

Copy
Political
No 36.

Jerusalem
Sept. 15. 1857

My Lord.

In following up the topic of my
last Despatch, I venture to bring
before Your Lordship's notice, an
opinion on a matter of public Policy,
which will be derived from the following
propositions.

1. Palestine is a country of peculiar
attraction to all bodies of Europeans
professing extended and distinctly
defined creeds. such as, Roman

Catholic

Right Honorable
Earl of Clarendon
P.S. - S.C.B. &c

Resolving Copy of
Despatch 1857, 36
to the Earl of Clarendon

1857
Jerusalem Sept 15
Mr General Peira
No 40 - 1 Jerusalem
Nov 24. 57

Catholic, Greek, Protestant, and Jewish.

2. The country is in a considerable degree empty of inhabitants, and therefore its greatest need is that of a body of population, irrespective of religious considerations.

3. The Roman Catholic nations of Europe are expressing their desire for populating it by colonies.

4. The Russians in various modes are purchasing land, which might easily serve for agricultural colonies - and have means at command, for introducing a peasant population into the country under the most harmless appearance -

5. As each of these great denominations, except the Jewish is supported by powerful nations, an unexpected spark may suddenly cause an explosion eminently dangerous to Turkish rule in Anatolia and Palestine. - and though no such incident should occur, yet the present silent progress of the movement, ^{in Russian purchases} cannot be too carefully watched.

6. It is therefore important for the Sultan to procure a population which should be grateful and loyal - and to take the initiative in putting them into the country.

7. Such a people may be found in
the Jews - for their affections are centred
here - and they are no willing
subjection to any European Crown.

in the East of Constantinople

From the above I deduce a plan which
I have now the honor to propose for
consideration - viz - to persuade Jews
in a large body to settle here as
agriculturists on the soil, by a special
proclamation from His Majesty the Sultan
offering particular advantages to that
effect.

From many years' knowledge of the
Jewish people, both in England, and
among all their classes and sections
here

here, I am convinced that Jews in
large bodies can be induced to
immigrate hither for cultivation of the
land - chiefly from all-bodied
inhabitants of the East of Europe,
some of them now practising agriculture,
and others from nations further East
in Asia, and also from Africa.

I am aware that there have been
and are, political enthusiasts, who
have preached the expediency for England
transplanting a Jewish nation into
Palestine, as a counterbalance and
check to French and Russian designs

Dr. Hov^{re} - but as their projects (in every case
Earl of Clarendon
Ry - G. B. & c. that

that has come to my knowledge) comprise the ejection of the Turks at the same time, I disclaim all sympathy with them - and on the direct contrary recommend.

1. That the Jewish immigrants become subjects of the Sultan, and amenable to Turkish agrarian laws - in other matters subject like others to the newly established Courts of Justice, which if honestly conducted would give sufficient protection to life and property, in daily practice.

Some further developments might even be made in the constitution of

these Courts - In England the idea may be common that Turkey is a barbarous ill-governed country, but the Jews of Europe in general, would find far more liberty of conscience and action here, than they are now accustomed to enjoy - to say nothing of Central Asia, or Barbary -

The taxation of this country is light and simple in its forms.

2. That in forming rural colonies, the immigrants, with regard to their own advantage and the peace of the country should be recommended and persuaded to do so in partnership with the Arab peasantry.

There are instances of such
operation at the present time, in
which persons find the money, and
then without manual labour receive
one clear third of the produce - such
an arrangement is always most
convenient for those who are strangers
to the climate and to the modes of
agriculture already in use.

3. That the Government of the Porte
should allow an exemption from
taxation for the first five years, in all
cases of Danish agricultural settlement
where when effected in partnership with
Arab peasantry -

This mode of encouragement being
more,

more advantageous both to the
Sultan and to the people, than that
of supplying agricultural implements.

To the colonists, the identification of
interests with the native peasantry
would obviate quarrels for contested
and border rights, in a country where
the Supreme government is so utterly
impotent as we find it to be in
rural matters, and where local
communication is so difficult, as it
is at present - In fact this

method of procedure is so simple
that it would demand no new

Dr. Howth measures of the Turkish government -
Earl of Clarendon
Ry - G.C.B. H
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nothing but an extension of those already in operation, or for which precedents could be found.

To the Sultan the benefit arising from such means of developing the natural riches of the country, could not but be great. — besides the security which ought to arise from a counterbalance of interests in the varied populations.

Of one thing I am sure, that no time should be lost, and no opportunity allowed to pass, for doing something tending to the general safety.

