No. 41.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, March 7, 1888.

Honorable George L. Rives,
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of despatch No. 20, dated January 31, 1888; of two Circulars, of January 24th and 25th, respectively; of Copy of Register of the Department, corrected to December 21, 1887; and of Consular Reports No. 86.

I herewith enclose the marriage certificate of Michael Stern, dated the 5th instant.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant

Consul

Enclosure:
1. Marriage Certificate.

No. 42.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, April 2, 1888.

Honorable George L. Rives,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I send you enclosed the accounts and returns of this office for the quarter ended the 31st March, 1888, as per the subjoined list of enclosures.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

Consul

List of enclosures:
No. 1. Digest of invoice book.
2. Record of notarial services.
3. Account, losses by exchange.
4. Rent & miscellaneous expense account.
5. Salary of Interpreter & Guards.
6. Register of letters received and sent.

No. 43.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, April 4, 1888.

Honorable George L. Rives,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith Copy of my letter, dated 22d ultimo, to the Governor of Jerusalem and Palestine, relating to an attack made by Ottoman subjects at Hebron on several American citizens, including myself, and which sufficiently explains the incident.

The people of Hebron are notoriously fanatic and unruly, giving much trouble to the local authorities, who have great difficulty in restraining them, collecting the taxes, and enforcing the laws.

It gives me pleasure to state in this connection that I have received the most ample apologies from, in the first instance, the Deputy Governor at Hebron, and, secondly, both verbally and by letter, from the Governor of Jerusalem and Palestine, expressing the most extreme regret at the occurrence. The Deputy Governor has been removed, those guilty of the assault have been punished, and the newly appointed Deputy Governor has informed the people of Hebron that offensive treatment of any kind whatever toward visitors will not be permitted, and will be punished by fine and

imprisonment. Measures have been taken to enforce these instructions.

Trusting that my action in the affair will receive the approval of the Department,

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Consul

Enclosure:
1. Mr. Gillmann to Raouf Pasha.

No. 44.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, April 12, 1888.

Honorable George L. Rives,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 21, of the 7th ultimo, enclosing letter of Clarence Howland relative to fine for neglect to have passport visaed.

There is scarcely a correct statement from beginning to end in Mr. Howland's communication; and this, doubtless, without any intention to misrepresent, but probably because, without much personal knowledge in the matter, he allowed himself to be influenced by the biased statements of some ignorant and envious dragoman or conductor.

The Department is already in possession of information to refute most of the loose statements of the protest.

The fee for the visa of an Ottoman

Consul or Minister is twenty piasters. The fee or fine for the passport not being provided with such a visa is twice this amount, or forty piasters (good money). It was this latter fine which was imposed in Mr. Howland's case. And the truth is that the ten francs which he paid did not quite (by a small amount) meet the expenses connected with the matter.

The main incidents in Mr. Howland's case occurred at Jaffa, and where it is notorious that the Conductor under whom Mr. Howland travelled is markedly inimical to Mr. Hardegg, the U. S. Consular Agent there, through whom, some years ago, said Conductor was restrained in what was considered by my predecessor as an improper use of the American flag. This has led to much ill feeling and unpleasant action, so far as I am aware altogether unprovoked on Mr. Hardegg's part. It is significant that the only instances of this sort of trouble experienced by us have been from travellers who have been brought here through this Conductor, on whom I was finally enabled to fasten the entire of the mischief through an American traveller who admitted the origin of his information, and tried to arraign me for the flag incident, though of course, I had nothing to do with it. This Conductor, who is under special obligations to me, and professes for me the most profound friendship, confessed all, and promised, with tears in his eyes, that I should be annoyed no more in this way. And he seems to have kept his word, as we have had no further such trouble.

Mr. Howland's reference to the Consulate at Beirut is peculiarly unfortunate for his argument, my esteemed Colleague, Mr. Bissinger having had much more of this passport difficulty than we have had here, and of forms altogether unknown to Palestine. Moreover those troubles began in the Beirut Consulate in the autumn of 1886, while in this Consulate one of our first cases was that of Mr. Howland, in February 1888. We had previously therefore no reason to complain. Had we done so it would simply have been crying out before we were hurt.