No 31

U. S. Consulate at Jerusalem &c

Joffa, July 7th 1858

Hon. Lewis Cass
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that intelligence has just been received here of the massacre of the Christians at Jeddah, by the Mohammedans; and that the French and English Consuls have also been murdered.

I transmit this intelligence because I think it not at all improbable that the same outrages may be perpetrated here, unless the lives and property of American citizens are more effectually protected.

With the highest consideration
Your obedient Servant
J. Warren Gorham
U. S. Consul.

No 36

U. S. Consulate at Jerusalem,
Jaffa July 20th 1858

Hon. Lewis Cass
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that on the 11th day of July last, there was an insurrection of the Mohammedans against the Christians at Gazza, in Palestine; The Mohammedans assaulted and broke open the doors of the Church; and the House of the Bishop, and were proceeding to further violence when they were prevented by the interference of the few Soldiers stationed there; The Bishop sent to Joffa for a vessel to convey him and his fellow Christians to a place of safety. — There are no Americans in Gazza.

On the 15th July last an American Lady while passing through the streets of Joffa, was grossly insulted by violent and obscene language from four Mohammedans; I demanded that these men should be arrested, and they were so immediately; The next day I attended the Medjlis, there being present the Governor, the Cadi, the Muftite; The men were examined; found Guilty and sentenced to imprisonment; after three days I caused them to be released, on their asking pardon of the Lady and myself, which they did upon their knees.

I trust that these proceedings will put a stop to such occurrences for the present.

With regard to the threats which have been made against myself and Mr Murad, of which I made mention in Despatch No 28; I have the honour to inform you that the Sheikhs of all the Tribes in the Neighbourhood of Joffa have been made personally responsible for any violence which may be committed against the lives and property of American Citizens.

With the highest consideration
Your Obedient Servant
J. Warren Gorham
U. S. Consul