Objections may probably be raised

against the whole scheme, such as the following —

1. Why should the Sultan address the Jews by name in a proclamation, and not rather invite all all persons indiscriminately by large encouragements to settle in and cultivate his wide Empire? —

To this I answer, that the scheme only concerns Palestine, not Turkey at large, and the object contemplated is primarily, not cultivation, but defence of the Turkish government here — for this purpose the Jews are the best suited, being the only class of persons without a European Emperor at their

back to use them for his purposes.
having no religious interests which
would connect them with any
foreign Potestate: and this cannot be
said of any other body of settlers, either
Roman Catholic, Greek, or Protestant.

2. It may be asked, Why should the
Sultan hold out advantages to the
profession of an anti-Christian principle
superior to any offered to the
profession of Christianity? -

I reply - that it is not necessary to
regard all the Hebrew nation as
anti-Christian - I have seen it
asserted by a good authority that

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there are now to be found in
Europe and America, a sufficient
number of baptized Christian Israelites
if they could be assembled together, to
give a tolerable population to Palestine.

And there are at this moment
two distinct agricultural operations
commenced, though as yet but little
known, for promoting agriculture of the
Holy Land by Hebrew Christians -
one at Jaffa, the other near Jerusalem.
- And any scheme would be
incomplete and would fail of success
which should be so drawn up as to

not ~~be~~ exclude this intelligent class of people
early of Jerusalem
EG - GCB. v. 2

3. Lastly - Will the Jews themselves
respond to any invitation of the
nature now contemplated - Will
they leave the merchandize of
European cities where they live under
regular laws and have acquired
European tastes - for the sake of peopling
a half-empty Turkish province for
the Sultan's benefit - And
those who may have a turn of mind
for agriculture, will they not rather
take up with the evident advantages
of America and Australia?

The result of my observation, is, that
we have here Jews who have been
to the United States, but have returned

to their Holy Land - Jews of
Lunenburg do go to Australia, and
instead of remaining there, do return
hither, even without allurements of
agriculture and its concomitants.

And the Jews of Frankfurt, Paris
and Vienna, or London, are not the
nation - They have indeed but
little influence among the Hebrew
people. There are to be found rather
among those millions whom the
Emperor of Russia finds it necessary
to transplant farther inland, and to
incarcerate or put to death, for
preferring their laws of Sabbath or
costume, or food, to his laws of

military service. — The nation
is to be sought and found along the
Barbary coast, and among the central
nations of Asia.

I have lately seen a shipload,
and heard of another, of Russian Jews
arriving at Saffa, having smuggled
themselves over the Russian frontiers —
not as they used to come formerly
the aged and decrepid, but hale
robust men — men accustomed to
outdoor employments — yet these
come here leaving fixed means of
livelihood, to lead a life of probable
luggary.

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I may be told that they are not
persons of an influential class — but
if they are not of the head, they are
of the hands of the people — And as
for the influential — i.e. the book-
learned classes: let those competent
to judge, inform us, whether books of
devotion and of modern poetry, do
not stir them to regard this whole
land with intense desire.

I ought not to conclude without
observing that the pecuniar cultivation
proper to this region, would yield a
very speedy return for the support of
those engaged in reclaiming wastelands
to the Hon^{ble} Council of Calcutta
Ry - GCB. &c

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- of which two thirds of Palestine
consists.

Yet I would repeat that the
special topic of this Despatch is not that
of remunerative cultivation: though
of this too much cannot be said -
but that of the best means to be
used for supplying a sufficient and
faithful population to counteract the
selfish designs of others, and to arrest
the progress of decay in the present
institutions -

And the best means, I believe to be
in a public office of considerable agrarian
advantages to Jews, as Children of Israel.

from the part of the Sultan.

I am about to send a Copy of
this Despatch to His Excellency, Lord
Stratford de Redcliffe -

And have the honor to be
Yours

(Signed) James Fisk.

My Aunt
to London
No 41

Jerusalem
Sept. 22. 1857

My Lord

I have the honor to report
that Mr Moore, Her Majesty's
Consul General, arrived in
Jerusalem on the 18th Instant
and left us this day.

During his stay and on the
occasion of visiting the Pasha
Mr Moore warmly seconded

His Excellency
Right Honorable
Count Stratford de Redcliffe
& C^o.

my

From the Consul General
to the Earl of Aberdeen

Dated Jerusalem
Sept. 15. 1857

Copy

Proposed to accompany
Lans & visit all
antiquities Palestine

Enclosure in Dispatch
No 40 of Jerusalem
1857