

Jerusalem
July 19. 1853.

Copy
Political
No 10

My Lord.

I have to inform Your Lordship that during my recent tour in the North, I was unexpectedly to myself an object of much rejoicing and gratitude on the part of the peasantry and the native merchants.

Her Majesty's Consul General in Constantinople had been able last year to obtain for them the removal of gross abuses in taxation with regard to the cultivation and trade in tobacco which is the staple article

Right Honorable
Earl of Clarendon
K.G. - S.C.B. &c

Copy of Despatch
Political 9 - from
the Consul General
to the Earl of
Clarendon
On the state of the
Country.
Enclosure 1 in No 10
from Jerusalem

those parts - in the latter the peasantry were at one stroke relieved of half their burden, and in the ports the Custom duties were reduced from nearly 200 per cent, to 12 per cent.

But I being the nearest British authority, and the person to whom they had made their application, had to receive all the thankful speeches, public processions, and public feasting - especially since all the Consuls of every nation in Beirout had declared the case to be hopeless, even for the benefit of their own subjects, and had abandoned both them and the natives to their fate.

The effect of the relief so obtained had been to cause a rapid increase in the quantity of goods exported, and (as I was assured) the saving of every mercantile house in Sour and Sidon, amounting to about forty of

the first class, from destruction.

In other places also I met with an encouraging reception. At the Convent of Deir Mokhallis in the Lebanon, the centre of the Greek Catholics for all Syria, the great bell was rung, and the Resident with all his train came out to receive us: and during the dinner the clergy sang hymns and psalms in Greek and Arabic.

From political motives my reception was equally satisfactory among the Druzes and the Metawala -

At Nazareth I found English influence very considerably respected.

And in Nablus the most fanatic town for Moslems in all Syria, I had cause to complain of persons in the street reviling my Kawasim for being servants of Christians. - Sending for the Governor and the Kadi to judge the matter in the

house where I lodged, two men were
by them promptly bastinadoed, and
imprisoned for the night.

I need not mention my
reception by the Pashas of Beypazir and
Acre.

But I am happy to add that
in Jerusalem also the English name
is highly respected.

My Despatch Political No 9, of
this day's date, will show the estimation
in which it is held both in the
Seraglio, and among superstitious
peasantry during their hostilities.

— And on Sunday, the Greek
metropolitan Bishop requested my
good offices for his people and their
property in case of a Moslem insurrection.

— just as the Greek Bishop of Acre
had done on a previous occasion -
and as the Latin President of Carmel
had

had done on my first visit there
six years ago, notwithstanding the
nominal superintendance of France
and the huge French flag flying there.

During my recent absence from
Jerusalem, an English Subject named
Mishellans, cultivating a valley
called Artas near Bethlehem,
suddenly found his property invaded
by Yaamri Arabs, driven thither by
the drought for watering their flocks.

Repeated applications to the Pasha
were of course utterly fruitless - at
length my Cancelliere was invited to
the place by the Arabs themselves, to
make a contract of regulations and
"eat the sheep of reconciliation".

This he did, and in that remote
place, though scarcely eight miles from
Jerusalem, with 40 wild Arabs
about

at the
end of Jerusalem
Ry - 8-11. 1/2

about him, it is not to be wondered at that he was obliged to hear expressions of contempt for the Turkish Government, and of ready submission to English authorities.

A curious instance to the same effect occurred about 5 weeks ago. On returning from Bethlehem, I perceived a valuable Arab mare lying dead on the road, and upon enquiry learned that this had belonged to the Coptic Secretary of Hadramahman of Hebron, and had expired under the hard riding of the Cpt to announce to Arabs of the South, my intended journey to Beypoot.

I feel deeply the responsibility of sustaining so much influence among all classes of people - and am at present mostly concerned in keeping up the Pasha to use his

utmost endeavours for the preservation of the country from anarchy.

I have the honor to

(Signed) J. Peim

Jerusalem
July 23. 1855

No 21

My Lord.

I have the honor to request
leave to transfer to Your Lordship's
adjudication, or to that of H. M.
Consul General, a civil action
which has been brought into my
Consulate — a Prussian Subject
named Simon C. Rosenthal
appealing against an English
Subject Edward Macgowan M.D
for reparation of character and

Right Hon^{ble}
and Stratford de Redcliffe
S. C. B. &c for

Copy of Despatches
No 10 - from
the Consul General
to the Earl of
Aberdeen

On British influence
in Palestine

Extracts in No 20
from Jerusalem