavish bondage.

It is often asserted that there is great happiness in that house and perfect harmony, but this is certainly not true. It is asserted also that everything is in common and that they all share alike; this also is not true. Some members are kept in a menial position, others are always favored in every way, some enjoy luxuries and the best food, others eat the poorest food and dress in the plainest clothes;

some are allowed to speak in the meetings, others are not allowed. Bertha Spafford is allowed to take music lessons which are paid for by the community. No one else is allowed this. She dresses in silks, the best clothes of anyone, while others wear the meanest, coarsest clothing. There is always a donkey ready for Mrs Spafford, but for nobody else. The old and feeble sisters must always walk, they eat the poor rice with stones in it, they eat the stale bread, drink the poorest coffee without milk, and sleep in rooms with five to fourteen people. No pity is shown these old and feeble persons, and nothing is done for their comfort and care. Mrs Spafford says that 'this is necessary for their perfection'. She says that she herself, Bertha, and Jacob have overcome all desire for these things, and that therefore they are entitled to the good things of this world. Hence they have all the fine rides, all the changes, visits, &c., they can pray and speak in the meetings, they are allowed to be autocrats while the rest are slaves.

These understand the 'mystery of godliness' and the 'mystery of iniquity'. All money for things sold and all earnings by anyone goes to Mrs Spafford and Jacob. No one knows if there is cash in the house or if the house is in debt.

It is not true that they all have the same food. The special table where Mrs Spafford sits has special food, but for the others only the poorest food is provided. Elijah Meyers told me about three months ago that he ~~was~~ was going about hungry and starving. The poor food at table he could not eat and even the smell of it made him sick. I spoke about him to a certain sister and when Mrs Spafford



heard of it she called me at once to tell her about it. After she heard the story she exclaimed, 'His God is his belly. Go and tell him this'. This same brother told me that about five years ago he could not eat the food given him and was sick in consequence and finally he left the house. But after a time he came back again. My wife and children often left the table as hungry as they went to it, and many times I have done the same because the food was so poor. Mrs Spafford herself told me that the Swedish people would often run away from the table to vomit not being able to swallow the food before them set.

On one occasion Mr E.F. Baldwin and some others went to Ramallah intending to stop at Mr Hussey's, at the Friends School. Mr Hussey told them that he had as guests the American consul and his wife (and later I learned that the English consul and his family were also there) from Jerusalem and that they must go elsewhere. In their meeting they declared that 'Mr Hussey had received Barabbas but he delivered Jesus to be crucified'.

When Consul General Dickinson was in Jerusalem in April 1898 to investigate the affairs of the colony and had decided against them they said, '-Mr Dickinson is Pilate who delivered Jesus to be crucified'.

In August 1898 I told Mrs Spafford that from what I had seen in her I came to the conclusion that she was 'a humbug' but I repented thinking I was possibly in the wrong. Still the thoughts would come to me that she was a humbug. A little later I told Mrs Spafford that I had thoughts which troubled me very much and which I desired to confess to the whole assembly. She encouraged me to do so. I called the

assembly and began to confess my 'thoughts' to them, namely, that Mrs Spafford was misleading us, that she was full of mistakes like other people, and that I doubted the messages which she claimed to receive from God. But to my surprise the other members began to speak and to confess the same things as I did. There was at once a great excitement and we held meeting after meeting until two or three o'clock after midnight. This went on for a week or more. We were all having the same thoughts which were against Mrs Spafford and Bertha. Mrs Spafford would not come to the meetings. She left and went to the old house in the city. She said the 'sin' was in us, not in her or in Bertha. We felt that we were speaking the truth about them, still we did not know but she was right and we were after all doing wrong to condemn her. Some of us went to call her back. She would not come but said, -"You have sinned against God; you have pierced God's heart; you would have pulled God down from his throne if you could; you have crucified Christ afresh; you must all repent". After a little while she came back to the house and told us -"You have sinned against God in me; you have crucified Christ afresh in me; you must seek forgiveness from me".- This was told us in our meeting. I was the first to run to her in her room, confessed all that she said we had done, 'sinned against God in her', 'crucified Christ in her', &c., and while <sup>I was</sup> on my knees the other members came and also confessed and begged of her forgiveness. -Thus 'peace' was re-established. Every one in the house knows that there are many doubts about Mrs Spafford, but no one dares mention them.

When Miss Bertha Spafford took sick the whole assembly was called and blamed for it. While we were on our knees praying for Bertha, some one said that old Mr Myers thought she was proud. Then Fred went to his father who was still kneeling, put his hand on his father's forehead and looking straight into his face said, -"Papa, I could kill you, I could ~~kill~~ tear you in peices".

Sometimes Mrs Spafford gets very angry at some one, shakes her fist and says, -"I could kill you". No wonder that many of us learned to use the same words; for I am sorry to say that I myself have spoken thus to my little children. I have also learned from Mrs Spafford to call my wife and children "devils". I called myself "a devil". Once in a meeting Miss Bertha Spafford screamed at some hard working sisters, "these devils in the kitchen"; "these devils in the kitchen". It is very common in the colony to call people "devils".

When I said there was a great difference between Christ and us, they condemned me for it before all and said, I was "blaspheming", and that I "wanted to sin". They said more than this, ~~that~~ but I deem it improper to state it here.

Mrs Spafford told us in a meeting that she and her husband came to such "a perfect unity and love" that the world was unworthy to look at them because it would have imputed evil to them. "So God had to remove Mr Spafford; he had to die". It was also said in the meetings that Christians like to use the phraseologies as "the blood of Christ", and "to believe in Christ", simply as "covers to sin", or a

'license to sin'. The Atonement as all Christians understand and believe is not taught in the colony.

Jerusalem, March 5, 1900.

(signed) Constantine Antoszewsky.

Personally appeared before me this day Mr. Constantine Antoszewsky, known to me to be such, and made oath that the foregoing statements contained in this document respecting Mrs. Anna Spafford and the affairs of the household of the so-called 'American Colony' in Jerusalem are true to the

best of his knowledge and belief.

In witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of this Consulate this 5th day of March 1900.

(signed) Selah Merrill  
United States Consul.

(( seal ))

United States Consulate, Jerusalem.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. *Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 1900*

*For'd. " 24<sup>th</sup> "*

*Cons Bureau file*

United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, September 10, 1900.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

*Noted*



Subject

Return of Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark at the  
expiration of his leave of absence.

Consular Bureau  
OCT 9 1900

No. 33.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, September 10, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Mr. Herbert E. Clark, Vice Consul at this post,  
who was granted leave of absence to visit Europe and the  
United States as reported in my despatch No. 28, May 19, 1900,  
returned this day and is again at his post.

The Department in unnumbered despatch of June 19, 1900,  
recognized this leave.

Respectfully

Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*  
United States Consul.

*Civ Bureau* U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. *Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1900.*

For'd. " 2<sup>nd</sup> "

*no 34*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, September 17, 1900.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.



*Ans. Oct. 22. 1900*



Subject

Mosche Goldstein alias Captain Johnson, an  
American naturalized Jew, considered a dangerous  
character.

Consular Bureau  
OCT 19 1900

*35 214 72*

Office of the  
Third Assistant Secretary.

ack + say  
You have apparently  
exhibited more patience  
leniency toward this man  
than he deserves, and should  
he violate the law for  
which he could properly  
be arrested, the Dept.  
thinks it your duty to  
see that he is arrested  
and punished. *Cridler*

*No 34*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, September, 17, 190

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I wish to acquaint the Department with some facts respecting a naturalized American Jew named Mosche Goldstein, assumed name 'Samuel Johnson,' with the title 'Captain' prefixed. This man's father Wolff Goldstein died in Jerusalem in 1896. He was an English subject. Mosche does not take after the law of Moses but after his own unruly temper. He has an inflammable nature and when well loaded up with fire water becomes boisterous, creates brawls, fights, threatens the lives of others, and makes much trouble. In the three or four fights in which I have known him to be engaged he himself was always the aggressor. Two of these were in the time of my predecessor Wallace. His last fight was in a Jewish Hotel and the 'Captain' got very much the worst of it. He was laid up for some time with his wounds.

In this fight the Director of the Israelite Alliance Industrial School was engaged, a Turkish subject. The engineer of the school, a French subject. Goldstein an American. The Director of the school complained to the head of that organization in Paris, that complaint was sent to our Legation at Constantinople, and forwarded here to us. Nothing ever came of this for the Director went away.

During the time that our Goldstein was laid up he threatened the lives of many persons whom he thought unfriendly to him. He did this repeatedly in the presence of the Turkish Police and other officials.

In short I regard him as a dangerous man.

Recently on the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month, a Jew, whom Goldstein knocked down and beat, came to our office at once and began to tell us about it. Goldstein rushed in behind him and began to curse him, call him names, shouting and making a great scandal. I told Goldstein that the consulate was not the place for brawls, that order must be preserved, that it was my duty to see that the place was respected. He replied, -'I care nothing about that. I'll kill that brute'. I said, -'you must not use such language in this consulate, if repeated I must put you out of the office. He said, -'I'll beat the life out of that brute'.



I called the guards and they put him out of the office quietly.

I then sent him the following letter:-

United States Consulate, Jerusalem, Sept. 13, 1900.

Mosche Goldstein alias Captain Johnson.

Sir.

Your conduct in this consulate today is unbecoming an American citizen, certainly unbecoming a gentleman. You have no right to threaten the lives of persons who come to this consulate on business. This you have done repeatedly this morning.

The law requires that the dignity of the consulate be preserved and compels me to see that this law is carried out. Therefore any communication that you may hereafter have to make to this consulate you must make in writing and in dignified and courteous language.

This must be the rule until you apologize for your conduct and pledge yourself that it be not repeated.

Respectfully

Selah Merrill

U.S. Consul.

If this 'Captain' gets into another fight, or quarrel, I shall put him under arrest for thirty or sixty days to keep the peace. quite

Possibly this note to the Department is unnecessary, but as we never know what such a man will do in the way of complaints I have thought best to send it.

Respectfully

Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 1900  
Foid. " 6<sup>th</sup> "

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, October 25, 1900.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State.  
Washington.

Subject.

Absence of Consul with certificate, and certificate of  
Acting Consul A. Thos. Gelat.  
Absence of Vice Consul Herbert E. Clark, for 30 days.

Consular Bureau  
NOV 22 1900

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, October 25, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I received from the Department, dated April 13, 1900, permission for sixty days' leave of absence.

I left my post October 6, and returned again October 23, making eighteen days' absence.

As the Vice Consul had to leave the early part of October, I appointed the Interpreter and Dragoman A. Thomas Gelat as acting consul.

His certificate of non-absence during these eighteen days and his waiver of salary, are herewith inclosed.

