of the U S Consular Agent.

Hoping Sir you may see the propriety of this appointment & affirm it at your earliest convenience that the Nablus Agency may be prepared to be of actual service to our travellers the coming season, I have the honour to remain with much respect.

Your obedient Servant

R Beardsley.
U S Consul.

Annual Report With Despatch No. 10
Jerusalem.
For the year ending 1. Sept 30th 1870.

United State Vice
Consulate Jaffa

Jaffa, as the only port of Jerusalem Nablus, Nazareth, & the towns in the interior, possessed anciently considerable importance, as a sea-port which it would recover, should the east be again awakened into comercial activity.

In all probability under Solomon & his successors there must have been a tolerable secure harbor at Jaffa; for we read that materials for the great temple were landed at Jaffa

At present no traces of such a port exist, if we except a shallow depression in the sand about half a mile from the sea, S.E. from Jaffa, which is a stagnant pool in winter an eighth of a mile in circumfrance, & which has been deemed by some travellers to indicate the ~~sight~~ site of the ancient harbor.

Jaffa is built on a hard land about three hundred feet above the sea; the houses extends to the sea shore & rise in terraces one above the other presenting a picturesque appearance In front of the town seaward (extends a rough ridge of rock distant a hundred yards from the land forming a natural break water ~~[illegible]~~ which small coasting vessels can be moored during stormy weather, yet even then are wrecked when a superior gale than usual arises. This breakwater could easily be artificially extended

extended for three or four hundred yards more and from a break water equal to that at Patraid, it has been a subject of inquiry for many years when urged the Ottoman Government see the necessity for a safe anchorage on the Syrian Coast & either make or permit a private Company to make a harbor. Such an enterprise would be remunerative one. Either Beirout or Jaffa might be selected.

The population of Jaffa has been variously stated at from 5 to 15,000. From information I have obtained I am inclined to estimate it at 12,000 including the population of the villages & gardens within a radius of two miles. It may be subdivided into the various religious sects as follows:

Greek Christians	2,500	4,500 1,500 6,000
Catholic "	1,500	4,000
Jews "	1,500	1,000
Mehomedans	6,300	6,000 300
Foreigners	200	
Total . . .	12000	

The foreigners may be subdivided into

American men women & children	16
English " " " "	4
German " " " "	50
Greeks & French & austrian Jews	130
	200

The principle comercial & manufacturing business is in the hands of Syrian Christians & Jews. The Mehometans & petty merchants and sailors with few exeptions. Deprived of native Christians enterprise & capital, the business of the town would soon sink into insignificance.

It is a noted fact throughout the east, that the Mahometans are gradually decreasing in member & lack that energy of Character & enterprise which the native Syrian Christian population possess in a marked degree.

There is regular comunication once a week with Egypt, asia Minor Russia Austria & France by the steamers of the Messageries Imperiales Austrian Lloyd Russian ~~Lloyd~~ Lloyd Egyptian Lloyd. & English Asia Steam scrent Co. respectively

These steamers have greatly facilitated coast trade in cereals & fruits, and they afford regular Comunication with Europe from whence all manufactured goods & staples are imported.

Exports are; sesame, sesam oil, olive oil barly, wheat, cotton, wool bones & rags — fruits as oranges lemons, pomegranites, melons, & grapes.

Imports, are, manufactured goods iron, staples; as rice, fine flour sugar coffee &c

Manufactures There are eight soap factories & five oil presses.

Oranges are extensively cultivated & their export constitutes a considerable source of revenue. There are about 384 gardens or orchards which produced last year 3840000 oranges sold at Jaffa for £4,000. the average price is $6 to 8$ per 1500. If sent direct by steamers to the U. S. the Jaffa orange, I about told by travellers, would command the highest market price &

& supersedes the west indian & sicily Orange

The oranges are thus produced. In July & August cuttings 18 in by in int diameter & made of the lemon tree, and planted in beds which are watered twice a day.

