

Copy

Political
No 35

Jerusalem
September 11. 1857

My Lord.

I have the honor to report that being lately absent in Jaffa for a few days, my Dayoman wrote to me on the 22nd ult. that the Pasha had summoned him and shown him a translation of one of my Despatches to Your Lordship into Turkish, respecting the Russian purchases of land about Jerusalem - when His Excellency expressed his desire to confer with me on the subject before sending to

Constantinople the answers required
Right Hon^{ble} Earl of Clarendon
Ry - GCB. &c

Receiving Despatches
Political 35 from
Jerusalem 1857

1857
Jerusalem 24/9/57
Mr General Pasha
No 39 - 2 Sheets
Rec^d Oct 5.
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by his Government as to the correctness
of the statements, and as to what
degree of danger might be apprehended
from the proceedings -

I wrote to H. E. an explanation
of my opinion, Copy of which I have
the honor to enclose to Your Lordship
and on my return to Jerusalem, had
a long interview upon that matter.

H. E. read to me the Turkish
translation of my Despatch, which I
find to be that of Decree 6. Political 26.
and a free conversation followed.

H. E. believes that there is no
danger to be apprehended from the erection

of public institutions by foreigners,
either inside or outside of the city,
- not even from direct or indirect
Russian establishments: but that
the subject for serious consideration
is the large acquisition of land,
which has for some years past been
made with Russian gold coins, by the
Archimandrite Nikophoros, in the
environs of Jerusalem. — Where
I asked if it were not more advantageous,
in numerous respects, to have the
formerly desolate and melancholy
country around us, becoming beautiful
gardens, extending little by little every
year, under his direction - The

measure was to this effect.

"Jerusalem is a little world in itself
and capable of setting the large
world in agitation - We have
seen last Easter what hordes of
pilgrims can be thrown into Jerusalem
and of what a hardy peasant class
they mostly consist - We now
hear of preparations being made for
sending a very much greater number
for the next season, and they have
already begun to arrive - all
these now here are Russian Subjects.

- We can imagine political difficulties

to

to arise between Russia and the
Porte (this was said, during the
suspension of intercourse on the
Moldavian question) and the
Empress has only to send word to
the multitude that their passports are
not available for leaving the place
where they find themselves: but
that means of subsisting themselves
are to be found in working the lands
already purchased - and then how
great would be our embarrassment
with a colony of foreigners, if not hostile

Rt Hon^{rs} the agriculturists, surrounding the city
Earl of Clarendon
Rt Hon^{rs} G. C. B. & K. and

and no military force within reach.

Then we had to consult for a remedy.

H. E. proposed to suspend all further purchases of land, and to have a Commissioner sent from Constantinople for the purpose of investigating the title-deeds of lands sold by Nikephoros.

To this I objected, that

1. To attempt to arrest any progress in this country, absolutely, would be as vain an effort, as that of arresting a steam engine in movement — Turkey in general is on the move but Palestine and Damascus will

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in a short time, move faster than any other part of the Empire.

2. To stop the purchases made by that particular person, would only change the hands by which the work would be carried on. — Priest Benjamin at Mar Elias, or Geynois at the windmills, would then be substituted — all being equally Turkish subjects.
3. Such a step would infallibly be regarded by the Russians as aimed at them alone, and to produce an individual exasperation.
4. To revise the title deeds would be

an endless task, and would perplex
any Commissioners whatsoever -
Nilephar would easily save him
the trouble, by making his peace with
him.

With respect to my proposed
remedy, contained in the written opinion
sent from Saffa - that of throwing
purchases open to all the world, so
as to create a number of counterpoises
and that speedily. H. E. objected
that although this has been promised
by the Sultan, to be done in future
after arrangements to be made with
European

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European Courts, yet this would
require time, and the present necessity
be unprovided for. - besides he
thought it unadvisable to recommend
from himself, the open competition of
purchase by strangers, whether for the
city or the country. - His Excellency
contended strongly for much more of
public notice and delay to be
observed hereafter in registration of
title deeds, and in buying and selling
than it has been hitherto the custom to
observe here.