Herbert E. Clark, Vice Consul at this post, being obliged to visit Beirut on urgent business, was granted leave of absence beginning on the thirteenth of October. Quarantine may delay his return a few days longer but the leave is for thirty days.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Salah Merrill*  
United States Consul

Inclosures:-

1. — Consul's certificate.
2. — Acting Consul's certificate.
3. — Acting Consul's waiver of salary.

CERTIFICATE TO ACCOMPANY FORM No. 112.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

At.....JERUSALEM.....October 25, 1900....., 18.....

I CERTIFY that I have not been absent from my Consular district more than ten days during the quarter covered by the foregoing account, except as hereinbelow stated:

- 1. 60 ..... days leave of absence with <sup>out</sup> permission to visit the United States was granted me April 13 1900 ..... 18.....
- 2. I left my post in pursuance thereof ..Oct. 6, 1900....., 18.....
- 3. I arrived at my residence in the United States ..... 18.....
- 4. I left my residence to return to my post ..... 18.....
- 5. I arrived at my post and resumed duty ....Oct. 23, 1900....., 18.....
- 6. Time necessarily occupied in making transit to my residence, ..... days.
- 7. Time necessarily occupied in making return transit to my post, ..... days.
- 8. I have been absent without leave ..... days.

REMARKS.

My absence from my post was 18 days only.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

.....  
*Seaborn Merrill*  
U. S. Consul.

NOTE.—If leave was without permission to visit the United States, item 1 must so state, and items 3, 4, 6, and 7 must be left blank. If the absence was without leave item 8, otherwise left blank, must state how long. If not absent more than ten days during quarter leave items 1 to 8, inclusive, blank. Explanations should go under the head of remarks.

(FORM NO. 113.)

CERTIFICATE TO ACCOMPANY FORM No. 112.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

At..... JERUSALEM October 25, 1900, 18.....

I CERTIFY that I have not been absent from my Consular district more than ten days during the quarter covered by the foregoing account, except as hereinbelow stated:

1. .... days leave of absence with..... permission to visit the United States was granted me ....., 18.....
2. I left my post in pursuance thereof ....., 18.....
3. I arrived at my residence in the United States ....., 18.....
4. I left my residence to return to my post ....., 18.....
5. I arrived at my post and resumed duty ....., 18.....
6. Time necessarily occupied in making transit to my residence, ..... days.
7. Time necessarily occupied in making return transit to my post, ..... days.
8. I have been absent without leave ..... days.

REMARKS.

.....  
During the eighteen days of absence of Consul Merrill  
I have not been absent from my post.  
.....  
.....

*A. H. Gelat*

Acting U. S. Consul.


NOTE.—If leave was without permission to visit the United States, item 1 must so state, and items 3, 4, 6, and 7 must be left blank. If the absence was without leave item 8, otherwise left blank, must state how long. If not absent more than ten days during quarter leave items 1 to 8, inclusive, blank. Explanations should go under the head of remarks.

(FORM NO. 113.)

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA.

JERUSALEM, October 25, 1900.

For the eighteen days of Consul Merrill's absence  
during which I acted as consul, I waive all claims for  
salary.



Acting U.S. Consul.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1900  
For'd. " 30<sup>th</sup> "

*llm*  
*16.35*



United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, November 14, 1900.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

*Ac'd*  
*June 17/01*



To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

Subject

Data wanted as to the grounds on which Lewis  
Cohen, passport Oct. 23, 1878, No. 10, 190, from State  
Department, was given a passport.

16 35

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, November 14, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Lewis Cohen a naturalized American, ~~now very~~ <sup>old</sup>, holds Passport from State Department dated October 23, 1878, No. 10, 190. Two sons of said Lewis claim and have always claimed that they were American citizens by virtue of their father's naturalization. There are no records and ~~no~~ citizens papers to enable us to decide to question. We want to know on what grounds a passport was issued to said Lewis. Can the Department supply the data? If passport of this date and number was based on a former passport, - what were the original grounds for issuing to him a passport? The two sons, now 35 and 37 years respectively, claim to have been born ~~after~~ <sup>before</sup> their father Lewis was naturalized. They can furnish no evidence for this claim; as they were never in America we want to learn facts and dates which now only the Department can furnish.

The name of one son is Ephraim, - a worthy person. The other son is named Chayim, but now wishes to be called Charles. He has travelled <sup>much</sup> and is now in Europe.

Ephraim brought to this office a document issued and signed by Henry Gillman, <sup>U.S. Consul,</sup> dated May 28, 1889, which his brother Chayim had sent him from Germany to have it renewed. This I refused to do. The document stated that the bearer Chayim Cohen was "an American citizen and entitled to all lawful aid and protection". I never issue such a document for the reason that it is sure to be abused and used as a passport. I presume this document given by Mr. Gillman was so used. I took the document and wrote on it, - "this is not a passport and must not be used as such". I signed it and affixed the Consular seal. Ephraim who brought the paper was offended. I told him if he made a fuss about what I had written I should take the paper away from him altogether, for neither his brother nor any other person had a right to such a document from this Consulate. Chayim wanted this document renewed that he might go to America and get a passport.

If these sons can prove that they were born after their father was naturalized, the way is clear to recognize them. Twenty five years ago there was great laxity about passports and naturalization which makes us much trouble now.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*  
United States Consul.

*Temp*  
No. 36.



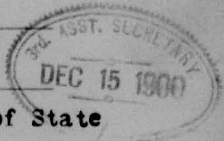
U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE  
Rec'd. *Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1900*  
*For'd. " 30<sup>th</sup> "*  
*Cons Bureau file*

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, November 19, 1900.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.



Subject.

President's Proclamation relative to the death of  
the Honorable John Sherman.

**FILE**

Consular Bureau.  
DEC 24 1900



No. 36

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, November 19, 1900.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I have this day received Circular dated October 22, 1900, relative to the death of the Honorable John Sherman, with the President's Proclamation announcing this event, and containing orders for the usual display of the flag at half mast. This request is being complied with.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*  
United States Consul.

*[Handwritten signature]*

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> 1901.  
For'd. " 28<sup>th</sup> "

No.37.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, January 8, 1901.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

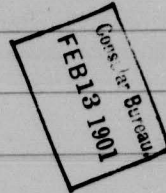
To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

*Ans. Feb. 14, 1901*

Subject

Charges of fraudulent registration in this Consulate  
shown to be absurd and malicious.



No.37.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, January 8, 1901.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

Your despatch No.41, December 11, 1900, inclosing letter from Samuel Johnson, dated Jerusalem, November 15, 1900, charging fraudulent registration of naturalized American citizens, is at hand.

1. Ephraim Cohen is not registered in our books.
2. No such person as "Seth Cohen" is known to this office.
3. Consul Wallace did not erase Ephraim Cohen's name from the books.
4. Consul Merrill has not registered or re-registered said Ephraim Cohen.
5. Johnson does not know if Ephraim Cohen was or was not born in this city.
6. In my despatch No.34, September 17, I have given the Department some account of the writer of this letter who calls himself "Captain Samuel Johnson", but whose real name as stated in that despatch is Mosche Goldstein.
7. How does a fellow like this man, a drunken street fighter, know anything about the books of this Consulate, - who is or who is not enrolled?
8. The statement that "such acts have become notorious amongst the Turkish officials" &c., is absolutely untrue and without foundation.
9. The Department must be aware that this letter was written with evil intent.

I have made efforts to ascertain on what ground Mr. Ephraim Cohen claims American protection. As I have stated he is not on our books. My despatch of November 14, 1900, contains all that need be said on this point.

I ought to add that Mosche Goldstein, - "Captain Samuel Johnson", is too ignorant and illiterate to have written this letter himself. I could indicate the source, - but that is not necessary.

The foregoing facts together with the two despatches to which I have referred, will give the Department an opportunity to administer a sharp rebuke to such evil disposed persons, loungers and meddlers, as this Goldstein.

I have no ill will towards this Goldstein and I have treated, always with far more consideration than he has deserved. But I am determined that good people shall no longer be outraged by him, that the law shall be obeyed, and any further outbursts of brutal acts on his part will not be overlooked. He will find himself in jail.

There is a case pending against this Goldstein now, he being charged with defrauding a Jewish woman, an American citizen, of a valuable gold chain, and he is likely to find himself in trouble on that account.

I remain respectfully

Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

*Cons Bureau*  
*Stone*  
*ack*  
CONSULAR BUREAU  
NOTED.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, February 27, 1901.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

*Acknowledged by form*  
*March 27, 1901*  
*9 X*

DEPT. ASST. SECRETARY  
MAR 20 1901

SUBJECT

Forwarding marriage certificate of Jacob Frankman and Annetta Markowitz.

Consular Bureau  
MAR 21 1901

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, February 27, 1901.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

In accordance with Consular Regulations, Paragraph 418, a certificate of marriage is herewith inclosed of a naturalized American citizen Jacob Frankman, with a French subject, Annetta Markowitz. The parties are aged respectively thirty five and eighteen. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rabbi Nissan Halam Papa duly authorized by the Jewish faith to perform such a ceremony. A copy of this certificate has been given to each of the contracting parties.

Respectfully

Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul

Inclosure;-  
Marriage certificate

(FORM No. 87.)

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

CONSULAR BUREAU,  
NOTED.

Consulate of the United States,

Jerusalem Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1901

I, Selah Merrill, Consul of the United States  
at Jerusalem, do hereby certify that, on this first  
day of February, A. D. 1901, at their residence  
in the city of Jerusalem, Jacob Frankman  
aged thirty five years, born in Bialystock and now  
residing in Jerusalem, and Annetta Markowitz  
aged Eighteen years, born in Algiers (Algeria Africa)  
and now residing in Jerusalem, were united in marriage before me,  
and in my presence, by Rabbi Nissan Haim Papa, who is authorized  
by the laws of the Jewish faith to perform such a ceremony.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the  
Consulate at Jerusalem, Palestine, this first  
day of February, A. D. 1901, and of the Independence of the United States  
the One hundred and twenty fifth

Selah Merrill  
Consul.



*Coughlin*



U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd June 13 1901  
For. 4 13 4

No 38

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, May 28, 1901.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

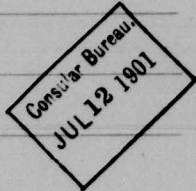
Hon. Thomas W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State,  
Washington.

*Grant*

*Granted + Auditor informed July 15 '01*

Subject

Consul Merrill asks leave of absence, -60 days.



No 38

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, May 28, 1901.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

I hereby ask for leave of absence from my post for sixty days during the coming summer at such time as I may find it convenient. Twice during my consular career I have asked for leaves of absence, - the first was not used, - and the second was in 1900, - and the Department knows too well the malicious intrigues and combinations which frustrated my plans. I have no definite plans for the coming summer, but I ask for the permission all the same.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Sealah Merrill*  
United States Consul.

*Approved:-  
Wm. A. Albert  
Vice Consul - General*



*CMG*

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE

Reg'd. *July 25: 01.*  
*Smith*

No.39.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, July 8, 1901.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

to

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler, Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

Subject

Acknowledging despatch No.45, May 21, 1901, with  
inclosures from George W. Daw and J.V. Quarles.  
**Spaffordite** business.



