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No. 43.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Palestine, Jan 8. 1884.

Hon Alvey A. Adee
Third Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of despatches Nos. 20, 21, and 22, dated respectively Oct. 18, Nov. 6 and Dec. 1. 1883. Also one communication, oct. 16. forwarding letter to Consul at Jerusalem, and one circular dated Nov. 20, concerning Export returns. I am in receipt likewise of "Commercial relations of the United States" May, 1883 (seven copies), "United States Consular reports", No. 32 August 1883 (Two copies), "Register of the Department of State" corrected to Oct, 1. 1883, "An act to reduce internal revenue taxation", Public – No. 60. "Annual report fifth auditor of the Treasury", June 30. 1883, and circular from Treasury Department, Sept 27. 1883 concerning imported merchandise.

Respectfully your
obedient Servant

Consul.

No. 44.

United States Consulate at
Jerusalem, Palestine, Jan. 16. 1884

Hon Alvey A. Adee
Third Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.–

In pursuance of instructions I have the honor to enclose herewith two sanitary reports from this Consulate and Jaffa Agency for the month ending December 31. 1883.

I remain, Sir, Respectfully
your obedient Servant

Consul

Two enclosures
Sanitary reports as above

No. 45.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem, Palestine, Jan 30, 1884

Hon Alvey A. Adee
Third assistant Secretary of State
Washington. D. C.

Sir.–

I have the honor to communicate the enclosed report respecting the impressment of Christians into the Turkish army of which there have been recently several cases in Palestine. My object is merely to call the attention of our Government to what is taking place here without presuming even to suggest whether a public act of great cruelty and injustice on the part of Turkey does or does not merit official rebuke.

I remain, Sir, respectfully,
Your obedient Servant

Consul

Two enclosures
Duplicate Report Christians
in the Turkish army.

Report

The impressment of Christians into the Turkish army in Syria.

Case of Stephen Ateeyeh.

During the past two months this city has been thrown into an unusual degree of excitement by the enlistement on the part of the Government, or rather for several reasons to be of sufficient importance to be reported to the Department of State at Washington.

I am aware that Turkey claims the right of demanding military service from such of her subjects as are liable to military duty even in cases where they have declared themselves to be Christians. This right however may be exercised under such circumstances as to make the act one of great cruelty. I propose to confine this report to one of the more aggravated of these cases, namely, that of Stephen Ateeyeh of whose impressment the facts are briefly as follows.

This man, now forty years old, was born of Coptian parents who were Mohammedans and who died when he was a child. He was cared for by some friends who, as soon as the child was of suitable age, placed him in the school on Mount Zion then under the care of Bishop Gobat who was at the head of the English Mission in Jerusalem. Here he received a good education and after leaving the School

school he became an intelligent, industrious and useful citizen. Within recent years he has joined the Catholic church. He has been married about fourteen years and his wife who is a native of Bethlehem and is now thirty years old, was well educated in a German school. The couple have four children now living. The eldest thirteen years and the youngest but six months old.

The two principal facts which make his impressment seem specially unjust are. 1. That the Government has always, ever since he was old enough to pay a tax, received from him year by year the tax which Christians pay as an offset to the actual performance of military duty, and has thereby all his life time hitherto recognized him as a Christian: and

2. That he has never been enrolled and never even been summoned to appear before the enrolling officer for that purpose. Had the Government regarded him as a Mohammedan it should have called upon him, and certainly would have done so, to appear for enrollment at the age of sixteen.

This man Stephen, or as he is familiarly called "Mous.tapha", was employed for many years as head waiter in the Mediterranean hotel in Jerusalem. On monday the 19 th of November last about 9 o'clock in the morning, Stephen went out upon the street near the hotel to make some purchase and while doing so was seized by several Zaptiehs, beaten, his hands tied behind him and taken to the Serai or Court House. Here he was beaten again and was not allowed to see any one not even his wife and children. The afternoon of the same day of his arrest, without having bid a single relative or friend good bye, he was marched off to Jaffa which is forty miles from Jerusalem. Since that day no one has heard from him or know where he is. It is supposed however that he has been taken to some distant point where there will be no possibility of his escape or whence, if by change he should escape, he could not return to Jerusalem.

