

Jerusalem

19 May 1849

Copy

No 24

My Lord.

I have the honor to report that I have recently been requested to establish Agents both in Gaza and Nablus for the protection and assistance of the numerous English Travellers who pass through those towns.

But I have constantly replied that I believe it is not the wish of Her Majesty's Government to multiply such Agents; — and when applied to by persons of sufficient consequence I have assigned one or more of the following reasons according to circumstances.

1. There is really no commerce in those places

Wm^l Palmerton
S. C. B.

1849

Enclosure 1

in No 19

from Jerusalem

about 1847
Packet Office

Copy of No 23
to Wm^l Palmerton
in Enclosure

places at present -

2. To establish Agents from Turkish Subjects would be to withdraw those people with their train of Scribes, nominal Interpreters, and Kawasses, from taxation, and so produce dislike among the local authorities.
3. That the French and other nations would immediately and with less reasonable pretext set up rival Agents and their trains, thus multiplying the complaints of the local authorities.
4. That to establish such Agents would be to cause and foment local and family dissensions.

Most of these reasons are founded on the idea upon which all such applications are based - that of exalting some one from the respective towns to the office.

It is possible however to reply that if strangers, especially Europeans with a spirit *in trade*, were appointed to such places, a Commerce might easily be elicited where now there is none - and that our Anglican Bishop's school and house in Nablus have

as much need of a protector as the Carmel monastery has of a special ⁴⁶⁸ French Agent in Acre.

But I have the honor to represent to Your Lordship that I am quite willing to supply the apparent deficiency of Agents in Gaza and Nablus by more frequent visits of myself and my Cancelliere to those towns.

An application for the Agency of Gaza has been made by the head of the richest Christian family there in favor of some nephew or grandson of his (all Christians in Gaza are of the Greek rite and are but few in number) - They are however utterly ignorant of any European language or customs.

The recommendation to establish an Agency at Nablus comes chiefly from the new Governor of Gaza, one of the principal members of the rich, clever and ambitious family of Abd el Hady, who have

so long contested with the Tocan family
the government of the Nablus city and
territory - and have since my visit to
Arâsch last October, had a conflict with
the Tocan faction in which many lives
were lost.

The Abdel Hady family are said to
be now bidding high in Constantinople
for the overthrow of their rival in Nablus,
and are so anxious to court English
interest that they at first tried to excite
me to jealousy with information that our
Bishop's two paid men in Nablus were
giving themselves out for British Agents -
and then promising me that a really
British Agent should be allowed to raise
a flag in Nablus on their return thither -
which return they frequently spoke of as
near at hand.

This Mohammed Effendi now of Gaza, is
son of Hupain Abdel Hady who assisted

so materially in bringing the Egyptian
army into Palestine, and was afterwards
poisoned (it is believed) by the sister of
Ibrahim Pasha.

He and his younger brother living with
him, indulge in a great excitement of
delight at the rumour so prevalent here,
of a general war that might reach this
country - their feeling is I am sure
merely personal, hoping to rise during
the tumult -

And I may add that I fear the people
of this country generally, are delighted,
from various motives, with the prospect
of some change whatever it may be.

I have the honor to be

My Lord

with the highest respect

Your Lordship's

most obedient humble servant

J. Foss.

Palmerston
E. C. B.

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Jerusalem 471

21st May 1849

Copy

No 25

My Lord

I have the honor to report to Your Lordship that the military force in the Fortress of Acre and its adjacent territory is as follows -

- 1 Regiment of Cavalry with their horses at pasture near Nazareth . . . 800 men
- 1 Battalion of Infantry at Nablus . . . 800
- Artillery & Troops in Acre . . . 200
- Cannoneer peasantry in the Fortress . . . 200
- Bash Bezuk employed in collecting taxes under Aghul Aga - . . . 150

Respecting the 300 Bash Bezuk mentioned in my Despatch No 18 as commanded by Mustafa Aga in the Pashalic of Jerusalem. I have now discovered that the number is but imperfectly filled up while ^{in Gaza} they amount to rather a larger force

I have the honor to be
J. J. J.

1849
Enclosure 2
in No 19
from Jerusalem

Copy of No 24
for the Pasha
On the margin in Page 9 of Volume