

By the arrival
of the British Proba-
tion in the
arrived of the
of the
The
by

Received
of the
Council
of the
of the

Muzabul 8th January 1843

No 1
Sir

I have the honor to acknow-
ledge the receipt of Your Excellency's
Despatch of 2^d dated 21st Nov^r 1843.

I believe I shall not be
deemed impertinent if I venture
to take the present opportunity to
offer to Your Excellency a few remarks
as they strike me from local ob-
-servations, on the actual position
and future prospects of the affairs
of this District.

Muzabul is now become
a central point of interest to France
and Russia, because both Govern-
-ments have adopted, according to
their respective Orders, the character

of
Your Excellency
The Right Honorable
Sir Stratford Canning
G.C.B.

of Protectors of the Native Churches...
and it is here that their main objects
have to be contended for.

It is no doubt the object of
Russia to subjugate the primitive
Churches of these Countries, and if
she could compel the Patriarchs of
Antioch and Alexandria to reside
at Constantinople, as the Patriarch
of Jerusalem has long done, she would
practically facilitate her object. She
would soon have it in her power so
to control the internal affairs of these
Churches, that the nominal inde-
pendence which yet remains to
them, would be forfeited, and the
Russian Armada, i.e. the Russian
Government would retire Turkey
of her jurisdiction over the bulk of her
Christian population in this Province,
under the plea of protecting their
Spiritual

Spiritual privileges.

France who has acquired the
right to protect the Roman Catholic
Convents in this Country, is, in
connection with Rome, aiming at
nothing short, as respects the Latins,
of what Russia hopes to accomplish
in regard to the Greeks.

From what I have observed
of the proceedings here of the Council
of both these Powers, it appears to me
in submission to Your Excellency's
judgement - to be unsafe for me
to cultivate intimate, or too friendly
relations with either of these parties,
otherwise, I shall be compelled to
follow them, through an inferior
part, into whatever consequences
may attend their proceedings, while
at the same time, their views and
objects are no less irreconcilable with
each other, than they are incompatible
with

with British Interests.

If the party whose views I espouse proves successful - Great Britain could share none of the advantages of its success - If unsuccessful, she would suffer in the estimation of the Moslems as well as of the opposite party, to the prejudice of her own national interests, which require nothing more than an honorable and independent course in her Officers to compel the Turkish Authorities to respect existing Treaties.

France and Russia are each of them seeking its own individual aggrandisement, which is incomplete the moment their success is participated in by another. It is the policy of each, to seek England's co-operation, to aid her in destroying the influence of its rival - But could the views of these two Powers once

be brought to harmonize on ecclesiastical matters - which is impossible - there is no doubt but that the introduction of Protestant Institutions into Jerusalem, would be openly and equally zealously opposed by them, as inimical to their Interests.

It may be worth submitting for Your Excellency's consideration, whether, if the Protestant Powers of Europe abstain from all religious interference in these Countries, they would not be in a position to protect - if need be - against the assumption of both French and Russian interference with the Christian subjects of the Porte - which, if permitted, must ultimately become a very grave question. It is only latterly that the Russian Consul has acted openly as the protector of the West.

by a revival of something similar,
while his party are in the mean time
seeking their own personal advantages
in flattering him and making
mercantile of their protection through
the medium of his influence, in
connection with Sheikh Said, the
farmer of the Revenue. This
artificial state of things can prove
neither lasting nor satisfactory to
him. The moment Sheikh Said loses
the ascendant, which he ought never
to have been allowed by the Pacha
to have possessed, the French Consul's
fabric will fall to the ground -
and he will find himself again
the instrument of every species
of intrigue in order that his friends
and partisans may recover their

Commercial

Commercial advantages.

But Your Excellency is no doubt
aware that there is another party
which is looking to Jerusalem and
Palestine as the great theatre in which
the fulfilment of Prophecy is speedily to
be accomplished, respecting the restora-
tion of the Jews.

After a Residence here of
five Years, I am induced to come to
the conclusion that to attempt to shape
a course in order to meet the views of
a popular reading of Prophecy, it is
necessary to cast plain and obvious
duties with sound reason, on board.
If the Student of Prophecy would expand
the actual condition of these Countries,
in a calm and practical point of view,
endeavouring to respect the privileges
and prejudices of others, equally with
his own. I think he would feel the
desirability of studying the ^{real} position

position and wants of their present
inhabitants before he indulged in
speculative theories regarding a super-
human view of the future which,
if ever to be accomplished, he is
perhaps more likely to retard than
hasten, by his premature zeal.

Much jealousy is likely to be ex-
cited against us, in the minds of both
Latin and Greek, by the publication of
so many speculative opinions on this
subject - nor is it unlikely to bring
the Jews, whom they desire to serve,
into danger and increased contempt
among all classes of natives.

I have the honor to be
with the greatest respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient
Humble servant
J. P. S. S. S.

Musabru 23 January 1844

Sir

I have the honor to trans-
mit to Your Excellency a Copy of my
Despatch No 3 addressed to Colonel
Ross reporting a case of interference
on the part of His Excellency Hyder
Pacha on the occasion of the late
Mr Swald's funeral, which might
have proved very embarrassing both
to myself and to the whole of the
British Residents here from its un-
timely character.

His Excellency made no
inquiry when the late Mr Watson was
interred, and he was perfectly aware
the previous day, from the grave being
opened, that it was our intention to
bury

Your Excellency
The Right Honorable
Sir Stratford Canning & Co.

General Ross

24/1

Recd.

24/1

A copy of the same of the
Despatch of the 23rd Jan 1844
concerning the affair of
the late Mr Swald

24/1