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most of the members of the Consular
body in uniform, (the French
Consul General was present with
the whole of his staff in full
uniform as well as the Russian
Consul General), by Government
Officials, and by a large concourse
of people.

The bishop of Philadelphia
(Salt), who was the delegate of
the Patriarch at the coronation of
the Czar last year, has been
appointed

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appointed, with the approval of
the Sultan, Acting Patriarch,
and the Patriarchal Synod are
now taking the usual steps for
the election of a successor to Monsigneur
Gerassimos. Fifteen names are on
such occasions submitted by the
Acting Patriarch, through the
Local Authorities to the Sultan,
who generally rejects about half
the number of candidates. From
among

among the remainder three are again chosen by the Synod who then proceed to vote for one of the three as Patriarch.

It is at present premature to predict who is likely to be the Patriarch elected, but there are three candidates who appear to be in greater favour than the rest. The first is the Acting Patriarch; the second, the Archmandrite

Archmandrite Arsenius, who is representative of the Patriarchate at Moscow; and the third is the Archmandrite Photios, Chief Secretary of the Patriarchate, and who was once elected Patriarch in 1883, but was disqualified on account of his youth. These three candidates, I understand, are not opposed
by

by the Russian Consulate
General.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient

Humble Servant.

Plaudisius

Jerusalem,
March 8. 1897.

N^o 11.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report to Your Excellency that the ex-Armenian Patriarch Monsignor Ismirlian has informed me that he has received the Havale which the Ministry of Finance directed should be issued for the payment of his Allowance whilst resident in Jerusalem

His Excellency
The Right Hon^{ble}
Sir Philip Currie, G.C.B.
rc. rc. rc.

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Jerusalem, Feb. 29th
Consul Becken

No. 10

By Post

Receipt of the Havale Ismirlian
- returned - on 21st inst

Attorne: -
The late Patis -
with was anti -
Russian -
with probably try to
secure a success
more favourable
to their interests.

11/27

PC