N<sup>o</sup> 39

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, July 8, 1901.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 45, dated May 21, with inclosures, namely, letter from George W. Daw, April 26, 1901, and letter from J. V. Quarles dated May 17, 1901, and replies to each letter from the Department of State.

These letters of the gentlemen named relate to my standing as Consul, and likewise and chiefly to the dislike or hatred of me by the Spaffordite community in Jerusalem.

In regard to Mr. Daw's letter it seems to me that its extreme partisan character, simply repeating as it does the vague and sweeping charges of the Spaffordites which they have circulated for years, makes it unworthy of notice. I will however consider a few points.

(1). Mr. Daw says that with certain other persons on the "Augusta Victoria", say in March 1901, he gossiped about Mr. Merrill, denounced him with great vehemence, and declared that he ought to be removed from his office, and that he would do all in his power to accomplish this.

#### A Parallel Case of Gossiping.

Early last year (1900) one of these excursion steamers visited Constantinople. Gossip broke out among a certain class of the passengers about Consul General Dickinson, and when the party reached the steamer they were "going to hold an indignation meeting and demand that the Government remove "such a (mis)representative" (see Daw's letter, p. 2) from his office. Somehow their indignation subsided, at least it resulted in nothing, and Mr. Dickinson still enjoys the ~~same~~ ~~same~~ confidence of the Government and the esteem of those who know him.

I met scores of the passengers from the "Augusta Victoria" this year (1901) and their complimentary expressions of regard for me and of high appreciation of my official work prepared me for a genuine surprise when I read Mr. Daw's letter. It seems that the gossippers on board this steamer pitched, this time, upon Consul Merrill as their victim. It is not assuming too much to say that the cases are parallel.

(2). An Offset to Mr. Daw's Letter.

As a sample letter of many that I receive I would like to quote from one of Dr. J. N. Bishop, office in New York, 38 th Street near Fifth Avenue, under date of January 18, 1901:--  
... " I do not forget our American consul at Jerusalem and his noble wife, and the honor and dignity which they give to that position. I have spoken of you to many people in the highest terms. I have visited at different times many countries on the Continent and elsewhere and have not always been favorably impressed with our representatives; but when I find one like yourself that is reliable and one that all classes look up to with respect, it is a pleasure to write and speak of him with high commendations he really deserves!

Dr Bishop was for several years private physician to Mrs. McKinley, the President's wife, and I believe that there are people simple enough to think that his letter offsets that of Mr. Daw with this difference in favor of Dr. Bishop, namely, that Dr. Bishop knows Mr. Merrill and Mr. Daw never saw him.

(3). Mr. Daw thinks that "Mr. Merrill persecutes the Spaffordites". If he knew the facts he would find that they are the real persecutors. They hate the United States Government, the British Government, Consul General Dickinson, and all the English, German, and American residents in Jerusalem outside their own circle or household and its interests. Consul Merrill is included, -he would feel bad if omitted.

(4). Mr. Daw asserts that "Mr. Merrill spends his whole time quarrelling with his own people" (Let. P. 2). - This shows how little he knows of the work of this Consulate. Take a single item:--We have 800 to 1,000 naturalized American Jews to look after, -more in fact than any other Consulate under our Government, and the work connected with them is arduous and exacting; -and Consul Merrill has no time or leisure for anything outside his official duties, -not even to persecute the Spaffordites, -if he wanted to.

(5). Does Mr. Daw know the composition of the household he has become so deeply interested in? That out of 140 or 150 souls only 15 or thereabouts are Americans? That the rest are Swedes (nearly 100 in number), Norwegians, People from India, Arabs, Turks, Servians, English, Germans, and Jews?  
-Does he know that these people, the American section of them, have enjoyed every facility in the way of protection that this Consulate affords?  
-Does he know that by their own action they have practically cut themselves off from American protection?  
-Does he know that ten or more times I stood between their angry creditors and themselves and prevented them from being stripped of their property?  
-Does he know that a certain physician from Chicago declared that it was not possible for this crowd of people of many

nationalities, with no ties of family or relationship between them for the most part, to live together under one roof and lead pure lives? Does he know that this is the universal feeling among the respectable people of Jerusalem?

Does he know that when I called Mr. Spafford's attention to the reports as to their manner of life, he spent one hour in my office trying to persuade me that "it was not wrong for them to break the marriage ties and live together, unmarried men and women, day and night, "as eunuchs"?

(6). Mr. Daw says he "saw the magnificent work they (the Spaffordites) are doing in and about Jerusalem" (Let. p. 2). The American and English residents in Jerusalem would like to know in what this "magnificent work" consists? Even in a single item?

Is it their peculiar not to say indecent manner of life just mentioned which Mr. Spafford tried to convince me was perfectly justifiable and proper?

Is it their refusal to pay their honest debts?

Is it their bitter opposition to all educational and mission work?

Is it their defaming the United States Government to the natives?

Is it their efforts to injure in every way in their power American interests in this city?

Is it Mrs. Spafford's practise of separating husbands and wives and assigning to the husbands thus separated other women to live with them?

Is it Mrs. Spafford's extravagant claim to be worshipped as God and denouncing those who do not do this as "devils going to hell"?

Is it their practise of turning into the street those who happen to differ in opinion with Mrs. Spafford? Persons who have the same legal rights in the household that Mrs. Spafford herself has? -----A man, his wife (whom Mrs. Spafford had separated from her husband), and three small children one of them an infant, were thus turned into the street at ~~four~~ 8 o'clock at night; -it was winter, dark, cold, raining, and muddy; the next day his things were thrown into the street also. -Some charitable people took care of this family and gave them food and shelter. -There have been several cases of this kind. Will Mr. Daw call this "magnificent work"?

Mr. Daw ought to know that if these people are universally disliked, Mr. Merrill did not create the conditions which have brought about this state of things. The Consuls, the foreign residents of the city, English, German, and American, did not create these conditions. Will Mr. Daw tell me whose fault it is that these people are shunned?

Does Mr. Daw know that 10 per cent is not 100 per cent? That this community has no right to call itself "The American Colony" when only 10 per cent of its members are Americans?

4

We have here from 40 to 50 Americans, not counting our large number of naturalized American Jews, who are honest, law abiding, debt paying, hard working, respectable citizens, and if the term "American Colony" should be used at all it should be by these people and not by those who now claim it.

(7). Will Mr. Daw please remember that I have caught the Spaffordites sending spies to me to make me assert something they might use against me. Is this "persecution" on my part? Also that Mr. Merrill never mentions these people except when asked about them? And further, that these people, in spite of their unsavory reputation, in spite of their bitter hatred of the United States Government, the Consul General at Constantinople, and the Consul in Jerusalem, in spite of the fact that they have practically cut themselves off from American protection, -denationalizing themselves by their own acts, -receive every protection in the power of this Consulate to afford?

(8). Consul Merrill has served the Government for over ten years - chiefly under Republican administrations but for short periods, in one case nearly a year, under Democratic administrations as well, and has been in constant communication with the Department of State; -but for a wonder it has apparently known little about him or about his negligent and unjustifiable ways of doing official business. It remained for George W. Daw who never saw Consul Merrill, to discover and disclose to the Government his real character.

This gentleman, Daw, has been deceived by others or he has deceived himself. He has made no examination; still he has decided the case, and he is sure that when the Department has examined<sup>it</sup> (as he has) "it will think as he does" (Let. near end).

Is it not strange that Mr. Daw should decide a case without ever having seen or heard the accused? How can he have had the courage, -it should be called by another name, -to put himself on record before the United States Government in such a way as this?

Fortunately our Government knows the Jerusalem consulate thoroughly, its work and perplexing duties; and when Mr. Daw knows it one twentieth part as well, and the real character of the household he has championed, he will, it is hoped, if he has any sense of honor, be thoroughly ashamed of his indiscreet letter and of his hasty and foolish action.

Respectfully I remain Your obedient servant

*Seah Merrill*

United States Consul.

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PART SECOND.- Summary.

Ungentlemanly language of Mr. Quarles.--Newell letter a trick of the Spaffordites.--Character of the Spafford house not created by outside parties.--Hostile and vindictive spirit of the Spaffordites.--Composition of the household, only 10 per cent Americans.--Sworn testimony as to its bad character.--Baldwin not a proper witness, since matters prior to 1891 he had no personal knowledge of.--Replies to some of Baldwin's charges.--The Gould and Whiting monies, and the Cemetery question; Letters from Ex Gov. Bross, John S. Gould, showing that I had no connection with the control of these monies.

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Part Second

The letter of Mr. J. V. Quarles of May 17, 1901.

With this are included the letter of Mrs. H. J. Newell April 19, 1901, and Mr. Baldwin's manifesto same date, which is an old story to the Consul General at Constantinople and the Department of State, but one which the Spaffordites repeat as often as they can get a new listener. It is evident that Mr. Quarles is ignorant of the facts in the case and that he has been sadly duped. On this account I am surprised that in simply transmitting a letter to the Government he should go out of his way to defame the character of one who is an entire stranger to him, and should do this in ungentlemanly, coarse, and offensive language.

Mrs. Newell's letter is dated April 19, 1901 and purports to be written at Jerusalem. But Mrs. Newell was here in April 1900, staid at the Grand New Hotel, called once or twice at the Spafford house, drew her money at the Credit Lyonnais Bank in April 1900 as the officers of the Bank have shown me her signature and the date, none drawn this year, money drawn on First National Bank of Chicago, &c. It appears like some plot of the Spaffordites, some after thought to furnish fresh material by which they <sup>could</sup> continue to annoy the Government.

Be that as it may, I should like to ask Mrs. Newell the following question:—Do you think it possible for a once lovely woman to sink pretty low morally in the course of twenty years? If you have not known this woman intimately during this period have you a right to deny such a possibility? Also another question:—Is it possible for a person with special schemes to carry out to try to lead a double life, that the better may conceal the worse?

As to Mr. Baldwin's oft repeated tale, I would say that if Mr. Merrill is really the vile worm that Mr. Baldwin represents him to be, then 76,000,000 of disgusted Americans ought to rise up and step on him. As the Honorable Mr. Quarles says in his letter of transmission,—"If one quarter of the allegations made against this man are true he ought to be discharged with the contempt of every decent American". Certainly, Mr. Quarles, most certainly. But if on the other hand not a single allegation is true, if every statement is absolutely false, will Mr. Quarles ~~to~~ have the common fairness to say that the decent people of Jerusalem do right in shunning the Spaffordites? Mr. Quarles may learn, can learn if he likes, that the conditions which cause this household to be shunned by every respectable foreign family in Jerusalem, German, English, or American, were not created by outside parties, either by actions or gossip, but by the members of the household themselves, chiefly by the leaders. These conditions are well known, but I am not called upon to explain them to Mr. Quarles. Mr. Quarles' indignation is all right, but unfortunately it is pointed in the wrong direction.

