had been forwarded "haphazard", without any reference to the special needs of this office.

Of blank forms, bills, Custom House envelops, marine note of protest, marine extended protest, etc. we have more on hand than will be used in ~~one~~ a year, while forms, blanks, envelops etc. asked for, were either not sent, or were abstracted, on the way.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient servant
(Signed) J. J. Wilson
Consul

No 58.

U. S. Consulate at
Jerusalem May 10 1879

Hon. Frederick W. Seward
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D. C.

Sir

I am in receipt of your despatch No 32 of March 4th 1879, in reference to proposed reforms in Turkish administration, and the prospect of increased commercial facilities between this country and the United States.

This is a subject of which I have thought much and earnestly, and have conversed with the local authorities and with the resident Consuls on the subject.

Raouf Pacha Governor of Palestine is in favor of reform, so is Joseph Effendi, Mayor of Jerusalem, both cultivated gentlemen, and apparently well disposed; but as the Governor says "What shall I do? Every Official almost takes backsheesh, and if I remove one, and appoint another, he will repeat the offence, and the matter is no better but rather worse".

The Pacha can complain to the Grand Vizier, but the Cadi and the Effendi may combine and complain of the Pacha and the longest purse, will probably win in the duel at Constantinople.

The average Oriental mind, I speak of course of Palestine, has no conception of honor and right, in the abstract. Thought takes

takes on a concrete form. He is supposed to obtain his rights in a court of law, who wins his case, by chicanery or by bribery. I obtained an order on a Cadi (Judge) at Gaza, to proceed and adjudicate a cause. The order was three times repeated, but the Cadi still waited for backsheesh.

When the Plaintiff asked for another order, I directed him to send me a complaint, and copies of the Pacha's orders, that I might send them to the Legation at Constantinople. This brought the Cadi to terms, and secured a judgment.

Two British Agents have been here, making investigations and reports to the Foreign Office, with reference to future reforms, but I do not find any one who has faith in the success of efforts in the present direction. The British Consul has no confidence in them. They must be tried, & on failure, the way may be prepared for more radical measures.

The Turkish administration may be wise, by accident, it is evil by system. The more it is reformed, that is, the more perfectly it is worked the worse it becomes.

The Pachalics, are farmed out, the sub-districts are farmed out. The whole system is wrong, and is incapable of being reformed.

In reference to imports from the United States, I may say, that the Customs duties are not very high, but the inevitable Backsheesh, attendant upon passing goods makes the expense very great; and in opening boxes and packages, goods are often stolen and sometimes abstracted.

The smallness of the population and the poverty of the people necessarily tend to limit importations.

Palestine has 1/10, or 1/20 of its normal population, and 1/100 or 1/1000 of its former wealth, literature and intelligence.

If the demand were large enough to justify a ship load of American goods, they might be sold to advantage.

There is no good stock in Palestine.

American cutlery, garden tools and and light farming implements, might be sold, as they are better, and cheaper than those brought from Germany and from England.

There is no direct line of transportation from the United States, and the expense of transhipment at Liverpool and at Alexandria counterbalances,

counterbalances any advantage in the purchase.
still we do of necessity, import Petrolium largely, Hams, canned beef, and canned fruits to some extent.

Quisberg & Co. of Jerusalem – have Branch-houses at Joffa and at Haifa. This is a large establishment – not long since Mr Quisberg, ordered flour, bacon, Corned beef, and some other articles, in small quantities, Via Liverpool, but the charges were so great that the order cannot be repeated.

Mr Quisberg, says, however that if there were a line of transport from the States direct to Alexandria or to Beyrout he could advantageously order from America, iron ware cutlery, stoves, and Cotton Goods and occasionally flour, Bacon Corned beef etc. and in this opinion he is in accord with Mr Sam. Berghein Vice Consul a copy of whose despatch on the subject, I send herewith. Enclosure No. 1.

1/58

The Berghein family have a farm of 5000 acres on the plain of Sharon – the only Firm in Palestine who farm on a scale large enough to start or to need an American Reaper. They have in use two English Reapers –

This country wants, and awaits development – It is fallen and degraded – It was once great, and fertile.
The maritime plain is a natural wheat field – The Esdraelon Valley is scarcely inferior to the Prairies of Illinois or of Iowa.

The Jordan Valley is tropical and capable of producing sugar Cotton and Indigo.

