No. 133.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, November 8. 1889.

Honorable William F. Wharton,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D. C.

Sir:

Referring to Circular of September 27. 1889, I have the honor to State that, under date of the 8th instant, I have transmitted to the Superintendent of the Bureau of weights and measures, Washington, D. C., my report on the weights and measures of the Government to which I am accredited.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant

Consul.

No. 134.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, December 2. 1889.

Honorable William F. Wharton,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Despatches numbers 58 to 61 inclusive, dated respectively, the first two October 18th, and, the latter two, October 25th and November 2d. 1889. I have also received Circulars dated respectively September 28th, October 8th, and October 18th 1889, and Consular Reports Nos. 105 to 108, inclusive.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant

Consul.

No. 135.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, December 5. 1889.

Honorable William F. Wharton,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C. —

Sir:

I have the honor to forward herewith my Report of the Agriculture and Horticulture of Palestine for the month of November, 1889, for the use of the Agricultural Department.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Consul.

Enclosure:
1. Report of the Agriculture and Horticulture of Palestine for the month of November, 1889.

Report of the Agriculture and Horticulture of Palestine for the month of November, 1889.

About the middle of this month we had fully two inches of rain nearly all over the Plain of Sharon. This marked ploughing to be commenced, and the sowing of barley, clover & lentils, and planting of cabbage, turnips, and various other vegetables.

Oranges, though not yet ripe, have been in market in fair quantity, since the beginning of the month. Their exportation has made a remarkably good start, from the very commencement of the season. The number of cases shipped, up to the 28th of November, amount to 40,000. The price may be considered fair, ranging from $8. to $9. per thousand. As customary, to allow for decay and other losses, 1,500 oranges are counted to the thousand. But, on the whole, oranges prove less than an average crop this year.

In the Jordan Valley wheat & barley are already several inches high. —

(signed) Hurd Gillman
Consul

United States Consulate,
Jerusalem, December 5. 1889.

No. 136

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, December 5. 1889.

Honorable William F. Wharton,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to your despatch No. 61, dated the 2d ultimo, I have the honor to report that I have inquired into the condition of Mrs Civia Leah Jacobson and her three children, supposing them to be the persons intended, though the name is not mentioned in your despatch. The two sons are named respectively Benitz & Mendel, and the daughter, Rachel.

I find the woman is quite insane, her insanity taking the form of the religious=melancholy type. On this account her husband left her. His name is Isaac Jacobson, and, I am informed, he is re=married, and to a Christian, their place of residence being No. 55 - 7th Street, South Norfolk, Connecticut.

It seems to me to be quite reprehensible on the part of the agents of the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society that they permitted the insane mother to take control of the children. She should at once have been placed under restraint when she gave utterance to her incoherent ravings of her religious duty impelling her to bring them to Jerusalem, and threatened, as she says, to drown herself and the children in the river unless she was permitted to bring them here. We have already, by far, too many such

such characters in Jerusalem; and they give us much trouble.

This importunate mother and her children are now living here under the care of the Abram Bar Cohen referred to in your Despatch, who is a first cousin once removed of the mother. He appears to be taking good care of them; and, though not well off, and having a wife and children to support, he expends $2. per month on the education of the eldest boy. On my offering Cohen aid for them from my own purse, he refused to accept it, saying it was not at all necessary. But, at the same time, he besought me to render them my assistance to get their names placed on the relief list, so that they might obtain their share of the alms sent by their co=religionists from the United States and which it is stated amount to $25,000 per annum. He assured me he had implored in vain all the Hebrew congregations in this city to grant this aid; but that with my interference they would be obliged to yield.

And here I may state that the eleemosynary aid sent to Jerusalem by Hebrews, from all over the world, and amounting to a very large sum of money, by many said to be as much as £60,000 per annum, is a continual source of bitterness, contention and quarreling. Crimination and re=crimination between the head Rabbis and the members of the various congregations are incessant, and prolific of the most acrimonious feuds. The chief accusations are that the Rabbis make an improper use of the fund, expending it upon themselves, their families, relatives and friends to a large extent, and using favoritism generally in its distribution. I have received letters from prominent Rabbis of the United States complaining of this; but I see it is, as I have told them, a matter very difficult for me to interfere in. There are about 200 synagogues in Jerusalem, and there are thousands of Rabbis the majority of whom are far from being what they ought to be. There is no question that a reform in this matter is demanded; but it would prove a task equal to the cleansing of the Augean Stables.

The charitable fund referred to is the chief magnet that draws to Jerusalem mendicant Jews from all quarters of the globe; and here they prefer to live what would seem to most people a miserable existence of laziness, squalor and want.

It is apparent that it is only in special cases of our own