

Jerusalem  
November 8. 1856

Copy  
Political No. 71.

My Lord

I have the honor to report that the  
Church of St. Ann mentioned at the  
end of my Despatch Political 65 -  
and its adjacent ruins were -  
delivered to the French Consulate on  
the 29<sup>th</sup> ult.

The technicality of the matter is  
that the property is a present  
from H. H. the Sultan to France  
as a small acknowledgment of  
gratitude for the valuable aid  
rendered to Turkey in the late war

By Mr. W. M. the Emperor presents  
the Earl of Clarendon

R. G. H. B. 20 20 20

Jerusalem Nov 8  
Mr General Picot  
No 70 - 1856  
R. G. H. B.

Preserving Copy of  
Political No. 71 to  
1856

it through the Pope to the Latin & Patriarch of Jerusalem, of course under the civil protection of the Consulate.

In one night a wall was erected to enclose the property from the street and about 70 labourers are still at work night and day in clearing the ground preparatory to the arrival of French architects.

The Arabic inscription from over the door is to be removed to Paris to the Museum of the "Société des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres" who are to be requested to furnish a substitute for it in Latin, including the historical names of Napoleon III. and Abd id Mejid

Enclosure

365  
This day a Mass was celebrated in the Church for the first time on a temporary altar, when a chosen few communicated in the Eucharist, including the Dukes of Latour d'Auvergne.

The Latins have now therefore two important churches (St. Annis and the Flagellation) in the same street and on the same side of it the other side being the boundary of the Great Mosque.

The legal ground on which the transfer has been made is that it had never been used as a Mosque. The Arab inscription declares it to have been made a College by Saladin, and as

example is found in the present  
and church of the Holy Cross outside  
the city of a former restitution of  
a building not actually used  
though intended to be used as a  
Mosque. The Mikrah or praying  
niche in the wall of this church of  
St. Louis was made by the  
Egyptians during their occupation  
of this country in order to  
extract more money from the  
Latins for its purchase who  
were then (12 or 15 years ago)  
endeavouring to buy it.

It is intended to occupy the  
rest of the ground with a Palace  
for the Patriarch, an hospital  
and an

and an establishment for the  
Sisters of Charity.

On my recently congratulating the  
Patriarch on the acquisition P. E.  
said that the Roman Catholics  
attach much importance to that  
sanctuary yet he acknowledged  
that the genuineness of the tradition  
as to its being the birthplace of  
the Blessed Virgin had been  
impugned by writers of considerable  
eminence.

His Excellency said that it  
was of some consequence in his mind  
to disperse the Latin population

Rt. Honble  
The Earl of Chancery.  
R. G. J. C. B.  
de de de.

over various parts of the city instead  
of their being as at present and from  
time immemorial walled up into  
one quarter.

The Patriarch has lately been  
involved in a warm dispute  
with the French Consulate for  
having sculptured his private  
arms over the door of the church  
in the village of Bait Jabas -

It was ended by a compromise -

The Consul tells me that the  
Patriarch has promised not to do  
so again and therefore it is  
allowed to remain

I have the honor to be  
My Lord  
with the highest respect  
Your Lordship's  
most obedient humble servant

James Finlay.

No. 71  
at the London  
in Brit. No. 70.

Jerusalem  
November 18. 1856

My Lord.

I have the honor to report  
that the Vice Consul of Caiffa has  
informed me of a strange  
occurrence at the celebrated  
Convent on Mount Carmel.

A new President having arrived  
(a Maltese British subject) the

French  
His Excellency  
Right Honorable  
Count Stratford de Redcliffe  
G.C.B. &

From the Council  
of the Society of Missionaries

Dated Nov 8. 1856.

Copy

On the acquisition of  
the Church of St. Peter  
by the Catholics

Jerusalem in Syria  
No. 70 of Jerusalem  
1856