The trans-Jordanic country, the land of Ammon and of Moab is naturally fertile, and capable of almost unlimited development. The natural resources are great – and there are yet the remains and the ruins of a once, splendid civilization. The Country, needs –
1° Harbors – 2° Roads – 3° Light, taxation and not irregular and capricious. 4° A regular and wholesome administration of the laws. The judicial administration needs to be entirely revolutionized –

It is amusing, the plan of reform proposed by the Beaconsfield administration.
1° Turkey is anxious to introduce reforms –
2° Turkey cannot introduce and carry out reforms without a loan.
3°

3° Turkish Officials cannot be entrusted with the use and distribution of a loan – The distribution must be under the supervision of British officials; or in other words, and in plain terms, the Turk, must abdicate, in order to rule.
4° I submit, that this theory of reform does not commend itself to my judgment, and in this opinion I but express the sentiments of all with whom I have conversed.

The Sultan is to pledge his Customs revenue, and France and England are to find commissioners of Customs, to prevent duties pledged to the creditors being stolen by Pashas.

There is so little strength in the Empire, that it cannot live without a loan. There is so much hatred for it among its own subjects, that it cannot live without support – There is so little honesty in it, that it cannot be trusted with a loan – There is so much pride in it, that support is, except on its own terms, contumeliously rejected.
The Turks generally do not know what "reform" means. The majority of them understand by it a giving up of civil law and a complete return to that of the Koran – Many of them would be glad to see existing abuses removed, but to have it done by a foreign power like England is a severe wound to Mohammedan pride. An intelligent military officer said to me the other day, "The Turks will not submit to the operation," and another military Pacha said "The friendship of England is worse for us than the enmity of Russia.

The government itself, at least that part of it which is localized in these parts, is too corrupt to be much concerned about such things. The great aim of Turkish officials is to save each man for himself, as much as he can from the general wreck. Official integrity is rare. Dishonesty is the rule integrity the exception. This is the unblushing declaration often and often made to me by officials of every grade. Affairs have grown worse and worse during the last few years. Twenty years ago the administration of government was very simple.

Some ten or twelve years ago the French system was adopted which by its complexity gives greater opportunity for bribery and plunder. Matters have been especially bad since the beginning of the war.

In.

In respect to the introduction of American goods, in small quantities under existing circumstances, we must make the best of things as they are, and I shall improve every opportunity, of calling the attention of dealers to such articles as I think might be profitably introduced.

There is one Mill in Jerusalem Engine, Boiler machinery &c. brought from Philadelphia, after the exposition, by a Native, Muchly, by name, used for grinding wheat, and for sawing Olive wood – The fuel used for the furnace, are the refuse pieces of the Olive wood.

Another person, Hanstocom a few an American Citizen, has gone to Paris, and London for the purpose of bringing a mill, and fixtures, for grinding wheat and for sawing wood. He said on leaving, that he would if possible, purchase an American built Mill.

Meanwhile, leaving England and Turkey to work out to the legitimate results, the present theory of reforms it might be well, for our Government to encourage if possible, the establishment of a regular line of transport, if not by steam, at least by sailing vessels from New York, or Baltimore or some other American port, to Alexandria.

This, more than any other one thing, that I can think of would tend to introduce American products to the markets of the Orient.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

(Signed) Jy Wilson

Consul

One Enclosure

Vice Consul despatch

No. 59

U. S. Consulate

Jerusalem May 24th 1879

Hon. Chas. Payson

Third Assistant Secretary of State

Washington D. C.

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 33 of April 18th 1879.

And to inform you, that the U. S. S. Quinnebaug arrived at Jaffa from Alexandria Egypt on the 19th May 1879.

Com^dr. H. H. Farquhar – 23 Officers and 143 – men arrived for a visit to Jerusalem on the 20th inst.

The Steamer will leave Jaffa for Smyrna on the 25th of May 1879.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

(Signed) Jy Wilson

Consul

No. 60

U. S. Consulate

Jerusalem June 5th 1879

Hon. Chas. Payson

Third Assistant Secretary of State

Washington D. C.

Sir.

The object of the present despatch is to communicate to the Department of State for consideration, some special facts pertaining to the condition of this Consulate, at present, and for the future.

There are 106 American Jews, under Consulate jurisdiction, & one native American.

There are no protoges, except the Official servants of the Consulate.

Eleven American Jews, have arrived during the year, but a larger number have returned to the States, so that the aggregate number is not so large as it was a year ago; and this is true of all the Consulate, the Hebrew population of Jerusalem is