Right Hon^{ble} But while it is my duty to report
Earl of Clarendon all
Rly - G. C. B. P. H.

all this to Your Lordship. I must
further remark that the purchases of
land here, are not only of a very
diversified character, but that any
investigation made into the purchases
of Nikephoros would. I have good
reason to believe, be endless - and
every step it would be found, that
scarcely much of it consists of sole and
individual purchase - a large proportion
of it, is either held in partnership,
with the peasants, or in minute
subdivisions slowly bought up during
many years past, or as pledges for
debts that can never be paid to the

end of the world, or similar modes
of tenure and use - A Turkish
Commissioner would be speedily
bewildered and disgusted with all
this -

I also apprehend great difficulty
among so sparse and ancient a
population, in changing for Constantinople
rules of registration, the simplicity of
property conveyance which is consecrated
by the Koran and by immemorial
traditions -

Of course a foreign Conqueror,
unbound by the Koran, would easily
modify the laws of inheritance and
property, according to his notions of

convenience and general good.

In concluding my Report and Observations on this important topic which I believe to be more urgent than the Pasha does.

I have the honor to be,

(Signed) James Lewis.

Extrait in Depatch
N° 39 of Constantinople
1857

Copy.

Dated. Constantinople
Sept. 11. 1857

Depatch N° 35
From the Consul Pasha
to Paul of Constantinople

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N'ayant pas ici mes Archives d'Office, je puis seulement apurer S.E. que dans tout ce qui j'ai écrit à mon gouvernement par rapport aux achats de terrain, de maisons, etc. - je n'ai fait aucune plainte contre la chose elle-même quoique j'ai représenté comme remarquable que les Grecs et les Russes sont les plus grands acheteurs.

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Je ne crois pas qu'il y a de
danger, excepté dans la prépondérance
que les Russes puissent obtenir sur les
autres nations.

Même fût Jérusalem entièrement
habité des Grecs, Rayas, ce ne serait
pas nuisible au gouvernement
Ottoman, pourvu qu'ils fussent
exemptés d'une domination étrangère.

Mais pour les Institutions, Plantations
etc. - Quant aux Grecs, Rayas
séparément, il est impossible de les
empêcher d'acheter ce qu'ils veulent

ayant argent en main.

Quant aux Russes séparément
il est déjà convenu dans les documents
emanés de la Sublime Porte, sur les
lieux saints, qu'ils seront permis
d'avoir un hospice avec une église
hors de la ville.

Pour les deux ensemble, il est
vrai qu'il existe une inimitié entre
eux, mais l'élément Russe aura
la supériorité, puisque les Couvents
Grecs acceptent largement leurs
subsides de la Russie.

Il y a une remède, et seulement
une - contre la prépondérance qu'on
crainit - C'est de permettre et même
d'encourager toute personne, et toute
secte d'acheter terrains et maisons
pour bâtir des Institutions et faire
des Plantations également. - afin que
de créer plusieurs contrepois vis à vis
des Rups - Grecs.

Que les Catholiques. Que les Protestants.
Que les Musulmans bâtissent comme
ils veulent.

Je n'ai rien dit ici sur l'
avantage

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avantage qui il y aurait pour le
gouvernement Ottoman, en donnant
liberté aux étrangers d'acquies des
biens de propriété, de terres, etc, etc.

(Signé)

James Fium
à Saffa
27 Août 1837

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Jerusalem
September 22. 1857

No 40

My Lord

I have the honor to endorse for
Your Lordship - Copy of my Despatch
Political No 36 to the Earl of
Clarendon, dated the 15th instant

And have the honor to be

My Lord

with the highest respect

Your Lordship's

Most obedient
humble Servant

James Peim.

His Excellency
Right Hon^{ble}
Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe
G.C.B. &c

Memorandum of
Opinion of Mr. Consul
Peim, forwarded to
H. S. Keraya Pasha
of Jerusalem
respecting Russian
purchases of land in
August 27. 1857

Copy

Endorse in Despatch
Jerusalem No 39 of
1857