Mr. Quarles may learn also that the Spaffordites are bitterly hostile to everybody and everything outside their own household and circle of interests. The real object of their spite is the United States Government, but the immediate object is the Consul. He represents the Government and must be got rid of first. They hate the English Consulate and Government just as bad, and they hate all the foreign residents of Jerusalem except the very few whom they have been able to win over to themselves, and they show their hatred in every possible way. Still Mr. Baldwin in his Manifesto, P. I, declares that "the chief aim of the household is to love their neighbors as themselves". This is really comical; for if they love themselves as by their words and actions they appear to love their neighbors, - what a sweet time they must have at home.

Mr. Quarles may be interested in the composition of this community which he calls an "American Colony" and "our citizens". Nearly or quite one hundred of these people are Swedes. There are also Norwegians, Servians, English, Germans, people from India, Arabs, Turks, and Jews, and about fifteen Americans to make up this miscellaneous lot of about 150 souls. Three widows, one widower, one unmarried man, one man (Baldwin) who deserted his wife and family in a most shameful way, two children under age, and seven children over age, some of them just of age, who were children when they came to the country. Ten per cent of the members of the Colony does not make it an American colony. The spiritual head is Mrs. Spafford who demands to be worshipped as God.

Outside these 15 Americans we have between forty and and fifty Americans not counting of course any of the 900 or 1,000 naturalized American Jews under the care of this Consulate. From these 45 Americans does the State Department hear constant and oft repeated complaints about, - well, say everything, but chiefly "persecution?" They are honest, respectable, law-abiding, debt-paying people, and a number of them are in responsible positions. As to the Jews, - with two or three exceptions they all like me, at least they all say to me, - "you mein fadder". Should not these law-abiding respectable 45 Americans be called "the American Colony" if that name is to be ~~used~~ used at all?

What is the natural supposition as to the life of this house? I will give one testimony out of hundreds: - A prominent physician was here this spring, went to the house, took in the situation, and said in my hearing rather to me directly, "It is impossible for 150 men women and children of many nationalities with few ties of kindred or family to keep them together, to live under one roof as they do and lead pure lives". This opinion is expressed by my colleagues, and by the foreign residents of Jerusalem in general.

We need not take suppositions for we have the sworn testimony of those who have lived in the house as members, - not as visitors like Mrs. Newell, boarders, or temporary residents, - but actual members; and there is a vast difference between the two classes as to the value of their testimony because the opportunities for knowing the facts are so unlike in each the two cases. How does it happen that of the twenty five or thirty such members who have left the house during the past eighteen years, those who left it earliest and those who left it latest, - should all give the same or similar testimony as to its character?, - namely, that its character is not good.

Certain matters in Mr. Baldwin's Manifesto I will notice briefly although they are of minor importance. - His tirade against Consul General Dickinson (pp. 5, 6) is simply a thin disguise covering the bitter feeling the community has against the United States Government.

(2). "Mr. Gillman gave them the only protection they have ever had". - Mr. Baldwin was not here during Mr. Gillman's time and he testifies only from hearsay, not from personal knowledge. His statement is false. I defy Mr. Baldwin or Mr. Quarles to name a single instance wherein the Consul has failed to protect them to the fullest extent of the Consulate's power. More has been done for these people than for other Americans because of their disposition and habit of being vindictive in case they did not obtain precisely what they wanted.

(3). "Mr. Merrill pushed himself into a certain woman's room at the hotel". Shamefully false as all who know me will testify.

(4). "Mr. Merrill dug over the Cemetery for antiquities". Never anything of the kind happened.

(5). "Mr. Merrill calls their house a whore house". Absolutely false. I have always said that it was NOT a whore house. When certain men have asked me if there were not some pretty girls in that house and if they could be visited I have said in reply, - "Sir, it is not a whore house". What use had men make of my words I cannot say. That I cannot help.

(6). "Mr. Merrill in some written evidence taken in America said he saw nothing immoral in the relation of the sexes in that house". - I do not know that those are my words, but what I meant was that I had never actually seen immoralities between the sexes, - that is, I never saw men and women who were unmarried in the same bed together. But others have seen and testified to this free and easy life. Spafford talked an hour or more with me once to convince me that there was no harm in men and women unmarried to live together day and night "as eunuchs". If they had been leading pure, proper lives his long explanation about the "eunuch" business would not have been necessary. There was something behind the explanation.

(7). Baldwin says that the "women are nurses". P. 7. They are not trained nurses, and the last two cases they had

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patients died; in one of them it was proposed to me that the matter be taken up officially and a protest be made against these people being allowed to act as nurses.

(8). Baldwin says that their "debts are all paid". This is not true, -there are at least three men in this city to each of whom they are owing quite large sums. A majority of their debts included in the \$10,000 owing seven years ago are paid but Baldwin would not <sup>like</sup> to have the methods by which they obtained money for this, exposed.

(9). Baldwin says that some of their women teach in a Moslem school; he calls it a "Government Girls School". The Spaffordites report to innocent travellers that "Bertha Spafford is at the head of a Young Ladies Academy". This is often repeated. But Mr. Baldwin knows that the Moslems do not want their women educated. This school has been in existence four or five years only and the "young ladies" are between the ages of seven and twelve, -say seven and ten. They are taught sewing and reading only. The object of the Moslems in starting this school ~~is~~ well known.

-At first the Spaffordites were opposed to education. Young Mr. Lawrence, now dead, was given a lot of books by our Vice Consul; but Mr. Spafford told me the next day that Lawrence must return them as he did not want any books in ~~his~~ their house and that they had no use for such education.

A stock lie of the Spaffordites is that because of their great influence with the Turkish government and with the United States Government, Mr. Merrill was recalled on account of criminal charges which they had filed against him in Washington. The members of that household are constantly repeating this story to travellers. Baldwin repeats it when he knows better. Mr. Quarles practically repeats it. The Department has replied to this, denying it. <sup>and</sup> In October 1893, the 23 d, the Secretary of State wrote to Mr. Wm. H. Rudy who was asserting this with great glee, as follows: -"the recall of Mr. Merrill has no connection with the charges filed by you". In spite of this explicit statement the Spaffordites have repeated this lie innumerable times since the date mentioned.

About two years since in a case where our Interpreter had to be present, some examination asked for from Chicago, Baldwin was present and declared that "Mr. Merrill was not competent to appear in that case because he was under trial for criminal charges made against him in Washington".

The Spaffordites beg for "protection", against the awful Consul. It occurs to me that the Consul ought to be protected from the Spaffordites. If they had the courage of their pretended convictions I presume that Mr. Merrill would die at sunrise, - *by their hands.*

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Baldwin says that I charge them with doing no work! This was strictly true. For nearly fifteen years they were simply drones living, as their creditors declared, "on the money of other people". They worked hard at borrowing money, certainly. Even before they left Chicago Mr. Fleming H. Revell, the publisher, urged Mr. Spafford to go to work and try at least to pay his debts, and Spafford replied, -"the Lord has a higher mission in the world ~~than employing me~~ for me than paying my debts". Spafford declared repeatedly here in Jerusalem, two or three times in my presence, that "God did not intend them to work". They were so idle or indifferent that they never visited the graves of their members who died. I urged them repeatedly to mark the graves by some headstones, but they would not do it, -and at this time there were six or more idle men in the household. I told them that they might at least put around the mounds the loose stones that had been taken from the ground when the graves were dug, -but they never did this. They were too lazy to do it. Laziness and borrowing were chronic diseases with the entire community at that time. Perhaps I ought to correct my statement and say that during these years they did make their own coffins, but they did not pay for the lumber, and they tried then and since to get complete control of a private graveyard where, by courtesy, they had been allowed to bury.

Since 1896 when the Swedes joined the community, some work has been done. The Swedes would not be drones. I tell strangers that now the community is doing some work. I am glad of it. The fact was the scandal was becoming too much for them, the Spaffordites, to stand, -leading idle lives and living on the money of other people to the tune of \$10,000 with not a cent to pay with. They were glad to have the Swedes join them and go to work. By concealing the truth Baldwin makes a gross misrepresentation, -and he knows it. He tries to create the impression that they have always worked; -he knows it to be false. In spite of the "lovely" lives which they lead, the "peacefulness" of the household, the "perfect equality" of all the members, and other such nonsense the poor Swedes are made practically slaves. There is a marked distinction and a strong caste feeling between what they call "the Old Assembly" and the Swedes, i.e., the new comers. This feeling is best expressed in the words of Miss Bertha Spafford who Mrs. Newell in her letter calls "a lovely young lady", who speaks of the Swedish women working like slaves for that great household as, -"those devils in the kitchen". -This is sworn testimony on file. -

A fact which throws light on the methods of the Spafford community and which must always be taken into consideration is that immediately after any exposure, or after a

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practise has become a scandal, the wily Mrs. Spafford changes her tactics. This could be illustrated by several striking examples. The scandal of idleness is one instance. A charge is made against the house which is absolutely true. The Spaffordites <sup>realized</sup> that the appearance of sanctity and purity must be maintained, so Mrs. Spafford orders a change. Then the whole chorus pipes up, - "O, what they said is not true". Notably after certain exposures made by Consul General Dickinson, important changes were made solely to create the impression that the things exposed were not true and never had been true. - The changes are not always permanent ones.

The Spaffordites do not like unpleasant exposures and most of the revelations of the methods and workings of the household are such; but they are simply dying for notoriety. I sometimes think that is back a good deal that they do, - that it accounts for much of their quarrelsome and vindictive spirit, that it is <sup>the</sup> prompting motive in their manufacture and circulation of falsehoods.

There is an American here, an old soldier of the civil war, now a poor man with no pension, of whom Spafford some fifteen or sixteen years ago borrowed upwards of \$1,200. A little of this was paid but the Spaffordites still owe him over \$800 and he will never see a cent of it. Spafford gave him a note for this money and later Gillman and Spafford persuaded him to give it up and Spafford, the moment the paper was in his hands, refused to return it and he never did return it. It was a case of robbery and Gillman was a knowing party to it.

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That my relation to the Gould and the Whiting monies, also the Cemetery matter, may be better understood I must go a little into historical details.

I first heard of these people about the middle of the summer, say July, 1882. Our Vice Consul was associated with his father in the (then) leading bank of the city and Mr. Spafford had borrowed money of them and wanted to borrow more. His strong assurances about payments were never kept. The Bank became a little anxious and wondered that these people did not pay when they always protested that they had "ample funds in America". Our Vice Consul asked me if I could write to some one in Chicago as to the financial standing of Mr. Spafford, Mr. Rudy, and Mrs. Gould, &c. I knew none of their friends or acquaintances but I replied that I knew Ex Governor Bross, a long time family friend of ours.

