

Jerusalem  
November 24, 1855

Copy  
Political  
No. 13.

My Lord

I feel that I ought no longer  
to delay representing the rapid  
increase of French influence in  
this part of the country. - And  
this may be most distinctly shown  
under the following heads -

1. The influence at the Seraglio.
2. The conjunction with the Latin Patriarchate
3. The presence of the Marquis de  
Folbin Jansen.

On the first of these points I have  
on several occasions slightly  
mentioned what is now become a  
criping

Right Honorable  
Earl of Clarendon  
1855 - J.C.B. H

Jerusalem Nov 24  
Mr General Peers  
No 40 - 1 Street  
Paris  
D

any one will that no one and  
probably no other person can approach  
the Pasha on business without  
finding with him either the French  
Councillor or the French (native)  
Dapman - I believe that every  
Counsel in Jerusalem has remonstrated  
on this point - some have even  
risen up and walked away - but  
yet the same conduct is repeated  
afterwards - Sometimes the  
Pasha requests the French official to  
step into the next room, but even  
there the partition is so thin that the  
conversation can be clearly overheard.  
- and the Pasha generally avoids  
giving a promise or effecting the

business discussed till the next  
morning, that is to say, till after  
having consulted his French advisers.  
I have known him to promise at  
a thing at once, but then he without  
the least shame breaks his given  
word the next day, if it is considered  
necessary.

The Secretary Mr. Gilbert is always  
present at my interviews, and to  
this it is difficult to make objection -  
but he is a continual inmate of  
the French Consulate, and  
correspondent of the French journal  
the "Presse d'Orient" in Constantinople.

During the recent measures  
which have occupied several weeks  
for pacification of old grievances  
among the rural districts, many of

the Beyourdis (or Pasha's Orders) have been written by the French Dragoman with his own hand.

2. The cause of the Patriarchate being identified with that of the French Consulate they derive considerable strength from each other — His Grace the Patriarch is now carrying on his buildings with such rapidity and perseverance at Beit Sala, at Ain Karim, and in Bethlehem that the peasantry of that vicinity are scarcely employed otherwise, builders, masons and carriers can scarcely be got for any wages — the influence thus obtained has never been equalled here before — a person

gives

gives umbrage to any of the Patriarch's workmen, he is arrested by French intervention.

A youth of 16 years of age is now tax-farmer and collector for the district of Ramlah, without any Surety taken for him — his books have recently been exhibited in the Mejlis of Jerusalem, showing a deficit or fraud of £200 sterling — but he is kept in office, notwithstanding the offers of better and more efficient men, provided with Sureties — because as the Pasha lately told my Dragoman "the Latin Patriarch desires me to keep him in, and you know, my dear friend that I cannot break off

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Ry — GCB

from

from his favor" - "But the Sultan  
is defrauded of £200" - "Well, but  
say no more about it - the Latin  
Patriarch will have it so" -

Not to multiply anecdotes in  
this Despatch I must give this one  
to your Lordship - Mr. Meshullam  
is a farmer of eight years' standing  
near Bethlehem, an English subject,  
and a Protestant - The question  
between him and certain United  
States' citizens remaining still  
unsettled, his new rooms are closed  
with American seals, but as the  
winter came on, he found it desirable  
to hire rooms for keeping his store of  
grain in the town of Bethlehem -

from a man named Khanna Selamuch  
(Latin) son of his own cook-servant -  
The house of which he was to have  
part, was itself built some years  
ago with money advanced by Mr.  
Meshullam - The Patriarch's Agent  
Alenna Abdallah has now compelled  
him to eject the furniture and stores  
already placed there, and break off  
his bargain - "because the Patriarch  
is resolved to have no more Protestants  
in the town - Since which the  
owner has been prevented from erecting  
a low bordering wall between his  
house and the street, although he  
has shown by documents his right to

do so, and although for a time the Austrian Consul promised to help him to his right - but neither householders nor Austrian Consul will go to law against the Patriarch.

3. The presence of the French Commissioners strengthens the hands of the Consulate and keeps the Pasha in due obedience.

In no case does M. de Forbin Janssen appear but as a friend and abettor of whatever is done in the French name.

A strange incident occurred lately at the Spanish Convent in Sin Karim - Your Lordship has been already informed of the question of a Spanish flag having been raised there

3 there, at the time of the recent general repairing - The village people were threatened severely to make them petition the Pasha against having the Spanish flag there - when they had done this the Spanish Consul found the names to be those of the men who had actually raised it - on his pointing this out, the petition was changed into a request that no Christian flag should be allowed there.

