

Copy
Political
No 56

Jerusalem
September 1. 1856

My Lord.

I have the honor to report that a building which has always attracted admiration in Jerusalem, as a remnant of early Saracenic architecture, called the King's Baths (Khammām es Sultan) and which has been long, perhaps ages in disuse, has been recently purchased by the French for 30,000 piastres, and an adjoining building between that and the Noble Tartar Convent (Moslem) for 20,000 more. The latter is intended for erection of a church and convent for a sect that has hitherto been unknown here,

Right Hon^{ble}
Earl of Claremont
P. G. G. G.

namely

Containing Copy of
the Report of the
Board of Jerusalem

Jerusalem Sept 13
Mr General Peira
No 55 - Books
No 25.

namely the Armenian Catholics: but the French (who hardly make a secret that they mean the baths for the site of a new Consulate) have contrived to make the sale of the two distinct properties into one.

It is commonly reported that the four huge copper cauldrons still remaining in the Bath-house are worth 36,000 piasters, besides the old walls and foundations.

The property is all a public Wakif of the great old times. Now the Nazir Turmush Effendi and the Pash Katib (who has to day received his gold watch from France) could alienate it may perhaps be understood by the making it a transfer from one Wakif

to another, namely to the church of the Armenian Catholics, and that the French have got their share in it, by making the one public deed of sale include the two properties. This however is but my own supposition for the present.

The Austrian Consul is greatly annoyed at it: because these new buildings will just come in between his magnificent Hospice, and the Seraglio and Grand Mosque.

I have the honor

(Signed) James Fergusson.

No 56

Jerusalem

September 13. 1856

My Lord

I have the honor to enclose
 Copies of my Despatches Political
 57 and 58 to the Earl of
 Clarendon - the former respecting
 French Pilgrim-parties to Jerusalem
 - the latter reporting the arrival
 of some large bells for the Convents
 from His Majesty the King of

His Excellency
 Right Honorably
 Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe
 G.C.B. &c

Naples.

Despatches Nos 57, 58
 from the Consul
 to Earl of Clarendon

Despatch Jerusalem

Sept. 1. 1856

Copy

Purchase of land and
 old walls property of
 the French Consulate
 for Jerusalem Cathedral

Enclosure in despatch
 No 55 of Jerusalem
 1856