The second year the ~~buddings~~ cuttings are budded or grafted in the bark by making T a incision in the bark & inserting bud cut from an orange tree; when it has taken the lemon stock is cut off a few inches above the bud which then grows rapidly & bears fruit the third or fourth year according to favorable circumstances

The Oranges ovat in shape & often on young trees attains a large size, though the peel sometimes half an inch thick

I have measured Oranges 18 ins in circumferance & find that a hundred oranges average 1 lb. to 1½ lb. weight each

The gardens extend within a mode of treading out the wheat & other grains by means of cattle, prevails to this day.

The only thrishing & winnowing machine ever seen in this part of the world was one brought by the Jaffa Colonists which unfortunately proved totally unadapted to the given reqised here.

The oil expressed from sesame seed is largly used here for cooking instead of lard or butter, & is extensively exported to France for lubricating machinary. The seed resembles caraway & the oil is obtained by the following proceed. The seed placed in basket is dipped in a strong solution of saltwater which deprives it of a thin outer hush. It is then dried in the sun on mats & stirred then burnt to a light brown in ovens; it is then ground or crushed to a pulp in a mill. The pulp is then thrown into stone vats & trodden under foot by men untill the oil exudes which is carefully soaked up by means of sponges & strained into barrels, the cake or residue is eaten by the peasents & camels.

Sesam Seed costs poke	"	"			12 cents
Sesam oil	"	"	"	"	36 "
Olive	"	"	"	"	36 "
Soap	"	"	"	"	28

Oranges per 1500 from 6 to 8 $

The oak equals 2¾ lbs

There are four tanneries

Skins are tanned by means of Pomegranites rind.

Average heat in summer varies from 70 to 90 deg Fahren heit. In winter " 40 & 70 "

Rain falls in the months of ~~Sept~~ November December January & Febuary; occasionally in March & April consequently the best season for travellers to visit Palestine is early in the Autumn or in the spring.

John B. Hay
U S Vice Consul

With Despatch No. 10.

United State Consulate
Jerusalem Sept 30 - 1870.

Hon Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honour to submit the annual report for the year ending this day.

The political & financial condition of Palestine remain in much the same condition as reported from time in the former annual reports of this Consulate except perhaps that the general tendency of things is towards a worse rather than a better condition. The same system of oppressive taxation is persisted in to the ruin & depopulation of the country. The shepard not only plucks his flock but lacerates their flesh and makes no return whatever for his exactions. The population diminishes, the plain becomes a desert & the mountain a barren while the vally maintains its fedelity in the face of the harsh treatment.

The soil of Palestine is strong & fertile & only needs proper treatment to make it yeild abundantly. That it has so yielded in past ages is a matter of history & that it continues to yeild generously whenever it is carefully tilled is a fact notorious to every traveller through Palestine. There are many hundreds of acres of land in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem owned & cultivated by the Latin Greek & Armenian convents which stand out from the surrounding desolate country like green and beautiful oases in the midst of the desert & which prove what the soil is capable of under fair treatment. These acres are mostly devoted to the olive & wine & yield generous revenues to their respective establishments. The hill country of Palestine is peculiarly adapted for the cultivation of the olive & wine while the plains are better suited for grain and fruits. In the valley of Jordan the harvest commences as early as the middle of April, on the plains around Jaffa nearly a month later while in the hill country it does not general commence before the beginning of June. This shows the variety of climate & relative temperature enjoyed by Palestine.

The summer climate of Jerusalem is particularly salubrious, hot in the middle of the day but always fresh & invigorating, while the nights are cool & pleasant.

The results of a service of observations at Jerusalem extending over five years show the greatest range of the thermometer in any one year was 50°. The highest point reached by the mercury during the five years was 92°, the lowest (on one occasion only) 28°. The mean annual average was 66°: the average temperature of January was 49° of August 79°. January July and August are the hottest months January the coldest. Rain seldom falls from April to October & the country becomes dry and parched. The autumnal rains commence in October or November. Frost & snow are rare. Last April, however, there was quite

a fall of snow at Jerusalem, a most unusual occurance at that season

With her climate soil & geographical position Palestine under favourable circumstances would become one of the most prosperous States on the Mediterranean, what she requires is a wise & just Government which will protect instead of plunder her people, internal improvement such as roads & bridges to render her different parts of easy access & aqueducts to irrigate her thirsty soil, and above all a patriotic spirit & national aspiration among her people. This last would naturally result in the course of time, from a good Government & then would commence the resurrection of Palestine she would rapidly advance in wealth & prosperity, her desert waists would again as the rose (Rossow) & she would soon become one of the most favoured countries in the world.

