improvement, necessary, not only, for the comfort of the Consul but for the honor of the Government.

There are at Jerusalem, nine Consulates, and three Patriarchates, each exercising Gubernatorial and Judicial, powers, over the Citizens or subjects, of the Government which they represent, and to each of these as well as to the Governor of Palestine, the U. S. Consul, sustains a kind of quasi diplomatic relation, necessarily attended with expense which the present salary, hardly enables him to bear.

There are at present 116 American Citizens, residing within the Consular district, and about 500 American travellers, all of whom have demands upon the time and attention of the Consul, and who are under his care, while in the country, so that no man who has a family can occupy the post and discharge faithfully the duties of the office, without large drafts upon his own private resources.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient Servant
Wilson
Consul

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Nos 1 & 5

U. S. Consulate at
Jerusalem Feb: 1st 1883

Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis
Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir,

I beg to report that the dull life of Jerusalem has been stirred by a well sensation, a row in the Sepulchre Church between the Armenians and the Syrians.

The Syrian Bishop had in the small chapel appropriated to the Syrians, a Wardrobe, which as it was old, and worn out, he proposed to replace with a new one, but was prevented by the Armenian Priest stationed in the Church.

To the surprise and astonishment of the Syrian Bishop, when he came to the chapel to celebrate Mass, Sunday Jan: 28th he found that the Armenians, had placed a new wardrobe in the chapel and had removed the old one.

He became excited, and removed it, but the Armenian Monks and priests made a violent assault upon him and his staff, in which the Bishop was severely injured. 1883

The next day, he complained to the Armenian Patriarch, but in vain. On Sunday the 29th of January the Syrian Bishop being unwell sent a priest to celebrate Mass in his place.

During the ceremony an Armenian Monk tried to enter the chapel but was prevented, a second one also was prevented, but a third Monk effected an entrance and interrupted the service claiming that the Altar and the Wardrobe belonged to the Armenian.

There was a great noise and uproar, and violence. Two Armenians and one Syrian were injured with clubs or staves or shepherd's crooks. The Turkish police interfered, six hundred additional soldiers were sent to suppress the riot and to restore order.

Raouf Pacha, the Governor of Jerusalem in person was soon on the Ground to see what was going on, and to give orders.

The Latin Superior, and the Greek superior gave their testimony in favor of the Syrians said that the Chapel is theirs, and all its appurtenances.

The trial, or examination is still in progress.

It appears, that the three small sects, the Syrians, the Copts and the Abyssinians are dependent on the Armenians for favors and protection the latter being rich and powerful, and their taking advantage of this fact, they are persistently encroaching upon the privileges of the inferiors, and endeavoring to get control of their property. 1883

This, the smaller sects resist and, they are boldly contending for their immemorial rights, whether successfully or not, remains to be seen.

It is not probable that this will lead to any political complications as did a similar disturbance a few years ago, between the Latins and the Greeks, in the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Wilson
Consul