

Jerusalem
November 22. 1856

No 73
No 76

My Lord.

I have the honor to report
that the French have obtained
for the Latin interest here, a spot
about an hour and a half
from Jerusalem, upon an ancient
Roman road, leading in the
direction of Gaza; — it has a
small but perpetual spring issuing
from Roman ornamental work:

His Excellency
M^r Hon^{ble} Viscount
Stratford de Redcliffe
S^r C^{ts}.

and

Departure of the
Spanish Consul General

Jerusalem Nov 21
Mr Consul General
No 72
Rec d 15 Dec

D

and there are remains of a
Convent adjoining — The place
is known in Arabic by the name
of Khaneijeh, and by Latin tradition
(not Greek) as St Philip's fountain
— The lands adjoining are
watered by this spring, and
cultivated for kitchen vegetables
by the peasantry of Wellajeh, for
the supply of Jerusalem —

All this is now taken from the
peasantry and given (according
to the popular mode of expression)

to the French, who have long
been aiming at its possession.

Thus from step to step, from one
traditional site to another, the
French are obtaining a permanent
political interest in the country.

— We already hear of another
claim being instituted, namely
for Bait Libin, a place of importance
in early Christian times, under
the name of Eleutherospolis,
situated a few hours North East
from Gaza, and containing
extensive ruins of ecclesiastical

edifices -

Last year they gained Sepphoris in Galilee, but I have not heard lately of their demand for Mount Tabor.

I should state that this St. Philippi fountain serves to form a chain of sites under French authority in one curved line; thus, Bethlehem, Bait Sala, St. Philippi, and Ain Karim - the same line may perhaps be continued afterwards by Abu Gosh's village, Kuriet el Arab, to Kubaibeh the reputed
Emmaus

2

Emmaus.

It is not correct to represent these as merely monastic stations for the French Consulate, wherever Latin institutions of this nature are found, interferes in the politics of rival Shaikhs, and in the payment of their taxes: and so long as buildings are in progress all the workmen employed, and their relatives, have their personal and family affairs placed under the patronage of the French
Consulate

His Excellency
St. Honoré Viscount
Gatford de Redcliffe &c. &c.

Consulate

I have the honor to be

My Lord

with the highest respect

Your Lordships

most obedient

humble servant

James Fenwick.

sent to London
as Post No 75

No 74.

Jerusalem
December 6. 1856

My Lord.

Since writing my Despatch
No 73 respecting the site of St
Philip's fountain: I find that
no such Firman has yet reached
Jerusalem, and that my
information was derived only
from the boastings of the monks
of Bethlehem "Sopra quel bel
Firman" - and the lamentations

His Excellency
The Honorable Viscount
Stratford de Redcliffe
G.C.B. &c

9

Jerusalem No 22
The General Firm
No 73.
Dec 15 1856
D

Acquisition of the
Philip's fountain by
the Sultan -
1856