The past year has been an unfortunate one for Palestine & especially for Jerusalem. The rain fall last winter was unusually light & only for a few heavy rains in April, the distress of water would have been great. As it was, vegitation suffered greatly, the harvest was light & grain & every species of vegetable is scarce & at almost famine prices. As Jerusalem is dependant for water upon her citerns & as the greater number of them are empty the poorer people are suffering some distress & much anxiety. If copious rains do not fall during the months of October & November many families will have to leave the city while want of water will be felt by all. The authorities have themselves to thank for this deplorable state of affairs

Miss Burdett Coutts most generously proposed to supply the city with water by means of an aqueduct built at her own expence, as a condition however she required the municipality of Jerusalem to guarantee an anual sum of £600 to maintain the work in good repair, This on the plea of poverty they refused although a very ~~small~~ magnificent tax on each house supplied would have raised the amount.

In June the locusts appeared in great numbers, & threatened to destroy what little vegitation the draught had spared; happily however they did ~~not~~ but little damage & soon disappeared. It is predicted that they will however appear in greater numbers next season.

Since the declaration of war in Europe much anxiety & apprehension has prevailed here as to the eastern question & the opinion appears to be general that the time is rapidly approaching for its solution. The southern border of Palestine is carefully watched by a small army of observation in anticipation of hostile movements on the part of the victory of Egypt while the regular army is being increased as rapidly as possible by conscription in every part of Palestine 1600 men have been drafted from this imediate ~~vicinity~~ neighbourhood most of whom have been sent to Constantinople, Europeans living in Jerusalem are apprehensive of troubles in case of Russia assuming the

offensive against Turkey as the Mehomedans have made same threats against the Christians on the grounds that it would be a war of extermination between Christian Europe & Mehomedan Asia. Some weeks ago since a fanatical derwish perambulated the streets crying "murder the Christians" & endeavouring to excite the ~~Mussulm~~ people to ~~rout~~ not. He was promptly arrested & sent from the city. The country is generally ~~in~~ in a peaceful condition but many Robberies are committed & the government manifests but little disposition to arrest the guilty & protect the innocent

The revenues collected from Jerusalem & its dependencies during the last year amounted to ₤410,952 & the expences of the government leaving a balance of ~~government~~ ₤128,782. ~~to~~ which sent to the Sublime Porte Constantinople. If this Balance or even the half of it were expended on the roads of the country or other internal improvements, the system which so successfully extorts such an amount from a poverty stricken district might be viewed with more favour, but nothing whatever is done. Even the Carriage road from Jerusalem to Jaffa, to which frequent allusion has been made in former despatches from this Consulate, owing to its careless construction and want of repairs is rapidly becoming impassable to wheeled vehicles, & another winter's rain will propably wash the greater part of the loose dirt of which it is constructed into the valleys & ravines below. There are no Carriages running on the road now & the only mode of travel is on horse back. A company of European capitalists lately endeavoured to obtain a charter from the Sublime Porte granting them the rights & privileges of a Company with the monopoly of the business & binding themselves to properly stock the road & keep it in ~~a~~ good repair similar to the road from Beirout to Damascus. As however they demanded the right of appeal in case of litigation to their respective Consuls instead of the Sublime Porte, the Charter was refused which was only consistent with the traditional policy of the Turkish Government. A few members of the late Jaffa Colony still remain at Jaffa, about a dozen in all most of whom are quiet industrious people who appear to be doing very well. Adams still remains in England. As a Colony they have ceased to exist except in the archives of this Consulate.

