

Copy Jerusalem 2 August 1843

No 31

Sir

I have the honor to report to You that my Colleagues and myself have met to day to express our opinions respecting the question of hoisting our flag in Jerusalem - Not that it is a point which can be settled here - but with a view to ascertain how far we are agreed, as to its practicability and utility - I stated that it appeared to me to be necessary to look at the question disconnected from what has just taken place, trusting that what has occurred, will not be treated as a point between France and Turkey, nationally speaking, but as a local misunderstanding - When Count Sautery states that this was the light in which he had placed the matter before the French Ambassador - For my part, I could not urge the necessity of hoisting a flag here - I considered, in the first place, that

Colonel Ross CB
 His Majesty's Consul General

Consul General

No 14 P 1

Recd

Received from the Hon. Secy of State in England

sent No 1411 1843

Received from the Hon. Secy of State in England
 No 1411 1843
 Received from the Hon. Secy of State in England
 No 1411 1843

that there was no precedent for it. In the second place, it is sweetly offensive to the prejudice of the bulk of the inhabitants - and to an extent which renders its practicability a problem.

Another point to be considered, is, that it is a question which does not affect Jerusalem only, but Damascus, and Aleppo, especially the former, where the Mupulmans would sympathize with their Brethren here - and even now. I should not be surprised to find that they already respond to the sensation we have had here, as injured members of the same body.

In considering the advantages proposed in its accomplishment, viz. the "breaking down another Mupulman prejudice" and a flag being erected in a place now so much visited by Europeans.

We ought not to be surprised that the Moslems should oppose the putting up of Christian flags in Jerusalem; as Christians would no doubt be equally opposed to the flag of Islamism did Jerusalem

112
Jerusalem belong to them. In this light, it did not appear to me to be a point for which we could justly contend under present circumstances. The very construction would not only strengthen old prejudices, but promote new ones against us, and Christianity.

Here the point to be conceded by the Porte, and the prejudice of the Moslems here to be overcome. If it would only prove a new source of excitement, and of fresh difficulties between the Christians themselves - as the Churches at present do, to the scandal of the Christian Religion in the eyes of the Moslems and Jews - and we should have petty wars between Latin and Greek until our Governments were unavoidably com-

promised I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
Humble Servant,
Signed / J. J. Gurney

