Jerusalem 20th July
1844.

121

332

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency the copy of my Despatch No. 24 addressed to the Earl of Aberdeen, reporting the particulars of a Visit from the Padre Curato of the Latin Convent, on the subject of Protections. —

I have the honor to be
With the greatest respect
Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient
Humble Servant
Wm. T. Young

Ho Excellency
The Right Honorable
Sir Stratford Canning G.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

Consul Jerusalem
No. 20
Rec'd
Entered

Copy.

~~Confidential~~

No

Jerusalem 9th July 1846

334

My Lord,

I was to day visited by the Padre ~~Vicario~~ Curato in company with another Monk from the Latin Convent.

Their object was to ask my opinion as to whether I thought the Monks individually were of necessity under the Civil Jurisdiction of the Consul who protected the Convent, - or whether they could in their individual and private concerns claim the protection of the Consul of their own Nation, or in the event of there being no Resident Consul of their own Nation, seek the aid of any Foreign Consul whom they might please to select.

It was stated to me that the case was merely put hypothetically - But, as

The Earl of Aberdeen K.T.
&c &c &c

Right Honble
Sir Stratford Canning G.C.B.

as the French Consul returned to Jerusalem Yesterday, I suspected that it had reference to the actual state of affairs between him and the Convent —

I stated that it was my belief that the Protection of the Latin Convents in Syria was accorded to France by Ancient Treaty with the Turkish Government entered into at a time when it was considered requisite that the Western Christians should be represented by an Influential Power at the Porte, in order to secure them from the molestation of the Local Governors, who, from fanatical and mercenary motives fomented quarrels between them and the Eastern, or Native Christians, to the injury of either party, and the general prejudice of the Christian Religion —

I added that I was ignorant what the nature of the understanding was between the Courts of France and Rome, when the Former undertook the cause

cause of the Latin Church before the Turkish Government — how far for instance any Authority was accorded to French Agents to interfere in the internal Economy of her Ecclesiastical Establishments in this Country —

But it appeared to me that unless it was specially stipulated that all parties connecting themselves with these Establishments were to be considered under French Jurisdiction, each individual retained his Nationality, and that, as far as any of his concerns could be independent of the Convent, he was at liberty to consult his own Consul, and if necessary, to seek his protection —

Whether a Neapolitan for instance, thus connected, had the power to pass over the French Consul, and to seek the aid of a Foreign Consul, in the event of there being no Resident Consul of his own Nation, — the question which was

Right Honorable
Sir Stratford Canning G.C.B.

was put to me by the ~~Vicario~~ Curato – I replied it was a very delicate question, and one upon which I should be very guarded in giving an opinion; for, admitting that he had the legal right to appeal to his own Consul, and which he doubtless had, unless there existed some special understanding between the Roman Catholic States and France to the contrary – It appeared to me that in applying to a Foreign Consul in preference to the French Consul, he would have to consider how far it would be expedient for him, as a Member to pass over the Functionary which was duly appointed for the protection of the Body with which he had voluntarily connected himself, – whether offence – might not be taken at it by the French Consul, and how far his own Government would approve of the Act, unless there were some urgent necessity to justify it. –

And

And I stated that it also struck me that the Foreign Consul appealed to under such circumstances would feel embarrassed and would probably decline interfering from a pure desire not to complicate matters amid such delicate relations. – Such I stated to the Vicario, would be my feeling, were I applied to. –

The ~~Vicario~~ Curato then put the Case, as though there should be the most manifest Tyranny exercised by the Consul protecting the Convent, towards individual Monks. –

I replied that I thought that none but the particular Government of the party feeling himself aggrieved, was competent to interfere, and that any other course would only extend the evil, and complicate the difficulties. –

It was lastly put to me, – What gave a person title to British Protection. – I replied – Birth in Great Britain or

Right Honorable
Sir Stratford Canning G.C.B.