The excavations in & around Jerusalem to solve the many disputed questions connected with the history & topography of this ancient City have been suspended during the past summer & it is yet uncertain whether they will be resumed this coming winter

On assuming control of this Consulate on the first of last May I found several unfinished case on its dockets which I will briefly state. Early in the month of April last the tent of Mr C. J. Langdon of Ellmyra N.Y. which was pitched just without the walls of Jerusalem was entered & Robbed of a leathern portmanteau containing jewellery & clothing valued at $485. The portmanteau was found next morning

near

near the tent. At the time no clue could be discovered of the Robbers or the effects but soon after my arrival here all the jewelry was recovered at Jaffa having been offered for sale there, & since then most of the clothing has been recovered although in a condition unfit for use. The person who committed the Robbery fled but his family were arrested & are now in prison awaiting the capture of the true Robber. As he is possessed of some property at Hebron an order has been issued to the Governor of that district to sell enough of it to make good Mr Langdon's loss. I understand that this order has been executed, & that the money will soon be forthcoming. I have forwarded the jewelry to Mr Langdon by the hands of Mr John B. Hay who has left Jaffa for the United States on four months leave of Absence as granted him by the Department.

In February last the trunks of an American party were opened & Robbed of money & jewelry while in charge of the proprietors of the British Hotel at Jaffa Messrs Blatnes & Brothers. The Blatnes are Austrian Subjects & any action against them must be taken before the Austrian Consul. As he has as yet been unwilling to take any action steps in the matter on the plea of an impending investigation, as the Blatnes are said to be bankrupts & as none of the effects stolen have been found there is but little hope of a satisfactory settlement of this case.

A few days before my arrival a burglary was committed on the house of Mr Lilienthal an American Jew residing in this city. The house was forcibly entered by the window, Mrs Lilienthal saw and recognised the thief who beat a precipitate retreat carrying with him several articles, valued by Lilienthal at five dollars, & leaving behind him a stick & a scarf both of which were known to belong to the person recognised by Mrs Lilienthal.

The thief was arrested & imprisoned the following day. Shortly after my arrival I asked that he be tried, but the day was prorogued from time to time untill about the first of June when I learned that he was out of prison. On demanding an explanation I was informed by the Governor that he had been tried a few days after his arrest & released as no evidence was produced to convict him. As the alleged trial had been held without the knowledge of this Consulate & without the presence of its Dragoman, I protested most emphatically against the proceedings & demanded the imprisonment of the accused & a new trial. This was refused, I then asked for the reports of the trial & the copy of the Masbata or official decision which I finally obtained after much delay. They proved beyond question that the trial had been conducted with a view of acquiting the Prisoner, & the Masbata was not signed by the Dragoman of this Consulate as required by our treaty with the Sublime Porte. I again demanded the imprisonment of the accused as the trial had been irregular & illegal. My repeated demands were not complied with & the case looked hopeless as far as the local Government were concerned. About the middle

of August however the Governor General of Wall of Damascus came to Jerusalem on a tour of inspection & I appealed the case to him. He imediately saw the justice of my demand & the illegality of the entire proceeding & ordered the accused to be brought to trial at once. This was done & he was proven guilty by the plainest evidence. The courts however having already pronounced him innocent would not now officially declare him guilty by issuing a new Marbata for fear of committing themselves. They however imprisoned him as required by law & required him to pay the amount of the goods stolen. As Lilienthal was satisfied I dropped the case hoping to have no trouble of the kind in the future

I have been thus particular in mentioning the different features of this case as it has an indirect bearing upon a more serious one which has just occurred & to which I wish to call ~~the attention~~ your especial attention.

On the third of August 1869 Mr Rolla Floyd an American citizen residing at Jaffa was without provocation, nearly brutaly assaulted by a Turkish Soldier with evident intend to kill. The assasin approached him from behind in broad daylight & nearly felled him to the earth with a heavy oaken club dislocating his right shoulder, a second blow was aimed at his head & endeavouring to ward it off Floyd's left arm was disabled. The Soldier then seized him & would have murdered him had not some by-standers come to the rescue. The

The assassin gave as his only excuse that Floyd had cursed the Prophet. This Floyd emphatically denies. The man was at once arrested & examined & before the local court at Jaffa. The evidence was complete & convincing but the prisoner was brought to Jerusalem for formal trial. The authorities were loth to prosecute the case & threw many obstacles in the way of its progress. The crime was so outrageous however & the evidence so complete that they could not avoid a decision which was finally arrived at in October of the same year.

