

No. 2.

(in Duplicate)

Her Majesty's Consulate
Jerusalem, January 14th 1887.

Sir,

I have the honour to report
to your Excellency that a few days
ago the Clergy of the Greek Convent
at Bethlehem sent a party of
labourers to clean out an old and
disused vault situated in the
Cemetery of their Convent, in order to
prepare it for stabling the horses
of visitors on the occasion of the
approaching Christmas ceremonies.

Informed of this, the Clergy of
the

Excellency
W. A. White, H. C. M. G.
Her Majesty's Special Ambassador Extraordinary
Constantinople

Received January 14th 1887

Received 17

Reporting on the action of
Russian Agents in regard
to Greek interests.

1887
17/1/87
W. A. White

1287

the adjacent Latin Convent interfered and prevented the work from proceeding, on the ground that they are co-proprietors of the vault. It is necessary to state that the two Convents and their grounds adjoin.

Complaint of the interference of the Latins was made by the Greeks, who utterly deny the claim of the former to any share in the ownership of the vault, to the Governor of Jerusalem. Raouf Pasha, apparently convinced of the exclusive right of the Greeks, communicated with the French Consul and requested him to call upon the Latins to
desist

desist, but M. Ledoulie endorsed the claim and supported the action of the Latins, and demanded that the statu quo ante should be maintained till the question could be examined. The end of the warm discussion that ensued was that the Pasha declared he would forcibly put the Greeks in possession, and that the Consul would be responsible for any untoward consequence that might follow - a responsibility which the latter threw back on the Governor as the guardian of public order. The Governor then despatched the Chief of Police at the head of a force of some fifty soldiers and police for the purpose
above

above stated. Arrived at the spot, the officer found the vault occupied by a body of Latin priests and monks; summoned to evacuate the chamber, they refused, finally declaring that they would only yield to violence. The officer telegraphed to the Governor for instructions, but no explicit order to employ force arriving, he withdrew without effecting his purpose.

In the meantime, both parties had referred by telegraph to Constantinople. The Porte replied ordering that the affair should be sent up to Constantinople for examination and decision, and

and that in the meanwhile matters must remain in their previous condition - that is to say, the Greeks were not to be given possession of the vault.

The Greeks and the Russian Agents, who support them, are mortified and irritated by this decision.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient
Humble Servant.

N. Bumpmore

Her Majesty's Consulate
Jerusalem January 21st 1887.

N:3.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose
the Annual Returns of Correspondence
with Her Majesty's Embassy for
the year 1886, as desired in
Embassy Circular of November 9th 1886.

I have the honour to be

Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient

Humble servant

Nathaniel Moore

His Excellency
Sir W. A. White, K.C.M.G.
Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary

Constantinople

Received 11

January 21st 1887
N:3.

Dispute between the Greek
and Latin Clergy at
Bethlehem regarding
ownership of a small
portion of the Sanctuary;
Temporary abolition of the
Fete, and invitation of
the Greek Priest.

1887

gph