

Jerusalem,  
October 21. 1897.

No 53.

Sir,  
With reference to my Despatch  
No. 36 of the 25<sup>th</sup> of June last, in which  
I alluded to the hostile demonstrations  
made by the Jews against the Hospital  
of the "London Society for Promoting  
Christianity amongst the Jews", I have  
the honour to report to Your Excellency  
that, notwithstanding my representations  
to the local Authorities, these demonstrations  
have recently been renewed. Jews  
visiting the hospital as out-patients

have  
Your Excellency  
The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Sir Philip Currie, G.C.B.  
\* \* \*

Excellency  
The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Sir Philip Currie, G.C.B.  
London, Sept. 20. 1897  
Enclosed specimens of  
handwritten by post  
No. 2  
In Favor of Mission  
Book No. 529 Oct 20  
1897

have, on issuing from the building,  
been beaten and their medicines  
taken away from them and destroyed  
by groups of Jews on the watch  
outside the gates; the friends and  
relatives of in-patients are persecuted  
and annoyed by the Rabbis and  
their agents; and lately no Jewish  
meat has been permitted to be  
sold to the hospital for the use  
of the patients. In fact the  
new hospital of the "London Jews'  
Society" has literally been boycotted.

I have now the honour to  
transmit herewith copy of a letter  
which

Oct. 19 1852

which I have received from the  
Rev. A. Hastings Kelk, Agent of the  
Society in Jerusalem, reporting the  
hostile action of the Chief Rabbi and  
Jews on the occasion of the death  
in the hospital of one of the patients,  
a Jewess, named Diamante de Alon,  
and I would beg to state a few  
facts to Your Excellency in connection  
with this incident.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, the Jewess in  
question died in the Hospital of an  
incurable illness, and not being a  
convert to Christianity, the relatives were  
asked to take charge of the corpse;  
but they were prevented from doing  
this

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this by the Rabbi. Application  
was then made to the Chief Rabbi,  
the rule being for the spiritual  
head of each community to attend to  
matters of burial, matrimony etc.,  
and hitherto, since the opening of a  
hospital by the Society in Jerusalem,  
the Rabbis have attended to the  
burial of unclaimed dead bodies. The  
Chief Rabbi, however, not only declined  
to give orders for the burial but  
encouraged a large crowd to  
assemble in front of the doors of  
the hospital with the object of  
preventing the body from being  
taken

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1897

taken away, so that even if the  
Members of the Mission wished to  
bury the corpse, they would have  
been in all probability attacked by  
the mob. Some of the Jews had  
also the audacity during the night  
to enter the premises of the hospital,  
and I had to send my Cavass to  
expel them.

Under these circumstances I  
made strong representations to the  
Mutesarif, both in person and through  
the Consular Dragoman, and I further  
addressed a protest to His Excellency,  
copy of which I have the honour to  
enclose

Oct-19-1897

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enclose, requesting him to order the immediate dispersion of the mob and the punishment of those persons who had violated the hospital premises, and His Excellency promised that, if the body were kept for a little while in the hospital, he would oblige the Chief Rabbi to see to its removal.

On Tuesday, however, the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, the Mutessarif it appears, after reflection, decided to place the matter in the hands of the Municipal Authorities, and at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon some mounted gendarmes

gendarmes and police, accompanied by several porters, arrived at the hospital and took away the corpse for burial, the mob being partially dispersed by the police. On the way to the burial place the body was followed by a large crowd of Jews, who besides showing every mark of disrespect endeavoured to stone the corpse, and at the Jewish Cemetery hundreds of Jews had collected armed with sticks to prevent the body being interred in their ground. The police and gendarmes were stoned several times, but ultimately the body was buried in a plot of ground

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ground adjoining the Jewish Cemetery  
which belongs to the "London Jews'  
Society" and in which during the  
last fifty years one Jew has been  
buried.

In reporting these facts to Your  
Excellency I would beg to point  
out the extremely hostile attitude  
of the Chief Rabbi, who is said to  
be instigated by several European  
Jews of Socialistic tendencies, towards  
the English Mission, and the want of  
energy displayed by the Authorities  
in quelling at the outset these  
fanatical disturbances. I would  
accordingly

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71 Jews  
1897

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accordingly suggest that the Chief  
Rabbi be removed by the Porte from  
his post, which will have a  
salutary effect on the Jewish  
Community in this city, and that  
the Authorities be cautioned to  
maintain strict order in future.  
Should such demonstrations on  
the part of the Jewish population  
be permitted to pass unpunished,  
encouragement would be given, on  
very small provocations, to risings  
by Mohammedans against Christians,  
which would be of a very different  
and far more serious character.

I

I have the honour to add  
 that the Jewish population in  
 Jerusalem has increased considerably  
 during recent years, and that  
 the number of Jews is now not  
 much under forty thousand.

I have the honour to be

With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient  
 humble servant

John Dickson

71 Jews 1897

54 Jews

Jerusalem Mission  
Oct. 19. 1897.

Sir,  
I beg to lay before you particulars of a case which seems to demand the serious attention of our Embassy at Constantinople.

A Jewess, named Seamante de Aturi, was admitted as a Patient in the Hospital of the London Society for promoting Christianity amongst the Jews. She had already been in a Jewish Hospital, but was dismissed from there, on what grounds is not clear.