The accused was sentenced to two years imprisonment & to pay the expences of the trial, Floyd's surgery bill & an indemnity amounting in all to 20 Turkish Pounds. He was imprisoned at Jerusalem. Thus matters stood on my arrival here. About six weeks ago ~~Two weeks ago~~ I received a communication from the Governor stating that the prisoner had no property & asking me to release him as his term of ~~imprisonment had expired~~. I answered that he was sentenced to two years imprisonment instead of one & that I had no power to release him. A second letter informed me that the sentence of two years was changed to one year by the Wali or Governor General of Damascus. As I understood & still understand that a decision cannot be appealed & changed without the knowledge of this consulate, or party prosecuting, I answered that the prisoner must undergo ~~his~~ his imprisonment for two years.

In the mean time I commenced investigations at Jaffa, to ascertain whether he was possessed of any property. As late as the of this month the governor addressed me asking me to have mercy on the prisoner & release him thereby leding me suppose that he was still in prison & at the same time acknowledging my to keep him there. On the 27th inst Mr Floyd informed me that he was out of prison & that he had been seen in Jaffa as a soldier in the army at least a month ago. I imiediatly sent my Cawas to the prison & ascertained that he was not in prison but at liberty, I then wrote to the governor demanding that he be imediatly imprisoned & as this was the second case of the kind, & as the circumstances was agrevating in the extreme I demanded that some apology should be made to this Consulate. As I have obtained no satisfaction in this matter from the authorities of Jerusalem, I have reffered the entire matter to our Consul General at Beirout. It is ~~an~~ well known fact that the Wali has the power to change modify or overrule the sentance of a lower court, under circumstances but in considering this case the following points must be borne in mind.

1st. The Medjles or court of Jerusalem had the power & authority to pronounce the sentance which they did pronounce.

2nd. At the time the said sentance was pronounced they were satisfied of its justice & made no intimation of an appeal then or since.

3d. If this Consulate had the slightest intimation of an appeal it would have been prepared to meet it & would have shown reasons why should not be changed.

4th. No reasons whatever have been given for the change of the sentance, the crime was an outrageous one, the sentance was complete and undisputed & the punishment was simply what the law inflicts for the species of offense. If the proceedings in this case are allowed to pass unrebuked, if they are acknowledged as proper & regular then is there an end to all security for Americans residing in Palestine, every trial will become a farce & every sentance a ticket of leave.

These are the cases of any importance which have required my attention since I assume the duties of this Consulate.

In closing this report I feel it my duty to call the attention of the Department to the insufficiency of the pay of this Consulate. & ~~to the insufficiency~~ to that it be increased On the present pay it is impossible for a Consul to live with his family. The duties here are as great in their way as at the other N. S. Consulates in the east whilst the pay is much less.

At no place in the Levant is the expence of living greater owing to its peculiar situation & condition it is a place of consumption & not of production & every article of food & clothing is dear in consequence. Although not a place of comercial importance Jerusalem is of deep interest to the entire civilised world & the number of our countrymen who make the tour of Palestine is increasing yearly. Much is justly expected

of a consul here & it should be his endeavour to render the Travellers sojourn in Palestine both pleasent & profitable. This is the special of a Consul at Jerusalem although his other duties are indispensable & his Salary should be sufficient to enable him to live respectably & honorably. I therefore ask the Department to allow $ $500 now per annum for this consulate that it may be in reality what it is nominally viz of equal grade with the other U S Consulates in the Turkish Dominions

I have the honor to remain
&c &c
R. Beardsley
U. S. Consul

No. 10.

United States Consulate at
Jerusalem Sep. 30. 1870

Hon Hamilton Fish
Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith my accounts for the quarter ending this day amounting respectively to, viz;

$112 89/100 Postage, Office Rent and Miscellaneous Expenses with vouchers

$138 89/100 Salary of Interpreter and guards with vouchers

and to advise my drafts for the same at 15 d/s in favor of Mr Melville P. Borgheim Banker at Jerusalem

I also inclose the annual report report of this Consulate for the year ending this day

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches Nos 10 & 11 of August 10th & 12th

I have the honor to remain &c R. Beardsley