

Her Majesty's Consulate
Jerusalem, May 10th, 1890.

12. Duplicate
Sir,
I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the Duke of Norfolk, accompanied by sixty three British Roman Catholic Pilgrims, ladies and gentlemen, arrived at Jerusalem on the 20th of last month, and remained eight days visiting the different sites of interest and places of worship in the City and its environs.

The Duke and his party at

Bethlehem
Your Excellency,
The Right Hon^{ble} Sir W. A. White, G.C.B., G.C.H.K.
Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary
Constantinople

Received
No 11.
May 11, 1890

Reporting incident
trial of three British subjects
& steps taken relative
to their trial and
confinement.

FD
May 10 1890

Bethlehem, on the morning of April 24th, when entering the Grotto of the Nativity, with two of their priests, vested, and with the Chalice in their hands, were forcibly prevented from entering the Grotto, by the sentinel and an armed force of soldiers which was stationed in the Church to keep order. His Grace and party having considered this action a gross indignity, presented a statement to me, of which I beg leave to enclose a copy (inclosure No. 1.) asking me to enquire into the circumstances, and take such action as I might see

April 26

see proper, and obtain such redress as might prevent similar insults to others of Her Majesty's subjects.

Having transmitted a translation of the above-mentioned statement, in a Note addressed by me to the Governor of Jerusalem, of which a copy is enclosed (inclosure No. 2.), His Excellency Richard Pasha sent in his reply of which I have the honour to transmit herewith a

April 28, 1890

copy. (inclosure No. 3.)

On the receipt of the Governor's reply, I at once wired the following telegram to His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, at Hazareth:-

"Governor expresses his deep regret for incident at Bethlehem, he declared to me officially that

the

"the opposition made was because
"of the discrepancy existing between
"Latin and Greek Communities,
"assuring me that Authorities of
"Bethlehem ignored presence of
"English Pilgrims, and had no
"intention whatever to oppose
"them. Considering the circumstances,
"stated in Governor's letter, I
"find his explanation satisfactory,
"if you are not of my opinion,
"and not consider it sufficient
"satisfaction, please telegraph
"that I may refer the matter
"to Embassy at Constantinople."
"And I beg leave to quote
"herein, the contents of His
"Grace's reply to me by telegraph:-
"we

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"We regard satisfaction offered
"as inadequate, we beg you will
"lay matter before Ambassador at
"Constantinople."

I venture here to state that
the Franciscan Monks, on their side,
appealed to the French Consul at
Jerusalem, complaining of the action
of the local Authorities at Bethlehem,
relative to the opposition made to
them, and to the English Pilgrims on
that occasion. M^r Ledoux in
communicating their complaint to
the Governor of Jerusalem, made a
strong representation to His Excellency.
In his reply to the French Consul,
Richard Pasha, expressed his surprise
at the imprudent step which the
superior

Superior of the Franciscan Convent
at Bethlehem took in violating
the established rules existing
between the two Communities, by
not apprising the Greeks beforehand
of the intention of the English Pilgrims
to celebrate Mass in the Grotto,
and thereby causing them their
opposition by the soldiers there;
the Governor, therefore, finding the
complaint of the Franciscan Monks
inappropriate and groundless, said
they were not entitled to any redress,
and that the Authorities of Bethlehem
were justified in their action in
order to prevent any unnecessary
trouble or dispute which might
have led to serious consequences.

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I beg leave to add that I have
also had a personal interview
with the Governor of Jerusalem on
the subject, and he expressed his
deep regret to me for this unfortunate
incident at Bethlehem, and declared
that the opposition made by the
soldiers there, was not intended
as a personal insult, but that it
took place in consequence of the
disagreement between the Greek and
Latin Communities at that place.
Therefore, in my humble opinion,
I venture to think, that the
explanation made in Rechad
Pasha's letter, is a satisfactory one,
Considering the opposition was not
intended

intended

intended to the noble Dukes,
and his Party, but to the Franciscan
Monks of the Latin Community,
in violating the ordinary rules
for the Grotto service.

In conclusion, I have the
honour to state that in consequence
of the frequent visits to the Holy
Land of Roman Catholic Pilgrims
of different nationalities, and
in order to avoid similar conflicts
in future, I understand that
the Governor and the French Consul
thought it advisable to come to
a standing agreement with the
Greek Patriarch, with regard to
the celebration, by Latins, of
extra

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extra Masses, in the Grotto of the
Nativity. In an interview they
had with the Patriarch on the
subject His Beatitude consented
to their proposal, provided the
Latins gave previous notice to that
effect, to the Greek Bishop at
Bethlehem.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your Excellency's
Most obedient

Amable servant

W. H. Kayak

Jerusalem
April 26th 1890

Sir,

We have the honour to submit
for your consideration, and such action as
you may see proper to take, the following
statement

We, British Pilgrims visiting the
Holy Land, on the morning of April 24th 1890,
being at Bethlehem, and having ascer-
tained from the Franciscan Fathers, whose
guests we were, that an Altar in the
Grotto of the Nativity, was under their care,
and that according to ancient and
admitted custom, our priests, as well as
French, and others, of our religion, were
at liberty to celebrate Mass, at that
Latin Altar, at the time and times, that
our priests proposed to do so, beg to state

To H. B. Majesty's Consul
Jerusalem that

Jerusalem, May 19th 1890
Attest
No. 12.

