

Jerusalem 15 February 1848

No 5

Sir,

I have the honor to apprise
 Your Excellency that I have received a
 communication from the Consular
 Agent at Jaffa informing me that the
 Russian Vice Consul there had stated to
 him that the Russian Government had
 been applied to by the Armenian
 Patriarch at Etchmiasin to receive the
 Armenian Convent in Jerusalem under
 its protection, and that in order to
 accomplish this object, he, the Russian
 Vice Consul had been instructed to re-
 -commend that five of the leading
 persons who are in charge of the Convent
 here should proceed to Russia, and there
 make a declaration that they are
 natives of Etchmiasin, which will for
 the future enable them to be regarded as
 Russian subjects - If this statement of the
 Russian Vice Consul be correct, it is in
 connection

Yours Excellency
 The Right Honorable
 Sir Stratford Canning & Co
 P. P.

Copie of Envois Romains
 Resolutions pour assister
 le Consul de Jaffa
 à la réception de
 l'Empereur à Constantinople -

Reçu de l'Envoi Romain
 de la lettre de l'Empereur
 adressée à l'Empereur
 1848

66
connection with the attempt which the
Rufian Council Basile, made some time
back to bring the Armenians of this City
under his influence through the inter-
vention of the Turk Council—

The insubordination of the oppressions
which the Christians of these Countries
have so long endured under Musulman
rule is sufficient to cause them readily
to throw themselves into the arms of any
Christian Power which holds out to
them the prospect of ^{and} protection—

The Patriarchs and Bishops of these
Churches once gained over, it would
require but another step, practically to
introduce a Rufian Priesthood, and then
Rufian Dominion by their means, over
the entire laity of these several Com-
munities—It would appear that the
Latins prove no serious obstacle in the
way of the rising power of the Turk
Church—They complain that they
have already lost much, and are in
danger of losing all the control which
they have long possessed over most of the

Ancient

67
Ancient sites of Religious veneration—The
Turks on their part, look on the Latins' posi-
tion here, as a usurpation, and hence arise
perpetual strife between them—

If the Ancient Churches of these Countries
could have been preserved from European
interference, and at the same time equal
privileges and protection with the Mus-
-ulman population could have been
secured to them at the hands of the
Turkish Government—The condition of
the Native Christians in Syria might
have been much ameliorated, and
perhaps they might gradually have
adopted those more enlightened opinions,
which have acted so beneficently, on their
Brethren in Europe—

But if Pagans are discouraged with
the idea that nothing but Foreign protec-
-tion can improve their condition—Then
I should humbly submit to your Excellency
as far as this District is concerned,
whether painful and serious difficulties
may not be anticipated rather than
any good result—

Rufian influence through the medium
of the

54
of the Greek Church seems destined to
increase here - Roman Catholic influence
cannot cope successfully with an op-
-portun-
-popery in so many peculiar
advantages - Great Britain has no
party which specially claims her sym-
-pathies, and over whom she could
exercise an influence, nor is desirable
if therefore it be not by supporting the
"Powers that be" in the hopes of inducing
them gradually to adopt an improved
system of Government, as opportunities
occur, in order that all parties in the
District may be equally benefited -
Her influence in this District, which is
now justly the greatest, owing to past
events, will, it may reasonably be
feared, be in danger of eventually
being neutralized -

I have the honor to be
with the greatest respect Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient

Scout to Servant,

Wm. Young

Jerusalem 17 February 1848

I have the honor to call your Excellency's attention to the statement of a case which has just been reported to me by the British Consular Agent at Laffa, vizt. The case of a Christian woman embracing the Mohammedan faith in which the authorities appear to have acted in the spirit of fanaticism and to have encouraged the Mussulman population of Laffa and dyed to join them - On receiving the account of this circumstance I proceeded to see His Excellency Bechir Pacha (who arrived at his post on the 13th Inst) and I laid the case before him, as it had been reported to me - The Pacha being Rayah of Laffa and His Excellency that I had no desire to interfere in the affairs which belonged to his jurisdiction, but at the same time I told His Excellency, that I thought it was my duty to call his attention

His Excellency
The Right honorable
Sir Stratford Canning G.C.B.

By order of the Commission
Consul at Jerusalem
acting Russian Consul

Revised 1848

Jerusalem 18 February
Consul General
1848