Accordingly as requested I wrote to Mr. Wm. Bross and his reply is dated July 7, 1883, about one year after I had first heard of this community. In his reply he says:-

"H.G. Spafford was for several years a prominent and successful lawyer..... For some years past they, - Mr. Spafford and his wife, - have been a little off, cranky if not crazy. Their old friends lament the state into which they have fallen and pity them sincerely. Warped at first in their minds they have gone from bad to worse; from having a beautiful home, and a large prosperous business, Spafford neglected everything, got in debt all he could, of course paid nothing, and by his pretended revelations got one of his followers to furnish him with \$3,000 or more by which he made his way to your city. Thus in all charity he became not only a crank but an unmitigated rascal. 'Facilis decensus', &c."

"As to Mrs. Gould, - she had some few thousand dollars so placed in the hands of her brother-in-law John S. Gould one of our leading merchants, that she cannot get at the principal. This is fortunate. He sends her the interest promptly.

"I know nothing of the resources of the other members of the Spafford party; but so far as the Chicago members are concerned your banker will be "anxious" for a long time."

-So far Governor Bross.. I will simply add that the Bank has never yet (1901) been paid, notwithstanding the repeated assurances that money was "on the way from America".

These revelations surprised the Banker, but Mr. Spafford (with Mr. Rudy) was so sure that "God was with them", that "money would surely come", that "it was actually on the way from America", that he allowed them to take a certain additional amount but declared to them that the entire sum must be paid before he could advance any more. Mr. Spafford said, - "Certainly, all shall be paid, - you will see".

The Banker asked me to write again this time especially about Mrs. Gould's money as much had been said to the Banker about that. This I did, writing to Mr. John S. Gould whose name



Ex Governor Bross had given me the year previous. This was in the summer of 1884. Mr. Gould's letter in reply is dated July 16, 1884. He says:-

"Some months after the death of Mrs. Gould's husband (my brother) Mrs. Gould in response to my intimation that the Spafford party would get all her little property away from her and spend it, said to me in the presence of family friends - "no, they will not, for I now put all my securities into your hands to keep and take care of for me and in no event pay me anything but the interest". This charge was made several times and has been faithfully kept by me.

"About two years ago she wrote me that "the Lord directed her to send to me to have all her securities converted into money and sent to her". This by advice of our mutual friends and my attorney I declined to do and the matter was dropped."

Will Mr. Quarles please notice that every arrangement relative to Mrs. Gould's money had taken place before I ever knew these people. How could I have been instrumental in preventing Mrs. Gould from obtaining her money?

Mr. Gould continues:-

"Last year (1883) she wrote again demanding the conversion of her securities and remittance to her of the proceeds. This I submitted again to friends and to my attorney with the same advice as before. In reply she wrote me saying that, - "as I refused to send her the securities or the proceeds of them, I must collect her wedding presents and dispose of them and send her the money".

"Previous to her going to Jerusalem she gave many of these away to relatives and they were loth to give them up to be spent in the way she intends. I wrote her for more specific instructions and that she sign her proper and legal name and not "Sister Elizabeth" which was "revealed as her new name".

"We do not think her competent to transact any financial matters while she is under the will and direction of the Spaffords. She has but little money anyway and to have it wasted by the Spafford crowd would be shameful.

"Mrs. Gould has an impulsive temperament and she has been deluded by Mr. and Mrs. Spafford, and this delusion was the more captivating at the time of, and subsequent to her husband's sickness and death when they claimed the power to cure his disease (consumption), and then after his death to restore him to life so that he would meet her in Jerusalem.

"You will do the Bankers a favor to advise them not to advance those people, Mr. Spafford and Mr. Rudy, any money on the strength of Mrs. Gould's agreeing to make it good."

"My attorney tells me that I "must resist such a use of her property".

"As to Mr. Spafford, his debts for trust funds and borrowed money amount to between \$100,000 and \$200,000, and from what is reported I do not think he would dare face

his creditors. Some of his followers declare that he kept secret the hour and depot of his departure for fear of being detained by the officers of the law".

On June 8, 1893, Mr. Gould wrote me a letter introducing a young man who was about to visit Jerusalem to see if he could get his sister who was in the Spafford household, to return with him to her home in Chicago. In that letter Mr. Gould says:-

"Mrs. Gould's friends are more and more convinced that she has no will of her own, that she is in fact hypnotized by Mrs. Spafford"....." I am determined not to pay over the principal of Mrs. Gould's securities or any part of them except by order of the Court, or Mrs. Gould's return here for adjudication. Her friends and my attorney endorse my opinion".

It was in the years 1892 and 1893 that the creditors of the Spaffordites were pressing (they began this pressure in 1885-6) the Consulate to collect the sums due them Mrs. Gould had herself promised to satisfy some of these creditors. She declared several times in this office that she had "money enough in America to pay all these debts three times over". I urged her for her own reputation and the reputation of her friends here, for the sacred pledges they had made, that she take the necessary steps, go to America, get her money, and put an end to all this trouble.

There was due the creditors then about \$10,000 and Mrs. Gould had property amounting to four or five thousand dollars. Mrs. Gould said repeatedly to the creditors that she would satisfy them as soon "as she received her money from America". The creditors appealed to me to have me compel Mrs. Gould to get her money. Six of the German creditors approached me through the German Consulate that I devise some way of forcing Mrs. Gould to get her money and pay them. (A number of letters are on file in this office in regard to this matter). These creditors say:-

"The debtors Wm. Rudy, Anna Spafford, and Amelia Gould, declare having money in America but refuse to take the efficient steps to get it, - continuing to live upon other people's money. They are owing us money some of us since eight years, but they hitherto paid us but with worthless promises. To us six firms they owe 15,420 francs."

Signed by six of their German creditors, Aug. 12, 1893

-Mr. Gould's letter of introduction already mentioned I acknowledged and asked specially about Mrs. Gould's money referring to the pledges she had made to the German and other creditors, and he wrote me again under date of Sept. 12, 1893:-

"I should not be willing to pay Mrs. Gould any of her principal unless enough to bring her here", - which sum he authorized me to advance on his account if she would return. I stated this to Mrs. Gould and urged her to comply with Mr. Gould's proposal.

In reply she said, - "I swear before God that I will not return to America". I replied, - "Very well, Madame, that ends the matter so far as I am concerned".

Sometime later, however, she "had a revifation" (from Mrs. Spafford the usual source) that she should go to America and she went accordingly.

In this letter of September 12 Mr. Gould says, -  
 " I have steadily and faithfully fulfilled my agreement with Mrs. Amelia Gould when she placed in my hands in the presence of witnesses her small capital to "keep it invested and send me the interest" for twelve or more years. I have constantly acted under advice of my attorney who says, - "let the Court decide the issue when the facts are brought before him and then you run no risk personally". The danger to me, he explains, might be that if I disposed of her securities and sent her the principal, she might, if she recovered from the delusion she is in, return here and not only demand but force the repayment of her principal to her on the ground that I had paid it to her when we here all the time considered her incompetent to dispose of it".

Signed, Jno. S. Gould.

The fact could not be made more clear it seems to me that the arrangement of Amelia Gould with John S. Gould was made one year or more before I ever heard of the existence of Mrs. Gould or of any of that party; that Mr. Gould's determination was made and his course of action entered upon, which he followed for twelve or more years, by advice of his lawyer entirely independently of any knowledge of the existence of such a person as Mr. Merrill.

How could Mr. Merrill have influenced the attorney or Mr. Gould before he knew of the existence of such people? Still this stock lie of the Spaffordites, that Mr. Merrill did so influence these men, wholly unknown to him, is repeated with great emphasis on every possible occasion. Only last summer (1900) they insisted upon this lie to one of their creditors whom they had owed a large amount for fifteen years and who was pressing them for payment, - saying to him " we have plenty of money in American but Mr. Merrill has been instrumental in keeping it back from us and is still doing so". The creditor who knew their trick said, - "Give me the name or names of parties in America whom Mr. Merrill has influenced to keep back money from you and I will at once take steps to collect it. If I cannot do so through the Consulate I will appeal to the United States Government through the German <sup>Government</sup>. Do not be afraid, I will get the money, just give me the names; - or else, he added, never repeat this charge about Consul Merrill again". The lie was getting too hot for them and they never mentioned it again to that creditor. But it was only through this creditor's threats that he got his money. - Baldwin repeats this when he knows that it is an atrocious falsehood.

At the time (1893) when in this office in the presence of our Interpreter Mrs. Gould swore that she would not go to America, she blamed me and so did the other members of the household with her because I myself would not undertake to compel Mr. Gould to turn over to her her money. She said, - " I demand that you as Consul do this. If you do not get my money for me I will report you to Washington". These and other similar threats she repeated day after day for she came to my office many times. I replied, - "Madame, I have no control over your property. This Consulate has no jurisdiction in Chicago. I cannot compel Mr. Gould to give you your money". -- It was at this time that Mrs. Gould went to the English Consul and asked to be taken under British protection. The English Consul replied, - "Mrs. Gould, if you were under my protection I should answer you precisely as Mr. Merrill has. Mr. Merrill has no jurisdiction in the matter. Mr. Merrill has told you how you may get your money and you do wrong not to follow his advice. And I want to add that Mr. Merrill has borne a great deal from you people, far more than I would have done".

The moment that Mrs. Gould took the steps that I advised her to take to obtain her money she did obtain it, - and has long since sunk every penny of it in the bottomless pit of the Spafford household.

It seems to me that I need give no further details or quote more documents to show that Mr. Merrill never had anything to do with the Gould money in any way or shape. My standing between the angry creditors of the Spaffordites ten or more times and preventing their property from being seized for debt, my advising Mrs. Gould as to the best course for obtaining her money, the Spaffordites and Mr. Quarles call "atrocious misconduct and systematic persecution".

The Spaffordites make similar false charges, namely, that I prevented their obtaining the Whiting money, as it is called. I could go into details in this matter as I have done in the Gould case, but will refrain because it seems to me unnecessary. - I will say, what I can prove by letters, dates, &c., that I never knew that the Whiting children had a grandmother; - I never <sup>knew</sup> that she or anybody connected with them had money; - I never knew that a will was made by her; - I never heard of will or executor until 1891 that is two to four years (I do not know the exact period) after all had been fixed. And to this day (July 1901) I have never seen the said will and do not know its contents. I had nothing to do, and never have had anything to do with the money of the Whiting children any more than Mr. Quarles himself. Is this what Mr. Quarles calls "pious persecution"?

I do know, however, how the friends of these children in American feel; - they are certain that if this money is

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paid over to the Spafford community, a thing that Baldwin, Rudy, and Mrs. Spafford are fighting for, the two children will never see a penny of it again. I know that this is the fate of all money of all members of that household hitherto the members are stripped, and should they want at any time to leave they are turned penniless into the street. Is this practise of robbing their dupes "atrocious conduct on the part of the Consul?"