Since that time the Spanish Consul erected a small gilt cross over the dome of the Convent Church there in commemoration of the fall of Sebastopol - This he considered,

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K.G. - G.C.B. K.

not

not as a national emblem, but  
as a semi-private memorial -

The French Consul promised to  
protect it there by his authority of  
Protector of Christianity in the East.  
but afterwards - namely on the  
15<sup>th</sup> Instant, without one moment's  
warning, there suddenly appeared  
at the Convent, the French Consul,  
the French Commissioner, the Pasha's  
Secretary, the French Cancelliere and  
the French Dragoman with a crowd  
of about forty peasants all arriving  
from Bethlehém - all, I am told on  
horseback - they entered there, and  
notwithstanding the remonstrances of  
the President, struck down the gilt

cross and put up one instead which  
they had bought with them for the  
purpose.

The Spanish Consul has by a Circular  
letter invited all the Consuls here to  
take notice of this occurrence.

On the 18<sup>th</sup>. the Pasha left Jerusalem  
to spend some time in the house  
of the French Dragoman in that  
village of Ain Karim, upon whose  
house was then hoisted a French  
and a Turkish flag - His Excellency  
is still there to the surprise, and  
something more, of the country -  
I saw him riding thither surrounded  
by French officials, he having left  
word in the city that he was going  
to a certain village in an opposite

direction to enquire into a case  
of murder.

He did not return to town on  
the 19<sup>th</sup> for the celebration of the Queen  
of Spain's fête day.

The anecdotes above cited will  
explain why I used in a recent  
Despatch the term rough riding over  
public affairs, as applied to the  
policy carried on by the intrigues of  
the Chamella Legueux and the  
Dragoman Athamma Carlo. — I was  
then referring to the affairs of the  
district called Belaid Akood, where  
Othman Lekhorn is set up, he who  
had slaughtered so many people  
and exhausted the district by fines  
used in bribing the Jerusalem Effendis  
he

— he who had burnt out the bowels  
of many of his victims with gunpowder  
including women — was then received  
at the French Consulate, robed in a  
new dress at the Seraglio by the  
Pasha, and publicly reminded by M.  
Botta of his being under French  
protection.

I all the time  
endeavouring to bring him to  
punishment, and representing the  
matter to Your Lordship, and to Her  
Majesty's Embassy. — This long  
investigation is, as I have heard, now  
closed by means of a Council of  
Pasant. Elders, who proceeding upon  
Pasant principles of traditional  
legislation have sentenced Othman  
to a fine of 75,000 piastres due for  
blood

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R.G. — S.C.B.

blood-money, after striking the  
balance on both sides, thus marking  
the amount of his atrocities.

But yet he was escorted the day  
before yesterday to his district by a  
guard of Bahi Pasha, at the  
instance of the French Consulate,  
and without the least reference  
to me or my reclamations.

In conclusion I would merely  
throw out the hint that were it  
possible to promote M. Legrand to  
a more lucrative office elsewhere,  
and displace Khawwa Carl, I  
believe it would conduce to the  
peace and even safety of the country  
as well as the honor of the French  
nation.

The French interest here, has the  
Univers and the Pape d'Orient for  
their organs, in which journals  
Palestine wears more of a French  
aspect than it has hitherto done in  
the country itself.

The Austrians have the Triester  
Zeitung, but I know of no  
correspondence between Jerusalem  
and London newspapers: at least only  
in desultory anecdotes copied from the  
French.

I have the honor &

(Signed)

J. Fium.

Jerusalem  
November 30. 1855

N<sup>o</sup> 41

My Lord.

I have the honor to enclose  
Copy of my Despatch Political  
N<sup>o</sup> 44 to the Earl of Clarendon, on  
the venality of H. E. Fiamil Pasha.

And have the honor to be

My Lord  
with the highest respect

Your Lordships

Most obedient

servant

James Fico.

His Excellency  
Rt Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Viscount  
Stratford de Redcliffe  
G.C.B. &c &c

Despatch Political  
N<sup>o</sup> 44 to the Earl of Clarendon

Dated Jerusalem  
November 24. 1855

Copy

Procuree of French  
reprints in Palestine

Enclosed in  
Despatch N<sup>o</sup> 40 to  
Rt Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Viscount  
Stratford 1855