or Her Dependencies, - and I believed - that it might be obtained by an Act of the Legislature, - but that this latter mode was the exception, and rarely resorted to. -

I feel it to be my duty to state to Your Lordship that I perceived in these questions, though put to me as hypothetical Cases, - an actual sounding of me as to the possibility of the Superior of the Convent in case of difficulty, throwing off the French, and seeking British Protection, - I was, in consequence very careful to give my replies, and to explain in such a way as to avoid the possibility of its being suspected by the French Consul that I was encouraging an application to me on the part of the Convent, or that I had invited a communication with the Convent or its affairs. -

I have maintained a friendly intercourse with all the Convents equally from the time of my first coming to reside here

here, - but which has not proceeded further than exchanging occasional Visits, the residence of a French Consul in the City has not caused me in any way to alter my conduct on this subject, though it is plain that M. de Lantivy regards with jealousy these simple visits of courtesy which pass from time to time between the Latin Superior and myself -

It happened that in the Year 1841 there was residing here an Irish Monk of the Franciscan Order, and a case of dispute between the Latins and the Greeks occurred, in which Mr. McLaughlin called upon me to interfere in behalf of his Convent: - But I declined doing so, although there was no French Consul residing here at the time, as Your Lordship will observe by the inclosed Extract of a Despatch dated 4th March 1841, - which I addressed to Viscount Ponsonby at the time, acquainting him of the Circumstance

Right Honorable
Sir Stratford Canning G.C.B.

circumstance. —

Should it ever happen that a British ~~Lady~~ Roman Catholic should become the Superior of the Latin Convent here, it would throw the English and French Consulates into a very difficult position. —

I have the honor to be
With the highest respect
My Lord
Your Lordship's
Most Obedient
Humble Servant
(Signed) Wm. T. Young.

Right Honorable
Sir Stratford Canning, G.C.B.

Extract of a letter addressed by Consul Young to H.E. Viscount Ponsonby, dated Jerusalem, 4th March 1841. —

"I have the honor to apprise Your Excellency that late on the night of the 28th Ultimo, I was called up owing to a disturbance in the Church of the Sepulchre between the Latin and Greek Ecclesiastics."—

"I was waited on by the Reverend Mr. Mc. Langhlin, an Irish Roman Catholic Clergyman of the St. Franciscan Order, and another Friar, to beg my Official interference on behalf of their Convent, — I however declined interfering and stated as my reasons that it was quite out of my province to make myself a party to disputes between the Convents and also, the Latin Convent being under French protection, I did not know how far an interference on my part might compromise my Government."

"Mr. Mc. Langhlin however, being a British Subject, I considered it my duty to assure him of my readiness to afford him all the personal protection in my power, — and I sent my Dragoman with my Compliments to the Governor who was present in the Church at the time, to state that as he was the chief Magistrate in the City, I must look to him to preserve the peace, by preventing either party from infringing acknowledged, or old established Customs. —

"For the moment, I am happy to say peace was restored." —

Right Honorable
Sir Stratford Canning G.C.B.

Right Honorable
Sir Stratford Canning GCB

No 22 Jerusalem 20 July 1844

Sir,

I have the honour to report to Your Excellency that about a month ago the house of Mr Critchlow, an English Gentleman residing here in the service of the London Jews Society — was broken into — Mr Critchlow was absent from Jerusalem at the time —

I caused three persons to be arrested on suspicion as they were in the Premises and seen by the neighbours to be moving about at an unreasonable hour of the night, Mr Critchlow's Servant, my groom and one of my janissaries — On sending them for examination to the Serai, they were committed to Prison — I requested the Governor to postpone all punishment, beyond mere imprisonment, until Mr Critchlow's return, and it could be ascertained what had been taken, as his writing desk had been opened and evidently pillaged — After

Enclosing
Right Honorable
Sir Stratford Canning G.C.B.

Enclosure in Consul Carne's Despatch No 24 dated 20 July 1844 Received at the Foreign Office 20 Sept 1844 —