One of the complaints of the Spaffordites, -one they have for three years past made a great deal of to travellers is in regard to what is called The Cemetery Question. The facts are briefly, - (1) A private cemetery; - (2) The Spaffordites allowed to bury some of their dead there as a special favor; - (3) The Spaffordite claim that this is a courtesy gives them the legal right to dictate the control of the cemetery.

They appealed to the United States Government which decided against them. They are very angry and on every occasion, especially to travellers, they express their spite against our Government, but their curses which are many fall upon the innocent Consul.

One or more English subjects members of this household died and were buried in this cemetery. The question in dispute, that of control, was carried by the Spaffordites to the British in Jerusalem. It went thence to the British Embassy in Constantinople, and thence to Lord Salisbury. Lord Salisbury rendered a decision damaging to the Spaffordites and very humiliating to their pride; and for this they pour out curses upon the American Consul. Consul Merrill, however, has no rights in the cemetery and never has had; he has no voice in its control and never has had. He is just as innocent of any such right or voice as Mr. Quarles himself. The Spaffordites might just as well curse Mr. Quarles for what has happened as to curse Mr. Merrill which they do most violently. In face of these facts will Mr. Quarles say that Consul Merrill is persecuting the Spaffordites? On the contrary are not the Spaffordites persecuting most unjustly and infamously the consul, - and through him the United States Government?

Respectfully Your obedient Servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONFIDENTIAL

Rec July 25/01  
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CONFIDENTIAL

No. 40.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, July 9, 1901.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

to

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington

Subject

Confidential information re. the doings of the  
Spaffordites.



No. 40.

Confidential  
S.M.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, July 9, 1901.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I deem it necessary to lay before you in a strictly confidential manner certain facts relative to the Spaffordite community or the so called "American Colony". This despatch is to be read in connection with my No. 39, dated July 8.

(1).-Our new Governor arrived in Jerusalem on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, received official calls on the 15<sup>th</sup>, returned the same on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>. During that week ending Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Spaffordites put into his hands a strong petition against myself, against the Consulate and the U.S. Government. It was characteristic, - that is bitter, unreasonable and hostile. The Governor handed the document to his secretaries - by whom it was read, a few comments made, and then the Governor took it, tore it up and put it into his waste basket.

(2).-When it became necessary to bury in the new Cemetery (1899) the Turks, had they been disposed, could have made objection. In conversations with the Governor I ascertained that (this was subsequent to the burial) he had no thought of objecting. The Spaffordites, however, put in a strong petition or protest against the Consul and Consulate, bitter and hostile as usual, against our action. The Governor sent his secretary to inform us of this, but did not reply to their letter.

In both these instances they were ~~trying~~ going to injure American interests.

(3).-It is the universal and necessary mode of procedure when citizens of another Power wish to approach the local Government to do so through their representative. In several instances besides the above the Spaffordites <sup>have</sup> gone directly to the Turkish authorities. Likewise under this head is the matter of entering the Mosque; - the long established regulation between the Turkish and other Governments is that persons desiring to enter this place must do so through their official representative. A certain member of the community being a Turkish subject, <sup>(and the American member of the Mosque)</sup> bribes the soldiers and takes in Americans without this formality. I have taken no

notice of this considering it best to ignore the matter for the present.

(4).-Most of them have never been in this office. None of them have been in the office for a year and a half, and they have been <sup>in</sup> but two or three times since I returned in 1898. They ignore the Consulate altogether. They talk to the natives in the most disloyal manner about the United States Government. They have practically denationalized themselves by their own actions and according to Par.169 of Cons.Regulations,-see also Par.144-, they ought to be cut off from protection. I have understood that among the Swedes there were some naturalized American citizens. But I do not know them, they have never been in the office, they have for three or more years concealed their nationality, they are not recorded on our books, they have no passports,-and when I am asked about them by strangers I reply,-"to my knowledge there are no naturalized American citizens in that Colony and if there are our Government does not recognize them because they have of their own accord denationalized themselves".

The shameful falsehoods which these people retail by wholesale to travellers about the U.S. Government, the Consul General in Constantinople, the Consulate in Jerusalem and first, last, midst, and without end the poor Consul myself, are enough to make the stones in the streets cry out. But Mr. Merrill still lives,-and I have not heard the United States Government was likely to fall.

I remain respectfully  
Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*  
United States Consul.

Postscript:-

I should say that the information under 1 & 2 and part of that under 3 was obtained directly "from the Palace" - in Jerusalem.

Second Postscript:-

Whoever is consul in Jerusalem will find that the Spaffordites are his bitter enemies unless he allows himself to be controlled entirely by them.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd July 25/01

For 25/01

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, July 14, 1901.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I send the following notice and report of an affair at the Spafford House:-

A little after half past 3 o'clock this afternoon Mr. Vester a German, one of the Spafford community, called and informed me that Furman O. Baldwin one of their number had shot himself; that they were at the dinner table when Baldwin threw down his knife and fork and went to his room where he did the deed; that he was not dead but the doctor said he was dangerous. Vester added that Baldwin wanted to see some one from the Consulate. I replied that Gelat better go with the kawass and see how matters were. Vester then went away. As soon as I could find Mr Gelat I sent him with the kawass. This was about 4 o'clock. Mr Gelat returned about 6 o'clock and made the following report of the case, which is here with inclosed. As soon as he could make out his report he brought it to me and I at once wrote out the above memoranda, -about 8 o'clock this Sunday evening July 14.

Mr Gelat said that the father of the young man seemed very anxious to have a legal paper made out, but he was not willing to recognise Mr Gelat. Mr Gelat replied, -"I am an official of the Consulate and am sent here officially to do anything that must be done. I can witness any paper".

If it was so important that the Consul should know about the matter why did they wait two hours or more before sending for him? They have several horses and carriages and plenty of men about and could have sent at once if there had been any urgency. Their waiting two hours and more leads me to think that they had some after plan in <sup>mind</sup> the matter. As the young man confessed to his father and friends that he did the deed himself there was no need of sending for the Consul. The supposition is that they may have had some kind of a quarrel and that the young man in a fit of anger ran to his room and shot himself.

The only member of the household I have seen is Mr Vester.

Young Baldwin is 25 years of age. His mother mentioned

No. 41  
AUG 8 '01  
DEPT. OF STATE

MAY 6 1902  
FILED

in Mr. Gelat's report is living now in South Africa engaged in some mission or hospital work. She was shamefully deserted by the father of this young man, E. F. Baldwin, as the Department too well knows.

Not knowing what strange use the Spaffordites may make of this affair I have thought best to send this account at once.

P.S. Early this morning, 15<sup>th</sup> July, we heard that the young man was living. The bullet is still in his head.

I remain respectfully Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

United States Consul.

*Inclosure.*

*at above Gelat's Report.*

COPY

Jerusalem July 14, 1901

6 P.M.

Selah Merrill Esquire

United States Consul, Jerusalem.

Sir, -

As you requested when you called me about 4 o'clock this afternoon, I took the cavas Francis and went to the Spafford house; I was shown by some members of the house to go into a little house opposite the large one. I found Furman O. Baldwin lying in bed and he told me in a clear firm voice that he had shot himself; the members said that the deed was at dinner time, between the hours of twelve and one o'clock. After further inquiries I learned that he had been attended by Dr. Savignoni of this city who came again on his second visit while I was yet in the house, or soon after 5 o'clock. I asked Mr Baldwin if he had any declaration; he said yes and made the following statement which he dictated to me and signed by his own hand: -

'I F. O. Baldwin, July 14 1901, living at the American Colony Jerusalem, whose principles are to overcome everything natural such as wishing to be first, jealousy, - in a moment of desperation left the dinnertable came over here and shot myself, no one being in the house at the time. I only hope God will forgive me and the holy and pure inhabitants of the American Colony for the disgrace I have brought upon them.'

(signed) 'F. O. Baldwin'.

I was also shown a letter written in pencil by Mr Baldwin to his mother and I was asked to read it. I did so, then I showed it to him and asked him if it was his writing and his signature; he declared that it was his writing and his signature and asked me to witness the same which I did signing my name as Interpreter of the United States Consulate.

Mr Baldwin shot himself in the head on the right side above the ear with a revolver.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant

A. Thos. Gelat

Interpreter U. S. Consulate

No 42  
Cover

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd 17<sup>th</sup> September 1901

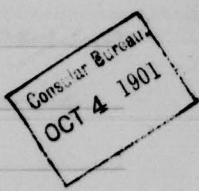


United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria  
August 6, 1901

Lelah Merrill, Consul  
To  
Hon. Thomas W. Bridler  
Assistant Secretary of State

Acknowledged by form  
October 5, 1901.

Subject  
Consul's absence



No 42

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria  
August 6, 1901

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington D.C.

Sir,

I am leaving my post to-day for a few days absence in Mount Lebanon. I may return in ten days or I may extend my absence for three or four weeks.

Our Vice Consul Mr. Herbert E. Clark is placed in charge of the Office during my absence.

Respectfully

Your Obedient-Servant-

Selah Merrill

H. S. Consul

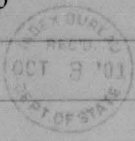


*Answer  
to 43*

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 1901



United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, September 3, 1901.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

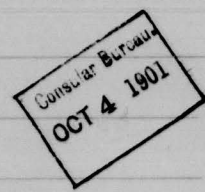
To

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State.

Subject

*Acknowledged by form  
October 5, 1901*

Consul Merrill's return from absence with inclosures.



No. 43

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, September 3, 1901.

Hon. Thos. W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

I returned this day from my leave of absence as reported in my despatch No. 42, August 6, 1901, having been absent 27 days.

Vice Consul Clark's certificate of non-absence during this time is inclosed, also his waiver as to any claim for salary while he acted for me.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*

U.S. Consul

Inclosures,-  
2 papers as above.

CERTIFICATE TO ACCOMPANY FORM No. 112.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

At *Jerusalem Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>* ....., 19*01*

I CERTIFY that I have not been absent from my Consular district more than ten days during the quarter covered by the foregoing account, except as hereinbelow stated:

1. .... days leave of absence with .... permission to visit the United States was granted me ....., 18.....
2. I left my post in pursuance thereof ....., 18.....
3. I arrived at my residence in the United States ....., 18.....
4. I left my residence to return to my post ....., 18.....
5. I arrived at my post and resumed duty ....., 18.....
6. Time necessarily occupied in making transit to my residence, ..... days.
7. Time necessarily occupied in making return transit to my post, ..... days.
8. I have been absent without leave ..... days.

REMARKS.

*during the 27 days that I have had charge of the office for Consul Merrill (Aug 6<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>)*

*Herbert C. Clark*  
*Vice & acting* U. S. Consul.

NOTE.—If leave was without permission to visit the United States, item 1 must so state, and items 3, 4, 6, and 7 must be left blank. If the absence was without leave item 8, otherwise left blank, must state how long. If not absent more than ten days during quarter leave items 1 to 8, inclusive, blank. Explanations should go under the head of remarks.

