

Jerusalem.

February 14. 1892

no. 6.

Sir,

With reference to my Despatch
 no. 28 of the 5th of August last,
 I have the honour to report that
 nearly two months ago about 60
 families of Persian Jews landed at
 Gaza and Jaffa with the intention
 of settling down in Palestine. The
 Authorities however informed them
 that

Edmund Fane Esq^r
 Her Majesty's Charge d' Affaires
 Constantinople

1892
 Jerusalem, Feb 14th
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that, in conformity with the Regulations recently issued by the Sublime Porte, immigrant Jews were not permitted to establish themselves in the country, but that those who wished to visit this City as pilgrims would be allowed from one to two months to carry out that object, after which they would have to depart. These Persian Jews, although thus cautioned, paid no attention to the warning, and being poor and homeless, became a burden to

to the Rabbi and the Jewish Community in general, on whom they were dependent for charity. At the expiration of the allotted time they were told that they must quit the country, and were given a few days to prepare for their journey; but they declined to leave the place, and the police were accordingly instructed to compel them to depart by force on the 8th instant. Some of the representatives of the various Societies interested in the welfare of immigrant Jews in Palestine, among whom

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whom there were one or two British
Subjects, undertook to supply the
wants of these Jews and to see that
provision was made for their journey
to the coast, if they were permitted
to remain a few days longer; and
I brought this fact unofficially to the
knowledge of His Excellency the Governor
of Jerusalem. His Excellency, however,
declined to allow any relaxation
of the Regulations, stating that the
orders which he had received from
Constantinople

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Constantinople were very stringent
and that the Persian Jews, who had
already notice to quit, must leave
on the day appointed. They were
nevertheless permitted to remain until
the following day, when the police
began to oblige them to take their
departure in carts and carriages,
and the result was a considerable
amount of rough treatment at the
hands of the officials. As nearly
all these Persian Jews are a hardy
and

to and robust set, the police officials
had in many instances to use force
to compel them to obey, and in the
excitement and confusion which
ensued, several painful scenes occurred,
such as mothers being separated
from their children, men and women
being packed together in a small room
for a while to keep them quiet, etc;
but, as far as I can ascertain, it
does not appear that any deliberate
acts of cruelty were practised upon
them

them. I have the honour to enclose
herewith, an extract from a letter
which I have received from a gentleman,
a British subject, who was present at the
scene, giving some further details
about the affair.

Most of these Jews are now in the
Jewish Colonies at or near Jaffa
waiting to embark for Peruvia or elsewhere,
and they are being looked after, more
or less, by the Representatives of the
"Alliance Israélite", and other
benevolent persons. Had they been
permitted

The Rev. A. Ben Meir
Feb. 11. 1892

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permitted to settle in the country, they
would have been, in consequence of
their extreme poverty, a heavy burden
on the charity of their co. religionists,
and an embarrassment to the local
Authorities, who are utterly unprepared
to cope with contingencies of this
kind.

I have the honour to be
With the highest respect
Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant
John Deane

Extract

Letter from the Rev. A. Bousfield of
the Presbyterian Alliance Mission, dated
Jerusalem, Feb. 11. 1892.

Last Tuesday at 3 p.m. there was
a large crowd of Jews & others before the
new stores, or shops, on the Jaffa road,
in front of Fiel's Hotel, & on coming near
I heard pitious female cries issuing from
one of these stores. Those inside were trying
hard to force the doors open, while police
& a set of Moslem roughs were piling big
stones against the doors, the police
striking any who succeeded in putting
head or hands out. I at once realised

what

Jerusalem, Feb. 11. 92

Ernest Becklin

No. 6

1 hour.

See?

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John Cohen

105222

what the violent scene meant.

As you know several groups of Persian Jews, driven away, it is assumed, by persecution, have within the last two months arrived in Jerusalem, via Jaffa. They are computed at 50, 80 + 100 families, but I have found no evidence to warrant an estimate exceeding 50 to 60 at most, or of over 150 individuals, children included.

