No 52.

United States Consulate at
Jerusalem Octob. 5th 1876.

Hon. W. Hunter
Second Assistant Secretary of State
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your despatch No 37, dated Aug. 31. 1876, also of Circular No 4 & 5, concerning the appropriations made for the Consular & Diplomatic service, especially for this Consulate, for the year ending June 30th 1877, and of Circular No 6, modifying Paragraphs 495 & 496 & form No 155 & Fee No 30 of the Consular Regulations relative to debenture or landing certificates.

I have the honor etc...
(Signed) C. Hardegg
Vice Consul.

United States Consulate at
Jerusalem November 13. 1876

Hon. Secretary of State
Washington

Sir.

In pursuance of instructions I have the honor to transmit herewith Tables of navigation & commerce in Jaffa for the year ending Sept. 30th 1876.

I have the honor etc
(signe) C. Hardegg

No 53.

United States Consulate
Jerusalem Dec. 4. 1876

Hon. J. A. Campbell
Third Assistant Secretary of State
Washington

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Despatch No 38, dated Octob. 31st 1876, in which You desire me to give an account of my reasons for the summary dismissal of J. Panayotti, late Dragoman of this Consulate.

Before entering into the subject I beg to premise, that in my Despatch No 47, I have committed to give more particulars relative to the removal of Panayotti, in order to avoid shame to this Consulate & annoyance to the Department, but Your wishes are as a command to me.

Going back to the years 1872, when I assumed for the first time the duties of Vice-Consul in charge of this Consulate, I found in the precincts of the office a stately Cavass Mohammed Hefawi, & a so called Dragoman Jacob Panayotti Sawakini, whos suspicious outward appearance struck me at the first aspect.

Far from laying to much stress on physiognomics, or claiming from an official in the Holy City that he must look exactly like a Saint, I could still not help instinctively to protest against that lurking squint-eyed Poltroon face which belongs to Panayotti, whom one could take rather for a sheep-thief than for a Consular Dragoman.

This unfavourable impression of the exterior of the person of the Interpreter was soon confirmed & increased by a deep insight into a corresponding character.

Almost at the first interview Panayotti began to complain against the Cavass for having beaten him in the open street without reason & insulted him by saying: "You Dragoman are not worthy to kiss my slipper."

Mohammed the Cavass could not deny these facts, but in his turn complained against the interpreter, that he had provoked him by cursing his religion, because he had ceased to allot to the interpreter half of the bakshish he used to receive from the American Travellers.

Hearing this strange case, I was tempted to inaugurate my functions

my functions as Vice-Consul by turning out first the Interpreter & then the Cavass, but I could not close the Consulate & therefore had to forbear until a new Consul would deliver me from such company.

Considering my responsibility for the post, I found myself in a very difficult situation indeed, as I had to ponder on the following deliberations: viz: An Interpreter of the stamp of Panayott may do perhaps for a Consul who stays permanently in the office room like Mr Beardsley, but he cannot be fully controlled by a Vice-Consul, who has to be frequently absent at Jaffa; yet if such a man be not closely watched, he may steal any thing that can be stolen in a Consulate, namely: Writing papers, envelops, pens, sealing wax twine etc: he may rob the Cavasses or servants, plunder American tourists before they come to the Jordan & what is worse, he will sell the truth and defeat all the ends of justice and betray his Consul for a copper.

My suspicions of the person of Panayott were corroborated by the result of my inquiries into his former conduct (before he entered the service of this Consulate by an error) which proved, that in 1864 he had been discharged from the English Consulate for defraudation & subsequently as title-deed writer was imprisoned for forgeries in 1870.

In consequence of such unlimited distrustful reps & in consideration of the notorious infamy of Panayott's former career I could hardly wait until the end of the protracted vacancy of the post and nominated Joseph Gabriel with a view to prepare to Panayott a summary dismissal already in the year 1873. viz: Enclosure No. 1.

The appointment of Gabriel however coincided with the announcement from the Department of a new Consul for Jerusalem, to whose authority I gladly decided to refer his dismissal.

On July 31st 1876 I succeeded at last with the full consent of Hon. F. S. De Haas to uproot that weed before it grew into a tree, & I flatter myself to have rendered an eminent service to this Consulate by procuring a first superior Interpreter & clearing out one, who during five years has been a public disgrace to the office.

I have the honor etc

(Signed) E. Hardegg
V. Consul.

No 54

U. S. Consulate at
Jerusalem Dec: 31. 1876

Hon J. A. Campbell
Third Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No 39 dated Nov: 11th ulto and of Circular No 6 amending form 155 of the Consular Regulations — to transmit herewith the Accounts of this Consulate for the Quarter ending Decemb: 31. 1876 viz:

$ 138. 89 Salary of Interpreter & Guards
" 12. 23 Miscellaneous Expenses. —

and to advise my drafts for the same in favour of J. Frutiger & Co of this city.

The obstacle in the way of an account for Rent viz: my Desp: 51. Oct 3d is still existing.

I have the honor to transmit also:

List of U. S. Citizens residing in this Consular district
" " Persons employed in this Consulate & dependency.

I am Sir, your obedient servant
E. Hardegg
Vice-Consul

With six Enclosures

1) Letters sent
2) Letters received
3) Miscellan: Expense Account
4) Acct: of Salary for Interpreter & Guards
5) List of U. S. Citizens res: at Jerusalem
" " Persons employed in " Consulate
6) " " Citizens at Jaffa
" " Persons employed in the Consl Agency.