(Form No. 113.)

UNITED STATES CONSULATE

AT

*Jerusalem*

CERTIFICATE AS TO ABSENCE DURING  
QUARTER ENDED

*September 3, 1901*

Covering period of  
27 days (Aug. 6. Sept. 3)  
While Vice Consul  
H. L. Clark was in  
charge of this office

*With despatch no 43  
Sept. 3, 1901*

CONSULAR SERVICE, U. S. A.

Jerusalem Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1901

I waive all claims for salary during the  
27 days (Aug 6<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>) that I had charge  
of the office for Consul Merrill

Herbert C. Clark  
Vice & acting Consul

To: Lt. Sarah Merrill  
U. S. Consul  
Jerusalem



*File.*  
U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE  
Rec'd. 31 *Nov* 1901  
Jerusalem 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 1901

No. 44.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, October 22, 1901.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler Assistant Secretary of State.

Subject

Observance of the period of mourning for  
President McKinley.

*Ack. appropriate*  
*Answered*  
*Nov. 29, 1901.*

Consular Bureau  
NOV 20 1901

*H. E. Clark*  
*Specimen*  
*with duplicate no. 43.*  
*November 3, 1901*

No. 44

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, October 22, 1901.

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

Sir.

About 8 o'clock Saturday night, Oct. 19, I received the Department's Circular dated Sept. 16, accompanied by the President's Proclamation announcing the death of President McKinley, and ordering mourning for sixty days.

My first news or even hint of the assassination reached me Sunday morning about 8 o'clock when the belated Egyptian Gazette arrived. This was on the 15<sup>th</sup>. About noon of that day I received a telegram from Consul General Dickin-son, dated the 14<sup>th</sup>, - "President deceased this morning". - I at once put our flag at half mast and so did the English Consul. The next day the Government and all the Consulates of the city, upon being notified by us, put their flags at half mast for three days. I asked the Consul General to inform me of the hour and day of the funeral as a few Americans wished to have a little service. Our telegrams crossed each other and his, sent before he received mine, stated that the funeral was to be on Thursday. This despatch (telegram), sent on Tuesday reached me Thursday noon. I at once closed the office, but we were disappointed at not having any service. These delays are far from being pleasant, but others fare the same, for when King Humbert was killed a telegram was sent at once (on a Sunday evening) to the Italian Consul here, which he did not receive till Wednesday morning. The above are samples of the wonderful facilities for rapid communication which we enjoy in this country.

At the end of thirty days I took down the flag and removed the badges from the arms of the employees of the Consulate. Later, on the 18<sup>th</sup> evening, I received a telegram from the Consul General that "official mourning ends on the 19<sup>th</sup>". On the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> I received the Department's circular as above stated.

It is awkward after a death occurs and all the world knows it and have ceased to talk about it, to receive a circular despatch from Washington ordering the flag at half mast, - to receive such a circular 25 or 30 days after the event. Colleagues and others send round to our Consulate to ask who the flag is at half mast for. This time I put the flag at half mast at once and put on mourning badges, without waiting for orders from Washington.

I am happy to report that the feeling of regret and sorrow for our great loss seemed to be universal. Seldom has this entire city been so shocked as it was by this foul deed. Expressions of highest regard for President McKinley were many and sincere. My Colleagues and many others did not forget in their words of sympathy, to mention the President's noble wife. I was pleasantly surprised at the depth of feeling manifested on this occasion by the Turkish Governor. And the English Consul and the English community showed that they regarded our loss and our sorrow as their own. This was a terrible calamity; - this crime was a terrible crime. But if, as a result, our nation shall bestir itself to eradicate that deadly poison which is prepared to destroy all government and all law, and if it shall help to develop in our people a higher regard for both, then President McKinley the Good, the Great, the Martyr, will not have died in vain.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*  
United States Consul.

No. 45

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. January 20<sup>th</sup> 1902  
Forwarded " 24. "

CONSULAR BUREAU.

Act & in favor

interested parties

FEB 12 1902

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, January 11, 1902.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Subject

Answer to telegram 10th January regarding  
Wilfred Rowntree.

Checked by former  
to Mr. C. H. Merrill  
7132 Rowntree Ave.  
Chicago  
Feb 15, 1902

Consular Bureau  
FEB 13 1902



No 45

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, January 11, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. A. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

I have just received a telegram as follows:-

"American Consul, Jerusalem. Wire information regarding  
Wilfred Rowntree. Prices".

I replied immediately as follows:- "Secretary Peirce, Washington,  
District Columbia. Rowntree perfectly well. Merrill".

On the 4th, Saturday, I received a despatch from Chicago:-  
"Merrill Jerusalem American Consul. Ys Rowntree sick. Rown-  
tree". I answered immediately:- "Rowntree very well. Merrill"

Mr. Rowntree's companion, Elihu Grant, has had a mild run  
of typhoid and probably the news got to his friends in  
Chicago that Rowntree was sick at Ramallah, - that is their  
home.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Grant, and Mr. and Mrs. Rowntree, <sup>i.e.</sup> all the  
Americans there are in the Friends Training Home at Ram-  
allah, and all the teachers and members of the Home are well.

Respectfully your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*  
U. S. Consul.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
21 WU CT GI

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

3d. ASST. SECRETARY  
JAN 14 1902

JAN 14 9 13 AM 1902

From Jerusalem

Secretary Peirce,

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

Washington District Columbia.

Received M.

RECEIVED  
Merrill perfectly well.

Merrill.

10:30p Jan 13.

*Confirmed  
Feb 7, 1902.*

CONSULAR BUREAU.  
PLEASE REPORT.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

*How covered these  
by forwarded?  
N.V.D.F.*

Rec'd *30th Jan'y 1902*  
Forw'd *1st Feb'y 1902*

No. 46

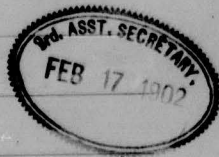
United States Consulate

Jerusalem, Syria, January 18, 1902.

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.



Subject

Inclosing petition of Prof. H. G. Mitchell Director  
of The American School for Oriental Study and  
Research in Palestine, for a set of Consular Re-  
ports for the Library of the School.

*yr 52160 y la  
D - ed 1900 G - yr P.  
yr 5 - by*

*Sent Monthly Consular Report from Jan. 1901; Review of  
World's Commerce for 1901, and put name on list to  
receive monthly reports regularly. Dispatch answered  
2/20/02.*

No. 46.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, January 18, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

Allow me to forward herewith the request of Professor H. D. Mitchell, Director of The American School for Oriental Study and Research in Palestine recently established in this city. The object of this School is to accomplish the same for this country that the Archaeological Schools in Athens and Rome design<sup>ed</sup> for these cities respectively. The object seems to me a worthy one.

I remain respectfully  
Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*  
U. S. Consul.

COPY

Jerusalem, January 14, 1902.

Selah Merrill Esquire  
U.S. Consul  
Jerusalem.

Dear Sir.

The Consular Reports published by our Government contain many valuable papers by yourself and some of your predecessors, and by other consuls stationed at Beirut, on various topics connected with Syria and Palestine such as climate, productions, resources, population, commerce, industries, cost of living, education, improvements, archaeology and still other matters, and I would respectfully request that you petition the Department of State to grant a set of these Reports for the library of the school of which I am at present the Director. This school was established two years since by the combined efforts of several colleges and institutions of learning in America and is known as The American School for Oriental Study and Research in Palestine. By the generosity of several individuals the library of the school has already a fair start and the Reports of which I speak would be a very servicable addition for such young men as may come here from the United States to pursue the studies indicated. Should my request be granted I should, on behalf of the School and its Patrons in America, be most grateful.

Yours truly

(signed) H.G. Mitchell

Director of the School.

*Consul*



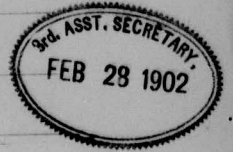
CONSULAR BUREAU

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE

Rec'd. *7 Feb 1902*  
*Low's*

No. 47

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, January 28, 1902.



Selah Merrill, Consul,

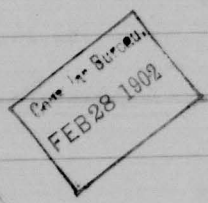
To

Hon. Herbert H.D. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

*Auto or form  
March 1'02*

Subject: -

Possible increase in office rent next year.



No 47

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, January 28, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

In my last Report upon this Consular Office July 25, 1901, I spoke of the matter of rents and said that at each new year for two years past the Armenian Convent to which our Consulate belongs had tried to have us advance the amount paid them which has been \$60 a quarter to \$70, or a sum greater than that. We refused to do this. We have notice now, however, that at the coming new year, -Moharram which comes this year about the first of April-, our rent must be raised. The amount is not decided upon yet. The Armenians really want to rebuild this house which is old, knowing that if they do so they will receive double the rent which they are now receiving. We intend to remain here for the situation is admirable, suitable in every way, convenient, and with but one door <sup>to the house</sup> which we contrall.

These statements are made that the Department may have due notice should we be obliged to increase the amount heretofore paid for rent, by a small sum.

Respectfully Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*  
U.S. Consul.

Bureau of Indexes and Archives.

Leave Space

19

2 pp

No. 48, February 18, 1902

from

Jerusalem

Legal Citizenship Div.

12-6-10



No 49

RECEIVED  
APR 11 1902  
DEPT. OF STATE

3RD. ASST. SECRETARY  
APR 14 1902

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE  
Rec'd. 27<sup>th</sup> March 1902  
Forw'd 28<sup>th</sup>

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 12, 1902.

DEPT OF STATE  
BUREAU  
14  
1902  
2ND ASST SECRETARY

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
TO THE SOLICITOR.

Selah Merrill, Consul,  
To  
Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

Subject:

Abuse of our National Flag.

*See to Boston  
through July 16/1902.  
To Min. to  
Turkey, July 19  
C.*

Consular Bureau  
APR 14 1902

No 49

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 12, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

I wish to lay before the Department certain facts relative to the abuse of our National Flag and my efforts from time to time as consul to correct the same. These statements apply to this consular district of Jerusalem and Palestine.

The matter is not of recent origin but has come up occasionally since 1882 when I first entered the consular service at this post.

Americans residing here, and naturalized citizens who have been in America, are slow to realize that they cannot use the National Flag everywhere and on all occasions as freely as they would do in the United States. They do not understand, until they are told, that the hoisting of our National Flag in this country, -- "is not a matter of right", but of "permission". That the Flag is solely an "official emblem" and cannot be used to promote one's private business interests. (Cons. Reg. Par. 70 and 73).

If our Flag were allowed to be floated over a butcher's shop, a coffee shop, a store of miscellaneous Oriental goods and trinkets, and twenty or forty other similar places, its character as an "official emblem" would cease.

This has been my position in the past and in correspondence to which I need not refer the Department has sustained me in it.

