Konstowoms, that I should state that since my first assumption of the duties of this Consulate in 1882, I have assisted so far as "probate jurisdiction" allowed, see Cons. Rg. Par. 416, in settling several such estates & that I have never received any compensation for such services either in the nature of "Depositary fees", "Attorney's fees" or of any other name or description whatsoever. Furthermore, although more than once appointed, I have never acted as executor of such estates, or administrator, nor have I acted in such capacity under power of attorney from the heirs. I have never done anything that would in any way compromise my probate jurisdiction in such cases. This statement is made of my own accord and not at the Department's request.

Respectfully
(Signed) Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

United States Consulate
Jerusalem Syria, October 24, 1898

Hon Thomas W. Cridler
Assist Secretary of State
Washington D. C.

Sir

Circular dated Washington, September 30, 1898, announcing the appointment of John Hay as Secretary of State, and his entering upon the duties of his office, has been received and is hereby acknowledged

Respectfully
Your obedient Servant
(Signed) Selah Merrill
U. S. Consul

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, October 28, 1898

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D. C.

Sir

Circular dated Washington September 29, 1898 announcing the death of Thomas Francis Bayard has been received and the instructions as to displaying the flag have been complied with.

Respectfully your obedient Servant
(Signed) Selah Merrill

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria, Nov. 12th 1898

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir;

I have the honor to make the following report of

The Visit of The German Emperor to Palestine

The Emperor and Empress came from Constantinople on their private yacht the "Hohenzollern" accompanied by the war vessels Hela and Hertha, landed at Haifa on Tuesday the 25th of October and came by land to Jerusalem where they arrived on Saturday the 29th. The journey from Haifa to Jaffa was very difficult occupying two long days; the road was almost impassable, the heat very oppressive, and twenty horses died in the way. To reach Jerusalem two more days were required, but the road was good.

The preparations for his coming were extensive

extensive and most of them quite unnecessary; old historical monuments were ruthlessly destroyed by the Turks; their use of yellow and black paint disfigured some of the best buildings connected with the Mosque of Omar; many picturesque objects were removed or destroyed; but the City was extensively decorated and looked wholly unlike Jerusalem as it is known to residents here. The Emperor remarked, – "they have made Jerusalem altogether too modern for me; I wish I could have seen it as it was."

The Emperor sent his private "Barracks" from Berlin packed in immense cases. It was a house-like structure, eighty feet long, and contained two suites of rooms, one for the Emperor and the other for the Empress. About the Barracks forming what was known as the Emperor's Camp, were over one hundred tents for the members of his suite. A few figures will give the best idea of the magnitude of the affair:–

In the suites of the Emperor and Empress there were 137 persons; 127 Turkish officials from Constantinople, some of them of high rank; 200 officers and sailors from the war vessels and the yacht; 42 persons in the Emperor's private orchestra or band; 200 Cooks, waiters and servants; 90 coachmen; 30 special dragomans; 190 muleteers; 500 cavalry from Constantinople; 2 regiments of infantry from this country; a dozen special policemen from Berlin; a number, the exact number was not made public, of special German and Turkish detectives; and upwards of 1000 visitors the great majority of whom were Germans requiring three steamers to bring them to Joffa. There were also 90 carriages, 300 horses for carriages, and 1200 horses and mules besides.

It was no small matter to provide for such a multitude and especially to obtain water for

for the animals, for the time was at the end of the dry season of six months duration and water was scarce and could be bought only at an exorbitant price. The matter of furnishing tents, animals, men, and food was in the hands of Thomas Cook & Son the well known tourist company of London.

On Saturday October 29th the Emperor and Empress gave a reception at the house of the German Consul to the Consular Body including the Consular Ladies, and to the chief ecclesiastical officers of the Greek, Latin, Armenian, and other churches. Sunday Oct. 30th the Royal Party attended divine service in the German church in Bethlehem and opened there a new German Orphan Asylum. On Monday Oct. 31st, known as "Luther's" Day, the Church of the Redeemer was dedicated with very imposing and impressive exercises, the Emperor himself making an earnest address. This church has just been completed in that part of Jerusalem known as The Muristan which was given by the Sultan to the Crown Prince Friedrick of Prussia on his visit to this City in 1869, and is the finest church in Jerusalem.

Besides this, and the German church and orphanage in Bethlehem, the Germans have in Jerusalem a large Orphanage for Syrian Boys, a similar establishment known as "Talitha Kumi" for native girls, a Lying in Hospital for poor women, and the Leper Hospital one of the most worthy charities in the City, is under their care. They have also a large General Hospital. This vast charitable and educational work is carried on chiefly by the Kaiserswerth Deaconesses which noble organization has establishments in Cairo, Alexandria, Smyrna, and Beirut. The Germans have four flourishing and prosperous colonies, at Jerusalem, Joffa, Sarona one mile north

north of Jaffa, and at Haifa. The number of souls is in all about 2,000, a larger number than all the citizens of all the other foreign nations combined. These colonists are healthy and industrious, they have excellent churches and schools, and they illustrate how this neglected country can be renovated and made beautiful and rich by intelligent labor.

The Emperor obtained from the Sultan a piece of ground situated on Mount Zion, which he transferred at once to the representative of the Pope for the exclusive use of his Majesty's German Catholic subjects, a few of whom are in Jerusalem, as a place of burial. All Catholics of whatever nationality residing in Jerusalem or Palestine, have hitherto been under the protection of France, but this act of the Emperor of Germany shows that so far as his own Catholic subjects are concerned he intends to protect and provide for them himself. It is understood here to be a blow at French supremacy.

The Emperor and Empress were constantly busy in sight seeing, visiting churches, schools, colonies, hospitals, and orphanages that belong to the Germans. Without being partisan the Emperor showed that he was a stalwart supporter of the great principles and doctrines of Protestantism, and at the same time he conducted himself in such a manner as to make a most favorable impression upon all classes.

The Sultan sent as his special representatives Djevad Pasha who is alleged to have been connected with the recent massacres in Crete, and Nasim Pasha, now Wali of Damascus, who is alleged to have been deeply implicated in the Armenian massacres, but it is a satisfaction to know that the Emperor did not encourage their

their attentions, and on two occasions treated them with noticeable coolness.

Notice was sent by the Government sometime before the Emperor's arrival, to all the Consuls to exercise great vigilance in regard to suspected characters and to assist in removing them from the country. A few Italians only were arrested and probably these did not deserve it.

The Emperor's visit to Egypt was abandoned, there is little doubt, for political reasons.

On Friday November 4th the Royal Party left by train for Jaffa, thence by their own yacht to Beirut from which place they were to visit Damascus, and on the 11th of November they left Beirut again for Europe

(Signed) Selah Merrill
U.S. Consul

No. 9

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Syria
November 18th 1898

Hon. Thomas W. Cridler
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

In my despatch No. 4, May 23rd 1898, I reported that the matter of the Minor Estate at Jaffa might require immediate action and I asked for permission to act should the emergency demand it. Such permission was granted by telegraph from the Department. There was a delay in receiving the Imperial Order referred to, from