

No. 4.

Jerusalem
January 12. 1894

Sir, I have the honour to report that on the 5th instant, the eve of the Greek Christmas, whilst the Greek Orthodox Clergy were engaged in the usual night ceremony in the Grotto of the Nativity at Bethlehem, a disturbance occurred between them and one of the Latin Monks which

Sir A. Nicolson K. C. J. E. was
Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires
Constantinople

General Dickson
No. 3
Recd. Jan 24.
By Post
Ref. Lib. No 789 1893
Appar at Bethlehem
Anatolia Board General
has been recalled in acc
to order of Council
in
How
A. N. J. 1893
ME
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was fortunately, quietly
suppressed by the Turkish
authorities, and consequently
led to no untoward incident.

It appears that at the
conclusion of one of the
religious ceremonies which
took place in the Grotto, the
Greek Archbishop of Bethlehem,
followed by his clergy -
withdrew from the place
by the north door, but the
passage was at once barred
by a Latin Monk named

Thomas

Thomas. An altercation and
a scuffle followed but the
Turkish guard, which has
lately been considerably
increased, at once intervened,
and the Archbishop was
permitted to pass through
the door, the existing
agreement between the Greeks
and Latins being that, -
although the Latins are
supposed to have the right
of passage through the
north door, the Greek Clergy
are

are allowed to pass when performing one of their ceremonies and wearing their sacerdotal dress.

The action of the Latin monk has, however, been taken up by the Russian Consul General as a proof of the aggressive tendency of the Latins towards the Greeks in the Grotto and Church of the Nativity, and of their desire to possess themselves of the sites appertaining

appertaining from ancient times to the Greeks, and Monsieur Arseniew, I understand, has telegraphed in this sense to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople. I am also informed that the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, who was present during the incident has likewise telegraphed to the Grand Vizier deprecating the action of the Latins as an interference with

with the acknowledged
rights of the greeks and
tending to produce disturbances.

I have accordingly
considered it advisable to
report these facts, although
the occurrence itself led to
no serious consequences.

I have the honour to be

With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient
Humble Servant

John Dickson

Jerusalem,

January 19 1894

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Despatch of the 5th ultimo informing me, with reference to the abuses committed by the Jaffa Custom House officials, that a Takrir was presented to the Minister for Foreign Affairs representing the matter, and that this Takrir

is A. Nicolson, K.C.S.E.

Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires

Constantinople

was

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Howe Jan 25
A.M.