Sometime in the 8ties I had a long controversy with Rolla Floyd who was a tourist agent and who persisted in using the American Flag on his boats at Jaffa to promote his private business interests. This I would not allow; and he was at last compelled to cover his flag with his own name so that it would be far more conspicuous than the stars and stripes and nobody be deceived by it.

Since my return in 1898 a native of this country, a Turkish subject, became agent for a time of some tourist

company and began to use the American Flag as a drawing card to induce travellers coming on the steamers to patronize him. Complaint was made and very soon the Turkish authorities themselves caused the abuse to cease.

When "The Celtic" arrived on March 6, I went to Jaffa to meet her as a compliment to Mr. Frank C. Clark who was formerly our Vice Consul here, and also as a compliment to the many distinguished Americans on board. When I reached the steamer there were a dozen other boats flying the American Flag and no one could distinguish between the official boat of the United States Consul and that of some Arab boatmen. A few of these flags had on them in very small letters "Frank C. Clark's Tours", but these words could not be seen thirty feet away. Later I called Mr. Clark's attention to the matter and he assured me that he would have it corrected at once. I shall see that he covers his flag with his own <sup>name</sup> so that the stars and stripes will not be conspicuous and a person will recognize at a distance that it is the flag of a private American concern and not the Official Flag of the United States.

There is a certain shop in this city which has recently been using our National Flag to attract customers. The shop is German, with a German sign over the door, and a German subject managing it. On the arrival of The Celtic people this shop floated conspicuously the American Flag. I called on the German Consul who said at once that it was not right to have our flag thus used; that if the case were reversed he would not allow it; and that he would take steps to have the flags removed. This was accordingly done; and I thanked him heartily for his friendly service. The proprietor's excuse was that he "had one or more Americans in his employ and they wanted to attract American customers". When the flags were removed the proprietor asked his Consul to ask me to allow him to use the flag with his name printed on it. I replied that I could not allow it since he was a German subject. The German Consul said I was quite right.

These are sample cases of the efforts I have made to prevent the abuse of the American Flag.

When American travellers pass through the country I consider it perfectly proper for them to place the flag over their tents where they stop for the night. Also on our national feast days, or when special honor is to be shown publicly to some distinguished visitor, I make no objection to American citizens displaying the flag. What I have not allowed and will not allow is the using of the National Flag solely to promote private business interests. - I make no distinction as to persons; for if allowed to one it must be allowed to all, and the flag loses at once its official character.

Suppose the use of the flag were allowed to every body; - a street row occurs in which American citizens are involved; some one in a rage seizes the American flag and tramples it in the mud; that would be a national disgrace. Our national honor demands that in this country, where there are so many nationalities and classes of people, so many diverse and conflicting interests, and where our relations with the Turkish government require to be delicately handled, - our national honor demands that the most stringent rules be enacted regarding the use and abuse of our flag.

I do not know that I need special authorization for this, but I will ask the Department's permission to print and send to every American resident here, and to every naturalized American as well, a notice like the following:-

" In this country the American flag is an official symbol and only such. Its use on national feast days, or to indicate to strangers their camp or lodging place, is allowed by common consent. But it is not allowed to use the flag in a commercial way or for the purpose of promoting one's private business interests".

When I receive the Department's consent which it seems to me our national honor demands should be given, I will cause such a declaration to be prepared and circulated among our American citizens resident in Jerusalem and Palestine.

I remain respectfully  
Your obedient servant

*Scelah Merrill*  
U.S. Consul.



Several horizontal lines, likely representing a list or a table, are visible on the left page. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.



Second Assistant Secretary's Room.

MEMORANDUM.

July 11, 1902.

Dear Van Dyne:

The instances specifically ad-  
duced by Mr. Merrill indicate that  
he has acted with rational discretion.

In an extraterritorial country,  
the display of a flag, as on a boat  
or ship, is properly an indication  
of the owner's right to protection in  
case of need by the American govt.  
Hence its use should be restricted  
to such purposes, and in case of  
apprehended disturbance. It may  
also be allowed to American citizens  
on our national holidays. But its use  
by foreigners, or as an advertisement,

is clearly objectionable, because  
misleading, and tending to confuse  
the Turkish authorities.

Whether the Consul has the  
right to prohibit the indiscrimi-  
nate abuse of the flag is a doubt-  
ful point. I think he can ad-  
vise against it and warn the  
offenders that the right to protection  
extends only the authorized use of the  
flag under circumstances existing at  
the respect, by the Turkish Govt as an  
international obligation. In extreme  
cases of abuse, he might, <sup>in some, but not require,</sup> ~~perhaps~~  
the Turkish authorities, or the Consul of  
the offenders country, to restrict the evil.  
His suggested notification needs to be recast in  
the above. as

MEMORANDUM

DEPT OF STATE  
JUL  
14  
1902  
2ND ASST SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Carr:

When you have framed  
an insert to Mr. Merrill,  
you might copy his despatch  
and our reply to the Consul  
General, for his information  
and let Mr. South do the  
same to the Legation in  
Stamboul.

ahy

Mr. Smith,

Assistant Solicitor,  
JUL 14 1902  
Department of State.

Dear Mr. Adie:

As there is no law prohibiting the use of the flag for advertising purposes in the United States, the Consul has no authority to prohibit its use for such purposes in Turkey.

He may, of course, advise against it, and deprecate its use for such purpose, but can go no further -  
F. J.



CONSULAR BUREAU.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,  
CONSTANTINOPLE

ACKNOWLEDGE,

Rec'd. March 29, 1902

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 17, 1902.

3rd. ASST. SECRETARY  
APR 19 1902

Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

Subject

Arrival and departure of the "Celtic" with upwards  
of 800 Americans on board.

Second Assistant Secretary's Room.

MEMORANDUM.

July 15, 1902

Dear Mr. Carr:

My mem. and Mr. [unclear]  
are in accord sufficiently to enable  
you to merge them.

Incidentally I recall a report  
from Tangier and our reply, re the  
use of the flag on boats in the harbor  
of Tangier that is a matter of port  
regulation, the authorities permitting  
no flag to be flown on a boat without  
the Consul's permission. If such a port  
rule exists or can be inaugurated at  
Jaffa, the Consul might very properly  
refuse to give permission in cases where  
the right to fly the flag is a na-  
tional issue as a symbol of protection. C.A.

Consular Bureau,  
APR 19 1902

No. 50

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 17, 1902.

*[Handwritten initials]*

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

The steamer "Celtic" with upwards of eight hundred American tourists on board, arrived at Jaffa on the 6th of this month and left to day for Egypt. All this company among whom were many persons of distinction, visited Jerusalem. They came in two sections, the first numbering about six hundred and the second upwards of two hundred. The difficult and frequently dangerous landing and embarkation at Jaffa were accomplished without accident of any kind. This city can accommodate three hundred and possibly four hundred tourists fairly well, but when the number rises above four hundred at one time many persons have to put up with poor accommodations and with guides that are noted only for cheek and deplorable ignorance. Such a crowd is unwieldy at best, but I trust that most of them enjoyed their brief visit to the Holy City.

This Consulate did all that was in its power to do for their comfort and convenience. We waited upon the Governor and obtained a detail of special policemen with special officers to serve for the occasion. We called the drivers together and warned them that they would be held responsible for any accident. This was very necessary as the native drivers have no other idea of driving than to hold ~~and~~ the reins and lash their horses into a gallop, and there was no other way to restrain these Jehus than to threaten them in a body. We sent word to the Sheikhs of the neighboring villages where vicious boys are known to live, the Mount of Olives, Bethany, Silwan (Sileam), Neby Daoud (Prophet David), that they should not molest the travellers. We instructed the police to send away from the city, or to have them under special surveillance, any men or boys that were known to be pickpockets or petty thieves. As the trains arrived in the evening and as the streets are not lighted, it was arranged that the station and the street to the city, one mile distant, should be lighted. Moreover we requested the chief of the municipality to have the streets, as it had not rained for some time and the dust was very uncomfortable, watered during the stay of the party.

Thus at considerable trouble and some expense we were able to make this company of distinguished American tourists far more comfortable than they otherwise would have been. Facilities for handling and caring for such a large company are abundant in any American city, but here they are conspicuous by their absence. All these steps were voluntary on our part as Mr. Frank Clark who had charge of the party was on the steamer and his brother Mr. Herbert Clark was in Haifa, and no one on the steamer knew what had been done by us; and I am happy to say that everything worked well and the visit was made without any unfortunate or even unfavorable occurrence.

I wish to add that the Governor, the special police, and the officers of the municipality, responded heartily to our requests and, in cooperation with Mr. Gelat the efficient dragoman of our Consulate, did all they could for the safety and pleasure of this army of our fellow citizens.

I remain respectfully  
Your obedient servant

*Selah Merrill*  
U.S. Consul.

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,

CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 51.  
Rec'd. April-3-1902  
J. S. S. 4



United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 24, 1902.

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
TO THE SOLICITOR.

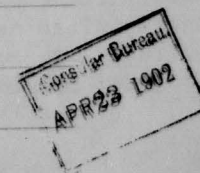
Selah Merrill, Consul,

To

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington.

Subject.

The Department asked to require American subjects residing here as merchants and trades-people to register their business, partnerships, liabilities, obligations, &c., &c., in the Consulate. A greatly needed reform.



No. 51.

United States Consulate  
Jerusalem, Syria, March 24, 1902.

Hon. Herbert H. D. Peirce  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

I wish to consult the Department with regard to the following matter and, if possible, obtain its permission to carry out a much needed reform.

A large number of our citizens, chiefly naturalized subjects, residing here, are engaged in business as tradespeople or shopkeepers. We have tailors, wine merchants, butchers, whitewashers, fancy goods dealers, tinsmiths, cloth merchants, millers, money changers, and many other kinds. It is very common for these people to have a partner of some other nationality than their own, as Russian, Turkish, Austrian, for there are eleven countries represented here by consuls, besides the Turkish government, and from time to time we have to deal with them all. To describe the intricate and involved cases we have had to deal with would require volumes, and probably it is not necessary for my purpose.

Here is an example:- An American subject and a Turkish subject are partners. It becomes necessary for the Turkish authorities to commence some legal process against the Turkish subject and the Turkish authorities go to the shop or place of business. The American immediately declares that the shop is his, that it is American property, and on that account he warns the <sup>shop</sup> not to enter the shop or to touch the goods. The case may be reversed; we wish to proceed against the American who immediately declares that everything belongs to his partner, and we are powerless.---Such cases are common; and in some of them we are convinced that a special object of the partnership was to evade responsibility.

Another example:- A shop is supposed to be owned by French subjects who have in their employ an American subject. The French subjects wish to avoid some obligation to the French authorities and suddenly the American subject declares the store and its contents to be his, American property and the French cannot touch it. We have nothing but the assertions of the different parties to guide us. The French have the same. There is no contract, and we are powerless. The most careful examination fails to reveal the real owner or owners and their real relation to each other.