The sudden and violent arrest of this man, and the unjustifiable cruelties connected with it, created intense excitement throughout the city and caused consternation among the Christian portion of the inhabitants.

The Pasha who was at once appealed to for his release, disclaimed any ability to interfere in this case and threw the responsibility upon the Government at Constantinople and

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upon the special messengers who had come thence (the Pasha claimed) with orders to impress into the army all males born of Mohammedan parents who had become Christians and from whom such service would otherwise be due. 1884

In spite of protestations of this kind it seems probable, since as we have stated Stephen's parents died thirty odd years ago and no public record of births and deaths is kept, and since likewise the Government officers in Jerusalem have during that period been changed many times over, that one or more Government spies had been at work and that the facts connected with his history were conveyed in some secret manner to the present officers of the Government. th
month

Had Stephen grown up to manhood as a Mohammedan and hence been recognized as such, or had he been duly enrolled, no one could complain: the laws of Turkey being as they are, that he should be called upon to serve as a soldier, although even then there could be no justification of the harsh and inhuman manner in which he was torn from his family and friends.

The relations between Mohammedans and Christians in a Mohammedan country are at all times delicate and but little is needed to cause a violent and bloody outburst of fanaticism when least expected; hence it is a surprise that the Government, knowing this fact, should permit such a flagrant act of injustice towards Christians to take place apparently with its full knowledge and approval.

There has been during the past twelve months an apparent revival of Mohammedanism in Syria, which has expressed itself in many despotic and fanatical measures against Christians not only in Jerusalem but in Ramallah, Jaffa, Gaza, Hebron and other places as well. Means are sought to frustrate every beneficent project, whether in the Department of religion, education, or commerce, that is undertaken or that is known to be supported in any way by the representatives of Christian powers. They must be unwise leaders who attempt to persuade this Government that it can gain any permanent advantage or strength by these arbitrary and oppressive acts. the two
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The Roman Catholic, or as it is called here, the Latin Coment which represents a powerful monied and political influence, together with the French Consul who has this religious order under his care, are more particularly interested in these recent impressment acts than any other Christian power. Yet Turkey does not discriminate, but by such measures she sets at defiance all Christian nations alike and seeks thus to assert her superiority to them all.

Considering the circumstances of Stephen Aleeyeh's life and the manner in which his ~~arrest~~ arresting was accomplished the fact of his impressment is only a new illustration of the non-existence of personal rights in the Turkish empire, and a new revelation of the unchanging and bitter hatred of Turkey towards the Christian world.

No. 46.

United States Consulate at
Jerusalem, Palestine, Feb 13. 1884.

To Hon. Alvey. A. Adee
Third Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir.-

In accordance with the request contained in a circular from the State Department dated November 20. 1883 with regard to exports from Palestine, I have the honor to enclose herewith duplicate reports for the year 1882.

This report has been prepared by Mr. E. Hardegg, Consular Agent at Jaffa, who begs me to state that, owing to the great difficulties encountered in trying to obtain from the authorities any any exact statistical information, the circular has not been answered in every particular.

Respectfully your obedient Servant

Enclosures
Export report 1882 in duplicate. Consul

No. 47.

United States Consulate at
Jerusalem, Palestine, Feb 20, 1884

To Hon. Alvey A. Adee
Third Assistant Secretary of State
Washington, D. C

Sir:

In pursuance of instructions I have the honor to enclose herewith Two sanitary reports for this Consulate and Jaffa Agency for the month ending January 31, 1884.

I remain Sir respectfully
your obedient Servant

Enclosures
Two Sanitary reports for Jan. 1884. Consul

No. 48

United States Consulate at
Jerusalem, Palestine
March 11th 1884

To Hon. Alvey A. Adee
Third Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir.-

In pursuance of instructions I have the honor to enclose herewith two sanitary reports for this Consulate and Jaffa Agency for the month ending February 29th 1884.

I remain Sir Respectfully
your obedient Servant

Enclosures
Two Sanitary reports for Feb. 1884 Consul