

Copy

Consular
No 35

Jerusalem
July 2. 1861

My Lord.

I have the honor to furnish
more distinct particulars as to
the cause of the fight of the monks
in the Church at Bethlehem on
the 18th Ultimo.

In the reign of the late Sultan
the Armenians got a Firman to
prevent the Latin daily procession

Right Honorable
Lord John Russell
in the

from

Jerusalem July 2
Mr Consul Rivers

No 26 - London

Recd 25 July

sent by French packet

Apptoy in Bethlehem
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from passing over their Church on
the way to the Holy Manger (which
is open to all sects) - thus obliging
them to take the only other way
namely through the dark and
(narrow subterranean passages cut
in the rock.

At the time of the Prince de
Joinville's visit here, he by his
influence procured a Firman to
counteract this humiliation, and
the door was again opened from
the Latin Cloister to the Nativity.

Chapel through the Armenian
Church.

The Armenians lately devised a
plan for counteracting this - The
French Firman allows a right of
passage straight forward, but no
more - so they covered all the
floor with a matting, except
just space sufficient for the Latin
procession - They then gradually
enlarged the matting an inch or
so at a time, till the passage was
very narrow indeed.

At length the Latins took to
cutting the matting down to its
former dimensions: and on the
memorable 18th of June, the
Armenians placed a Lectern
across the narrow passage and
commenced an unusual afternoon
service: the monks standing over
the whole of their matting, as
an extra member had been
brought from Jerusalem for the
occasion.

When the Latin procession arrived.

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of course an altercation ensued
which led to blows: for the
Armenians opened a drawer near
their Altar, and took from it a
store of bludgeons.

The Latins procured some also
as soon as possible. The Curate
Father Manuel was as usual
the champion, but he had not his
sword-stick with him.

On finding themselves victorious
the Latins demolished all the
Armenian lamps, pictures and

Right Honorable
Lord John Russell

decorations

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decorations.

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On both sides the number of wounded is carefully concealed, and the Turkish authorities have no concern in bringing such statistics to light, as they could not punish the offenders in any case: and the townspeople who might be amenable to Turkish justice, took no part whatever in the business.

On the next day the Latins

discovered that five of the silver nails had been removed from their silver star on the spot of the Nativity, which was formerly the subject of so much diplomatic negotiation. — It is not known who had done this: they accuse the Armenians of being the perpetrators: but some persons grieve at its having been done by themselves, in order to get up a stronger case against their adversaries whether Armenians

or Greeks.

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Meanwhile the Pasha is engaged in endeavors to conciliate the parties, by defining the future dimensions of the matter.

It is rightly considered a cause of congratulation that the laity took no share in the quarrel -

that no French soldiers were here as pilgrims at the time, and that the crews of the Russian frigates had not then arrived.

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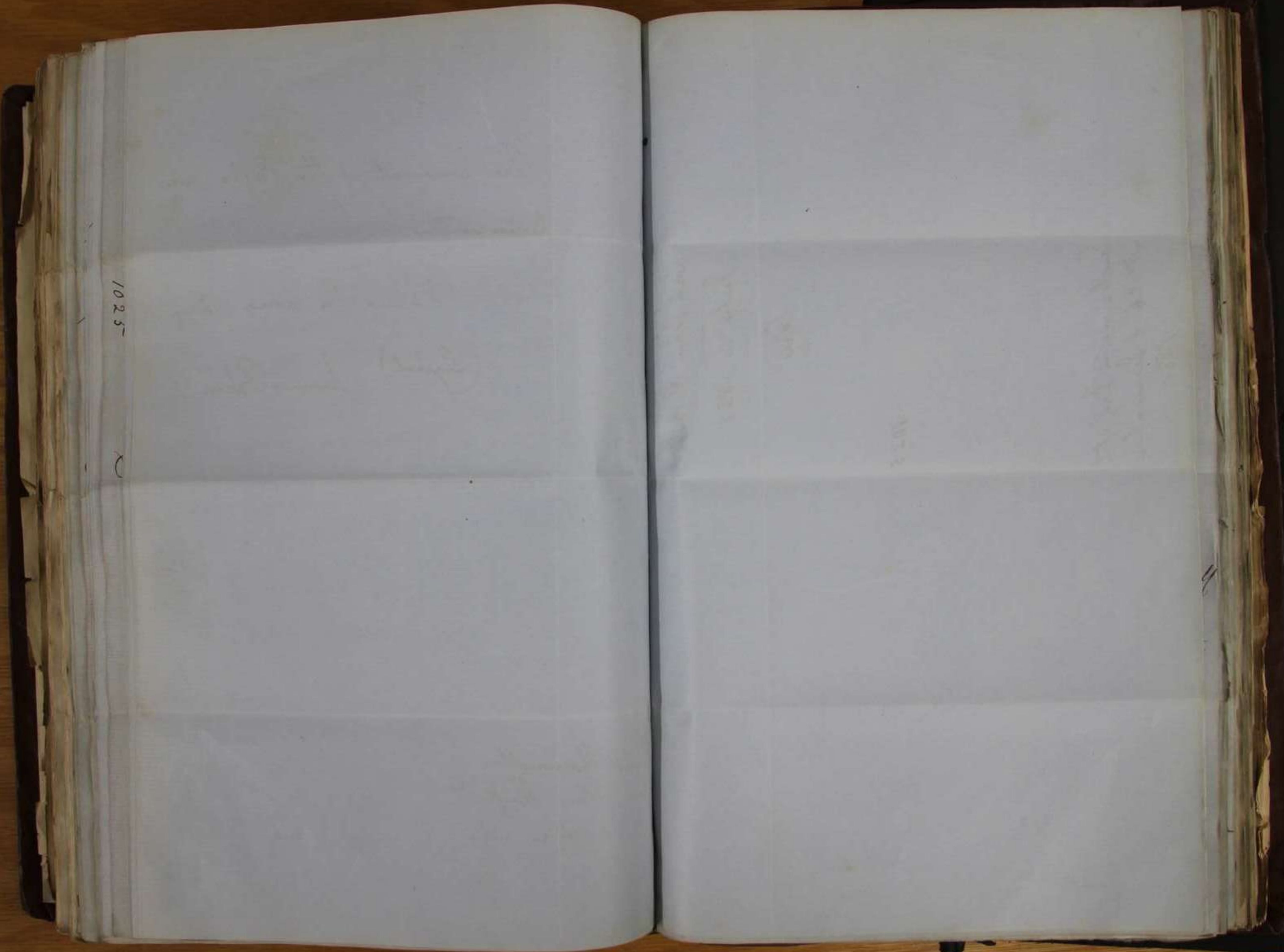
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The conduct of the Pasha was praiseworthy.

I have the honor to

(Signed) James Fisk

Right Honorable
Lord John Russell
Jc R.



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Enclosure in Despatch
No 26 of Jerusalem
1861

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Copy

July 2. 1861

Mr General from
Lord John Russell

No 27

Sir.

Jerusalem
July 10. 1861

I have the honor to acknowledge
receipt of Your Excellency's Despatch
No 6 of the 4th Ultimo - advising
that Joseph Shalom should himself
determine the point as to whether
he should appeal against the
decision given in the Pulpian

Your Excellency
Right Honorable
Sir H. L. Bulwer. G.C.B. &c

Comman