

598.

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1861
Jerusalem - April 22
The General Rivin
No 10 - G. B. B. B.
Re: 9 May
Sent by French Packet

Copy

Jerusalem
No 20

Jerusalem
March 29. 1861

My Lord.

I have the honor to report that for some time past we have had small parties of French military officers in occupation at Jerusalem: but that we have now here a party of 80 Officers and Privates of different Corps, besides a General of the Army with his lady, and the Captain (Commandant) of the

Right Honorable
Lord John Russell
Re Re
Frigate

Frigate "Mogadore" in which the General arrived at Caifa. — The rest having marched from Bayrast they all joined company there, and proceeded overland together from Caifa to Jerusalem.

They brought a large quantity of baggage with them, and their object is to attend the Easter ceremonies of the Holy City.

At the same time arrived from the opposite direction, M. Ferdinand de Lesseps, with the Doctor of his Egyptian Corps (M. Robert Roche) and another French gentleman.

This party travelled in a four-wheeled carriage drawn by camels from Caifa to El-Brish, a totally new experiment, and they are quite satisfied with the result.

They have expressed themselves to me, certain, that their carriage might have been brought to the foot of the Judean hills, i.e. within six hours from Jerusalem.

Should a regular service of such conveyance be instituted in that direction, it will undoubtedly bring about great changes in the South of Palestine with respect to visitors and

to commerce, and further —
improvements would be developed.

May I take this opportunity of
alluding to two ideas which I have
for many years desired to have
carried out for that part of the
country.

1. The establishment of an efficient
paid Vice Consulate at Gaza —
this I have on two occasions
already recommended to Her
Majesty's Government.
2. A scientific survey of the country
Eastwards from Gaza, with reference

to

2
to railroad communication with
the Persian Gulf.

The simultaneous arrival of the
French military party, and of M. de
Lepsius in Jerusalem, is a circumstance
that revives my anxiety on those
points.

I have the honor to
(Signed) James Finn

Right Honorable
Lord John Russell
&c &c

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Despatch No 10 of
June 1861

June 1861
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598

Enclome No 20

June 1861

John Russell

My
Circular
No 25

New Jaffa
April 12. 1861

My Lord.

I have the honor to report that in
my journey hither I was struck with
the deplorable and famished looking
countenances of the peasantry all along
the road. I found the peasants living
on bitter and unwholesome roots dug
from the ground, of which at one
place they gave me a sample to taste.

The harvest promises to be very
abundant this year, but has are the
people to subsist till it is gathered!

A less amount of starvation in European
countries

Right Honorable
Lord John Russell

John Russell