

I understand accommodation for 2000; they had
 to behave in the most civil manner to the Doctor.
 But this is not the only act of violence his Excellency
 has committed during his short stay at Jaffa, he
 has forcibly broken open the Magazine of the Prussian
 Consul's agent, and turned out his goods, I believe
 in order to occupy it for his horses, this happened
 while I was there, and I brought the news here to
 the Prussian Consul, who has taken active measures
 about it; he has beaten with his own hand the
 dragoman of the Spanish Vice Consul, and imprisoned
 the same Consul's brother, both under Spanish
 protection; he has forcibly taken possession of the
 stable of the Russian Vice Consul; and the whole
 of the Vice Consuls, and Consul's Agents in Jaffa
 complain of their having been received in a most
 haughty and unbecoming manner by his Excellency,
 and that he did not condescend to rise to any of
 them on their visits. There are reports also that
 he has been receiving large exactions of money from
 his own subjects.

Inclosure N^o 2.

Jerusalem February 17th 1846

Sir,

798

I have the honor to submit to your
 Excellency the case of Luigi Boiffa a Maltese
 condemned for having killed a guest and who
 has now been confined in the Turkish prison,
 and in irons, since the 2^d of March 1845. After
 a lengthened correspondence the prisoner was
 finally tried by a Turkish Court of Justice in
 the presence of Mr Consul Young on the 7th of
 October 1845, and sentenced by that Court to pay
 the Deya, or blood money, to the amount of
 10,000 drachms of silver. This sentence was
 objected to by Mr Consul Young on the ground
 of there not being sufficient evidence of the
 prisoner's guilt. I brought with me from
 Beyrout instructions to Ali Pasha to have
 the case tried conjointly with me, but as
 those instructions were written at Beyrout, on
 the day of the trial at Jerusalem; Ali Pasha
 informed me that he had referred the matter

Excellency, The Right Honorable,

Sir Stratford Canning G. C. B.

Constantinople

to Constantinople. Since Mehemed Pasha has been here I have given him similar instructions from Wagiah Pasha at Beyrout, sent me by Her Majesty's Consul General, to have the prisoner tried conjointly with me, who informed me that he could not interfere with the sentence imposed by his predecessor but that he had also written to Constantinople on the subject. I have now been here since the 12th October 1845 and no information has been received as to the ultimate fate of the prisoner. His extreme poverty — prevents the possibility of his paying the sentence, and his lengthened captivity, and uncertain fate have so preyed upon his mind, that the other day he made a resolution to embrace Islamism under the false apprehension that he would obtain his liberty by doing so.

I enclose to your Excellency my despatch to Her Majesty's Consul General with its enclosures, and a subsequent correspondence with Mehemed Pasha on this subject. Your Excellency will observe by these inclosures that I have for the present prevented the prisoners intentions but I am fearful that if his fate is not soon

decided he may yet be tempted to fulfil them. Having been so repeatedly informed in answer to my applications to Ali Pasha, and Mehemed Pasha that they had written to Constantinople for the decision of this case, may I be permitted respectfully to request your Excellency to use your powerful influence to hasten it.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's

Most obedient

humble servant.



Jerusalem February 11th 1836.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter received from Mehemud Pasha with its translation. Immediately on its receipt I took every measure in my power to prevent Luigi Briffa from fulfilling his intentions. I called on His Excellency the Pasha, on the head of the Latin Convent, the prisoner being a Roman Catholic, and had a long conversation with the prisoner himself. I explained to His Excellency that the prisoner's object in changing his religion was evidently with the hope of securing his liberation, and that should such be the case the British Government could not fail to look upon it as an act of great injustice towards a British subject, and that such should be explained to him before he was allowed to turn Turk. His Excellency assured me that he had told him the change would not liberate him, but in the course of the conversation His Excellency allowed

I Note CB,

 His Majesty's Consul General
 Beyrout.

Sir Stratford Canning J. C. D.

Constantinople.

Jerusalem February 11th 1836

2 enclosed

No. 9.

Rec^d 4 March 1836

Case of Luigi Briffa

3

605

108
that he might find some one who would become security for the payment of the sentence, in which case the prisoner would be permitted to work for such person, and that the same privilege would be granted to him as a Christian if I would become his security. I explained to his Excellency that such a course would never be sanctioned by my Government and advised him to be very cautious how he proceeded in so delicate a matter.

In my subsequent conversation with the prisoner I convinced him of his folly, and that by such a wicked and unpardonable act he would at best only bring on himself a life of slavery: he promised me faithfully that he would do nothing contrary to my wishes, and that only despair and the persuasion of the jailer had induced him to think of it, and that now he would not do so. As he complained of want of clothing and poverty I gave him a small sum to make his confinement more endurable.

In my answer to Mehemed Pasha's letter I have explained the prisoner's reasons for wishing to turn Turk, to this letter I have received no answer.

I have the honor to be
Signed H. Newbolt.

Inclosure No 1 in the foregoing despatch
Translation of a letter from Mehemed Pasha to M^r Acting
Consul Newbolt. 801

After the usual compliments
For the affair of Luigi Briffa Maltese who is a subject of Her Britannic Majesty and now in prison for having killed a Greek, we have heard that he has been honored with the Turkish Religion, that he has turned Turk. We brought him before us and he was asked, and answered that it was of his own free will and without being forced, and as our Friend the Consul is not here, and as you our friend the Acting Consul are here on the part of our Friend, it is necessary to inform you this.