Enclosures

Received

Regarding opposition made
to the Duke of Norfolk and Party
by the Franciscan and others
when entering the Grotto of
the Nativity at Bethlehem.
Steps taken in the matter.

[Faint handwritten notes at the top of the left page]

[Faint handwritten notes in the middle of the left page]

[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the left page]

that two of our priests, vested, and with the chalice, in their hands, were forcibly prevented from entering the Grotto to do so, by the sentinel, and that an armed force of soldiers was stationed in the church, to prevent these priests officiating. The opposition was subsequently withdrawn, and all our priests carried out their intention of officiating. But we were subjected to Military coercion and informed that force would be used, if considered necessary. We do not find fault with the demeanour of the Military Officer or of the sentry, acting under orders, which was temperate.

We think however that the public indignity offered to members of our body, was so gross, and so wholly unaccompanied, by any form of explanation or apology, that we feel bound to ask you,

you, Sir, in the interests of all British subjects, to enquire into the circumstances, and to obtain such redress, as may prevent ^{similar} insults to others of Her Majesty's subjects. 55

On behalf of the British Pilgrimage.

(Signed) Norfolk C. M., R. G.

William Clifford
Bishop of Clifton

Ralph D. Keer
Major General C.B.

Fred. A. Weld G.C.M.G.

Arthur Moore.

Le
Général de l. de la Palestine
Jerusalem, le 28 Avril 1890.

Excellence,
Il est un honneur de transmettre
à votre Excellence la traduction d'une lettre
qui montre le Duc de Norfolk et
quelques Membres du Pèlerinage Anglais
arrivés récemment en cette ville et ont
adressé au sujet de l'opposition par
force qui a été faite par les autorités
locales à leurs prières de célébrer la
messe dans la Grotte de la Nativité à
Bethléem.

La gravité de cet incident fâcheux
ne saurait échapper à votre Excellence
qui voudra bien certainement prendre
en

La Excellence
Richard Pacha
Gouverneur Général de la Palestine
Jerusalem

The Duke and Party demand
redress for opposition made
to them by English Catholics
when entering the gates of
Nativity at Bethlehem.
Jerusalem, April 26th 1890.

Acting Consul Hayat
No 12.
of May 10th 1890.

en sérieuse considération la
plainte en question, et nous
faire obtenir la satisfaction qu'elle
comporte.

Je prie votre Excellence de
m'informar le plutôt possible
du résultat de l'enquête qu'elle
aura ordonné à cet effet afin
que, de mon côté, je puisse en
faire communication à mon
Gouvernement.

Je saisis cette occasion et
(Signé) D. H. Kayat

Copy

Translation of an official note from
Rechad Pasha, Governor of Jerusalem,
to Acting Consul Kayat, No. 50, dated
April 30th, 1890.

فصل اول
مترجمه از سند
شماره 50
تاریخ 30 آوریل 1890
حضرت مولانا احمد رضا خان صاحب
مدرسہ عالیہ اسلامیہ کراچی
کو ارسال کیا گیا۔

Sir I have received your letter,
No. 16, of the 25th of April transmitting
a translation of the letter written
to you by the English Pilgrims in
the name of the Caravan, concerning
the opposition to their Priests by the
soldiers at Bethlehem preventing
them from saying Mass in the
Grotto of the Nativity in that
place.

According to the contents of that
letter, the English Pilgrims consider
that refusal as an insult to them.
I need not say here that the
presence of our soldiers at that
place

Acting Consul Kayat
Rechad Pasha
Jerusalem, April 28th, 1890.
Mr Kayat has permitted
translation of statement
presented to him by the
Duke of Norfolk, the Pasha
and divine as satisfaction
for their ill treatment by
Turkish soldiers at Bethlehem.

Juchanan
No. 2.

Acting Consul Kayat
No. 12.

of May 10th, 1890.

place in order to keep peace
in the case of such an opportunity
surrounded by circumstances, the
part the soldiers have taken
can only be explained as being
their duty. It cannot be
interpreted as an insult but
I do not see in this affair any
personal question. The report
was caused by a disagreement
between the Greek and Latin
Communities. The Latins
without informing the Greeks
& celebrate Masses in the Greek
besides the two regular Masses
they are in the habit of saying
daily; the Greeks objected
& that the refusal was given
under these circumstances.

I think I ought to add that
the English Pilgrims were there
unexpectedly; the local Authorities
were not aware of their being
at Bathlyham on the day of the
occurrence and that the
proceedings were not intended
but on the contrary,
it was caused, as I have already
stated, in consequence of the
disagreement between the two
Communities.

I avail myself of the opportunity
(L. S.) Reebad

Dated April 18, 1891 (1890)

Her Majesty's Consulate
Jerusalem, May 14th, 1890.

Sir,

With reference to my despatches
Nos. 8 and 10, of the 26th ultimo, and
5th instant, I have the honour to
state that I have received Mr.
Lethaby's reply, of which I beg leave
to enclose a copy (inclosure n^o 1).

Mr Gray Hill, who has recently
been corresponding with Mr. Lethaby,
requests me to send to your Excellency,
a copy of a letter which he had
addressed two days ago, to that

Excellency
The Right Hon^{ble} Sir H. A. White, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.
Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary
Gentleman,
Constantinople

13.
Duplicate

Recd. Pasha

Copy
to
Rashid Pasha

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