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U. S. Consulate at
Jerusalem Jan. 1st 1874.

Hon F. A Campell
III Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

Supposing that it might interest the Department to hear from time to time some general report of its Consular offices, I have the honor to offer You a brief retrospection on the year just ended from the standing place of this Consulate.

In winter & spring the Jerusalem Consulate assumes somewhat the appearance of a Tourist Agency and last year also our travellers called day by day at the Office for advice and inquiries

Questions concerning the country, – the best plan, way, conveyance for projected excursions – are undefatigably answered by the Consul; letters mailed received & kept for – or sent after travellers & innumerable other pretty services rendered to them.

During the travelling season a case of robbery committed on four Americans which were encamped near the pools of Solomon, brought the Consulate into a special contact with the local authorities in order to recover 20£ damages for the effects stolen from the travellers probably by two Turkish guards. It is the fault of the late Dragoman that this case could not yet be settled.

The British Mediterranean fleet made a visit to this coast in May last, staying during a fortnight at Jaffa

The beginning of June saw a great excitement amongst the Mohammedan population principally caused by a levy of Reserve troops.

"Why should we not kill our enemies here" was their common cry against the Christians and rumours predicting at that time a general massacre on a fixed Friday – a great panic was produced amongst the Christians at Jerusalem, no disturbance occured however & no harm was done to the Christians of Jerusalem, but that they were reminded in a painful manner of the perils of their faith, which in ordinary times seems to afford so little profit to most of them.

At the end of July Hon F. L. De Haas left on leave of absence for the States.

On the first

On the first of August I entered on my duties as Vice-Consul for Jerusalem & executed the beneficial change of the unworthy Interpreter.

Since I am in charge no case has happened obliging me to demand the assistance of the Turkish Courts; some vehement matrimonial disputes between some of our Hebrew clients were adjusted with the help of the Rabbis in a friendly way; a similar case was amicably arranged in the Agency of Jaffa.

It gives me great satisfaction also to state that the efforts made by this Consulate in the case of S. B. Cohen the usurper have been crowned with the desired success, the just claims of the Jewish community having at last been satisfied.

The inimical feelings of the Mohammadans were revived in Nov., when a number of turkish soldiers returned from the theater of war, not as their parents & they themselves had expected, richly loaded with Serbian treasures but as poor cripples incapable of working.

In view of this irritate disposition of the followers of the Prophet against the Christians, some of our citizens applied to the Consulate requesting me to signalize to the Department the dangerous state of things, which I promised to do.

The risks of the Christians in general & of the U. S. citizens living in these countries would become great in dead & bloody disturbances unavoidable, in case of a war between Turkey & Russia.

Feeling certain that the U. S. Government supports the noble efforts of the European Powers to preserve the peace of the world I am convinced as well, that if necessary it will in due time take every precaution for the efficient protection of its subjects in the East.

In conclusion I may mention that as representative of the U. S. here I welcomed last month the Emperor of the Brazils on his trip through Palestine.

I have the honor etc

(Signed) C. Hardegg