If you will come and ask the said Luigi Briffa if he is forced the truth of this affair will be explained. And God preserve you long.

Dated the 12th Sept.

Inclosure No 2 in the foregoing despatch
Answer to the foregoing letter.
Jerusalem le 9 Fevrier 1846.

Excellence.

En ripondant a votre lettre de hier j'ai

Sir Stratford Canning J. C. D.
Constantinople.

l'honneur de vous informer qu'après la conversation
que j'ai eu avec votre Excellence postérieure à cette
lettre j'ai visité le prisonnier Luigi Briffa qui
m'a déclaré dans la présence de mon drogoman
que c'est le pacha qui lui a persuadé que s'il
adoptait la Religion Turque il obtiendrait sa
liberté, et que quand il a parlé avec votre
Excellence sur ce sujet la colère lui avait privé
de raison, et qu'il ne savait pas ce qu'il disait.

J'espère de la bonté et probité de votre
Excellence que vous ne permettrez pas, qu'un
malheureux, sujet de Sa Majesté Britannique,
soit persuadé de changer de Religion sous le
faux espoir d'obtenir la liberté.

Je vous prie d'agréer

signé H. Newbolt.

Incluse No 1.

Jerusalem le 10 Février 1846.

Monsieur le Consul

802

Tout en répondant à votre lettre je
m'empresse de vous faire savoir, que je croirais en
manquer aux lois de bon sens; de tolérer que
personne chez moi se permit sous un prétexte
quelconque de persuader, non seulement à un
sujet de Sa Majesté Britannique mais bien encore
à un Vaïva de mon Illustre maître, le Sultan
Abdulmedjet de répudier sa religion.

Je me permettrai cependant Monsieur le
Consul de vous rappeler, que dans votre dernière
visite, vous me dites, que ce Luigi Briffa, vous
avait écrit que son intention était d'embrasser
l'Islamisme. Vous voyez donc Monsieur que
d'après ces lettres, et ce qu'il a dit en ma présence,
qu'il n'a pas pu y avoir de la part de mes gens
la moindre contrainte, mais bien de sa propre
volonté qu'il a fait connaître son désir.

Je vous remercie néanmoins d'avoir si
bien jugé de ma probité en espérant que je ne
permettrais pas qu'on persuadât ce sujet de
Sa Majesté Britannique de répudier sa religion.

Sir Stratford Canning G. C. W.

Constantinople.

sous le prétexte de lui faire recouvrer sa liberté,
ce qui est entièrement dénué de fondement.

veuillez agréer

Monsieur

l'expression de mes sentiments

très distingués

Signé Mehemed Pasha.

Monsieur le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique,
à Jérusalem.

Jérusalem le 11 Février 1846.

Excellence,

Je viens de recevoir votre lettre du
10 courant. En vous remerciant de l'assurance
que vous me faites que vous ne permettrez aucun
de vos gens de persuader le sujet de Sa Majesté
Britannique Luigi Briffa de répudier sa religion
sous le prétexte d'obtenir la liberté, je dois aussi
vous assurer que je n'ai jamais pu croire que
votre Excellence permettrait une telle chose,
mais il est au moins possible que cela peut
se faire sans votre connaissance.

Cependant je n'ai accusé personne; dans ma
lettre du 9 courant je raconte seulement ce que
Luigi Briffa m'a assuré dans la prison de mon
dragoman. Quant à la lettre du prisonnier
dont j'ai eu l'honneur de vous parler dans ma
dernière visite, c'était pour prouver à votre
Excellence que Luigi Briffa avait depuis longtemps
eu l'idée qu'en embrassant l'Islamisme il
obtiendrait sa liberté. J'assume au fond les
mots de Luigi Briffa tout comme ils sont écrits
dans sa lettre, qui prouve combien ce malheureux
s'est trompé, et que sa seule raison de vouloir
répudier sa religion était dans le faux espoir
que par cet acte il obtiendrait la liberté.

Quand j'ai visité le prisonnier je lui ai bien
montré qu'il se trompait lui-même, et il m'a
assuré qu'il ne penserait plus à ce changement.

veuillez agréer

Excellence, mes salutations

très distinguées

Signé H Newbolt.

Excellence
Mehemed Pasha.

Abstract de la lettre de Luigi Briffa.

"Est-il possible que je doive languir avec ma famille en
cette manière, mieux il serait été au premier jour de
me faire Mupulman que
de me faire Mupulman que
je serai été en liberté le premier jour."

803

Sir Stratford Canning P. O. N.

Constantinople.

Jerusalem February 17th 1846.

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint your Excellency that I was informed by Dr. Macgowan on the 15th instant of the death of a Jewish woman named Esther Arraf, a British subject. Her last wish being that she should be interred according to Jewish rites in the Jewish Burial Ground, the Rabbi objected to this on the ground that she had been excommunicated for being in the service of a protestant at the Jewish hospital of the London Society. Having requested the Chief Rabbi and his Excellency the Pasha to have these objections removed - it was refused; but the deceased's son soon afterwards appeared, and declared that the Rabbi would agree to the interment provided he would leave the service of Dr. Macgowan and never return to the Hospital; the son consented to this sacrifice rather than have his mother interred in any other but the Jewish Burial Ground,

Excellency, The Right Honorable,

Sir Stratford Canning J. C. B.

Constantinople.

Reference made to the
Acting Consul Marshall and
the reply.

Enclosure No 2.