John Dickson Esq  
H. B. M. Consul  
Jerusalem

She

Copy

General Dickson

No. 53

2 sheets

Recd. Nov 4

By Post

Oct. 6. 89. No. 36

Hospital of London Socy

Society - reporting financial

destruction of Jews in

death of a patient in -

The Institution.

When admitted to,

seems to have been

all that could be

expected of him.

Presumably, when he

was seen

7th Nov 1897

54 Nov

been at Jerusalem.

say that Dickson

is under the influence

of the Doctor of the

Hospital and says

generally the influ-

ence goes that

concern it. No 9

By Tell Dickson

that of Dr. Keiser

such incidents

are best treated

by the

we are

agree - We might

also send the day how

& suggest that the Anglo

Journal & especially with

be informed of the  
sent to them to be  
helped by the Jews  
and this is the reason  
why the Government  
further proceedings of  
the same kind. Pl

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She applied for admission to our Hospital & was found to be suffering from a disease which was almost certain to prove fatal, and the most that could be done was to make her last hours as comfortable as possible by medical care, & good nursing.

On Sunday night last, Oct. 17, about 11 p.m. she died, & was laid in the Mortuary. The father of the dead woman came about her on Monday morning, & left, it was supposed, to make arrangements for the burial. As we heard nothing for some time we sent down to the Chief Rabbi

Rabbi to know if they were going to bury her. We received no reply until after 4 o'clock p.m. & that reply in no very polite language gave us to understand that the Jews would not bury her. As she was a Jewess & not a Christian we could not bury her.

We then applied to you for advice, & you very kindly undertook to see the Pasha about it. About 9.30 o'clock we received the news, through you, that the Pasha had told the Chief Rabbi that he must see to her being buried, & that the body would be sent for almost immediately. After waiting for some hours the Hospital

71 June 1897  
Hospital Staff retired to bed,  
leaving some one in charge—  
so that the body could be taken  
if sent for. This morning we  
received the news that the Jews  
were determined not to bury her,  
thus setting the Pasha at defiance.  
And up to this time nothing has  
been done. I have ordered the  
body to be enclosed in zinc and  
hermetically sealed, as you have  
informed me that the Pasha  
wishes it to be kept until he  
sees what can be done.

I enclose the "Teskereh" of  
the Woman's Father with her  
name at the back. It will be  
seen

seen that she was a Turkish Subject,  
coming last from Rhodes. She was  
about 38 years of age.

I think it necessary that the  
matter should be strongly placed  
before the Porte, as our Hospital  
exists by the permission of H. M.  
the Sultan, who has granted the  
Firman for it. The plea that admission  
into our Hospital implies the loss  
of Judaism cannot be allowed,  
as it certainly does not make  
her a Christian.

May I ask you then to represent  
the case to the Embassy in as strong  
a manner as possible that justice  
may be done. I remain, etc.  
/s/ A. Hastings Melk.

Jerusalem  
Oct. 19. 1897.

Copy.

No 35

M. le Gouverneur.

With reference to my interview with Y. Ex. this morning, I have the honour to inform Y. Ex. that a Jewess & an Ottoman Subject named Seamante, who had been a patient in the English Hospital belonging to the "London Jews' Society", died during the night of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. & that her father was requested to take charge of the body & bury it, the custom during the last fifty years being for the relatives of the Jewish patients, or in the

E. Ibrahim Hakki Pasha  
Governor of Jerusalem

absence

Jerusalem, Oct. 19. 1897

Encl. 1  
Parent's Certificate

Report of J. J. & G. G.  
a person who died in  
the Hospital

Encl. 1

Parent's Certificate

Dep. No. 53 p. 24. 21

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71 Jan 1897

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absence of relatives, for the Rabbis to take possession of the bodies after death & to bury them according to their religious ceremonies.

Y. Ex. is already aware from previous communications and protests which I have had the honour to address to you that recently very fanatical demonstrations have been made by the Jews against the Mission of the "London Jews' Society" in this city, & on the present occasion when the Jewess above mentioned had to be buried, her relatives were prevented by the Chief Rabbi from having anything to do with the body. Application was accordingly made by the members  
of

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of the Mission in charge of the Hospital to the Chief Rabbi to send & take away the body, but so far from his giving any directions for the burial, he has encouraged and fomented a demonstration on the part of the Jews, before the Hospital gates, with the object of hindering in every possible way the removal of the dead body.

I accordingly represented the matter to Y. Ex. yesterday evening through the Consular Dragoman Mr. C. Tadros, & Y. Ex. was good enough to send instructions to the Grand Rabbi to remove the body, & the reply from the Rabbi was that he would take steps to effect this object.

1897  
11th Nov

I have now the honour to inform Y. Ex. that up to the present moment, although more than 40 hours have elapsed since the death of the patient, this has not been done, but that on the other hand the demonstrations before the English Hospital are increasing, & that last night the premises of the Hospital were violated by some of the mob climbing over the walls of the building, & frightening away the person appointed for the purpose of watching the body.

I therefore, have the honour to protest energetically against such proceedings, holding whom it may concern responsible for

the

the consequences, & at the same time to request that immediate orders be given for the dispersion of the mob & for the punishment of those persons who unlawfully violated British premises.

I further have to protest, for hygienic reasons, against the non-removal of the body of the dead woman which now lies in the Hospital.

I avail myself, etc.

/s/ John Lickson.