The Jewish community offered these exiles a plot of land near Siloam to settle upon, but not satisfied with it, they had the altercation with one of

the

the Acting Rabbi, who impudently called the police to quell the tumult. This came to the knowledge of the Pasha, who thereupon telegraphed to the Porte, & rec^d orders to expel them from the Country.

Accordingly the police had been all day & were still hunting for the Persian Jews on every side & driving them by blows into that extemporised store-house, to be kept penned up like wild beasts, till all could be collected & marched away back to Jaffa to be shipped off.

J

I was told of a woman caught
in the street & marched off by brutal
force, & she was strucking pitilessly on
the baby she left in her miserable hold.
Another, I was assured, being "succinate"
was taken into pains under the blood
which hurried her to the prison store.
The scene was heart-rending, and
outrageous to all humane feelings.

I remonstrated with the police
against this inhuman, cruel treatment
of these poor wretches, particularly the
women & girls; but they were too

scolded

scolded & infuriated, & replied roughly
that they were acting by superior orders.
To the question "had they committed any
crime, there was no reply except that it
was no business of mine.

Feeling sure you wd^d generously
interpose your good offices to mitigate
their sufferings, I decided to call on
you at once; but on the way I learnt
that you had already sought an
interview with the Pasha, who put
you off with the plea that it was
a matter of internal administration;

as also that you were from home.

I therefore called on Mr. Nissim
Bacher, Superintendent of the Alliance
Israelite Schools & Industrial
Manufactories, a Hebrew gentleman
of great influence & sound judgment.
I found three of the leading Rabbis
waiting to see him on the same
distressing subject. He came soon, &
fully an hour was spent in conference
& consultation. It was decided to seek
to obtain a respite, that they might
not be marched off on foot, in a

cold

cold night, men, women & young children,
loaded on by mounted soldiers; to
provide them with lodging & food; &
to arrange to send them off in batches
on carts. It was understood that
over 80 had already been collected
forcibly, in the prison-store. I offered
to shelter them in my house, at least
that night, till some other accommodation
could be found, as also to supply their
immediate wants; but it was judged
best to lodge them in the precincts
of the Municipal Synagogue. As the

Pasha

Pasha was known to be irritated with
solicitations for these persecuted exiles
efforts were made to communicate
with the Chief of the Police, who, however,
was found to be away at Jaffa. By
my advice two Rabbis were sent to
the prison - store to try & stop the shrieks
& bitter crying of the distressed women
with the tranquilizing assurance
that efforts w^d. be made to alleviate
their hardships; & this had the
desired effect.

Night came on & nothing

had

had been accomplished; and so
Mr. Nassim & some Rabbis summoned
courage & called on the Pasha, & they
happily succeeded in obtaining the
requisite respite & delay by becoming
guaranties for the execution of the
Porte's orders, pledging themselves to
send the exiles out of the country.
Yesterday some 30 were sent off in
carts, & the remainder will be sent
off on Sunday or Monday. They go
under the guardianship of a Rabbi

1 accompanied by an interpreter.

The aggravating circumstance is that these Jews speak Persian & not Arabic; another that they are mostly poor, having spent their little all in defraying the expenses of their long journey by sea & land. They are a robust & hardy set, these Persian males, & even the women are remarkably muscular. They are therefore well proved an acquisition in this land of slothful and lazy people.

St.

Mr R. Scott-Moncrieff, the philanthropic friend of the Russian refugee Jews, & the poor generally in Jaffa, here, etc., very generously provided these distressed people with food during the day.

Jerusalem
February 27. 1892.

No. 7.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 20th instant, requesting me to inform Mr. Bliss that instructions have been issued by the Ministry of Public Instruction to the Mutaserif of Jerusalem, extending for one year more the permission granted by the Porte to make excavations at Khurbet Ajlan.

Edmund Fane Esq^r
Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires
Constantinople

As

The Hon. J. Nassi Pasha

Grand Vezir

Istanbul, Feb. 27. 1892

Sehabeddin Pasha

Pasha

Istanbul

Her Excellency British

Ambassador

No. 10522. 1892