

No 3. Jerusalem
6 April 1850
Sir.

I have the honor to transmit to
Your Excellency, Translation of a
Hebrew Petition addressed to me by
the Moghrabi or African Jews
settled in Jerusalem.

They form a considerable body,
increasing in numbers and wealth.
- all the leading members of which
are under British Protection, after
being renounced by the French
authorities. -

They occasionally join in public
worship with the Sephardim, but
generally

His Excellency
Mr Hon. Genl. Sir J. Canning
G. C. B.

Despatches No 4 to
Viscount Palmerston
dated 1 April 1850
Copy

Endorse in No 2
from Mr Genl. Sir
4 April 1850

generally their prayers are conducted in a private room, in which they are not allowed to place a Book of the Law, because that would constitute it a public Synagogue.

They are frequently annoyed by the ruling Rabbis of Jerusalem, in religious, domestic, and pecuniary concerns - indeed the scenes of violence lately described in my Despatch No 4 to Viscount Palmerston and a Copy of which I sent to Your Excellency in my Despatch No 2 - arose principally from the fact of the deceased being one of this Moghrabi section of the Jewish people.

The petitioners have lately received

letters from numerous families in other parts of Syria, in Europe, and in Africa, promising to come and settle with them in Jerusalem, so soon as a Synagogue with a Book of the Law can be established here.

Premises suitable to the purpose can be obtained; but the request is for permission of this Community to hold a Synagogue of their own, without being kept in bondage by the Sephardi Rabbis of Jerusalem, and so to become as distinct from these as are the Ashkenazim Jews from Europe whose existence in Jerusalem is scarcely of more ancient date than half a century.

There is no intention of creating religious dispensations, by making changes

in the general rites, customs, or laws of Judaism.

The petitioners have also requested me to endeavour to obtain for them permission to use as a burial-ground a piece of land which they have already bought for the purpose. — This is a matter of importance, as serving to prevent the disgraceful scenes which we have so lately witnessed in burying the dead —

In supporting both their petitions.

I have the honor to be
Sir
with the highest respect
Your Excellency's
most obed^t. humble servant
J. Firm.

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His Excellency
R^t Hon^{ble} Sir L. Canning
S. C. B.

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Petition of the Moghrabi Jews in
Jerusalem to the British Consulate

(After Compliments)

We the undersigned Trustees and
Managers of the Moghrabi Congregation
dwelling in Jerusalem, beg to inform
you that formerly there were not many
Moghrabis here, and they could not
afford to build a synagogue - That there
are now in Jerusalem many of the said
Jews, and they can afford to have a
synagogue for themselves - but finding
it impossible for us to join in prayers with
the Sephardim Jews whose origin is from
Turkey, and consequently have quite different
customs and ceremonies, yea even their
dialect of Hebrew being different from ours:
We being fully persuaded that the English
people are very generous, and ever ready
to do acts of Charity, feel it our privilege
at

1850
Jerusalem. 6 April
The Great Syn
No 3 - 18 nos.
Rec'd 28

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Petition of the Moghrabi
Jews to have a distinct
synagogue and cemetery.

at the same time with great humility, to
present to you this our humble petition,
if possible to get for us a Firmân from
Constantinople, permitting us to have a
synagogue for ourselves - For you
know that no one can or dare to pray to
God without understanding, and we not
being able to understand them, or to
pray with them, therefore hope that you
will do what you can, seeing it is more
for the service of God than for any thing else
- And may the Lord help you in all your
undertakings. Amen -

(Signed by Sixty Six
Heads of Families)

Jerusalem
11 April 1850

No 4

Sir.

I have the honor to thank Your Excellency for the letters of His Highness the Grand Vizir to our Pasha, and of the Seriasker to the military authorities in the matter of the assault made on Joseph Paul Lander in his house last year. — The effect has been satisfactory to me in the highest degree

I have confronted the two accused and the accuser before Taib Aga the commander of the Jerusalem garrison, and myself.

One of the accused was a private in the ranks, the other was a Mulâzem
His Excell.
R^t Hon.^{ble} Sir J. Canning
S. C. B.

Petition of Mophkati
Jews of Jerusalem
for a Synagogue
Translation

Received in
the General Secy's
No 3 of 6 April 1850