

British Consulate,

Jerusalem,

June 27, 1911.

No. 47. Sir,

I have the honour to report that four Italian War-ships, the "Benedetto Brin" (flag-ship), "Roma", "Napoli" and "Coatit" arrived at Jaffa on the 22nd instant. The following day they were joined by the following: "Pisa", "Amalfi" and "San Giorgio". The fleet was under the command of Vice-Admiral Aubry, Commander-in-Chief of the Italian Naval Forces in the Mediterranean.

The Vice-Admiral visited Jerusalem officially and was received with the honours due to his rank. Some five hundred officers and men, in two detachments, also came up to Jerusalem.

The chief items of the programme arranged on the occasion of this visit were: a service in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a reception at the Italian Consulate in honour of the Vice-Admiral and officers and the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Italian Hospital. The local Ottoman authorities also took part in this ceremony.

The hospital, which is to be one for women and children, is being built by a Society known as the "Società pel Socorro dei Missionari". I believe that, although the enterprise is

is Excellency,

being

The Right Honourable,

Sir G. Lowther, K.C.M.G., C.B.,

etc., etc., etc.,

British Ambassador,

Constantinople.

being thus conducted nominally under private auspices, it is one in which the Italian Government is considerably interested. It seems probable that the latter has also afforded financial support.

The fleet was due to leave Jaffa yesterday, but it is possible that its departure may have been prolonged by one day to enable it to salute the British squadron, under Rear-Admiral Sir D. Gamble, which is expected to-day.

This visit is without doubt to be taken as a counter-demonstration to that made by the French earlier in the year as reported in my despatch No. 20 of March 17.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

With the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's

most obedient,

humble Servant,

A. Satow.