As Mr. Schick is now an old man, & having other occupation, he says it would take several years for him to construct a new model. But the price for the new and improved construction would be as above given, viz: £500. sterling, packing & transport extra.

I may here state that, some months ago, Mr. Oscar S. Straus of New York, our former Minister to Turkey, made similar enquiries through me, with the object of purchasing Mr. Schick's model. — To Mr. Straus I have returned a similar reply to the foregoing.

Trusting that the information I have here conveyed may answer the object of your enquiries.

I am, Dear Sir
Yours very respectfully.

Consul.

No. 154.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, March 15. 1890

Honorable William F. Wharton
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches numbers 65 to 68, inclusive, dated respectively January 27th and 28th last, and the 13th and 14th ultimo. I have also received the roll of blank forms No. 104. —

I am, Sir
Your obedient Servant

Consul.

No. 155

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, March 17. 1890

Honorable William F. Wharton
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the Directors of the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, England, have at length, and after the delay of some five years, received the expected Firman from the Sultan which gives them permission to resume their excavations and researches in the Holy Land.

They have been called upon to furnish the name of the site at and around which they propose to commence operations. It is probable this will be along the coast of Palestine, in the vicinity of Ashkelon and Gaza.

They are also pledged to transmit to the Imperial Museum at Constantinople all objects found in the excavations. They are however permitted to retain duplicates and to make copies, and to take squeezes, photographs, &c. of every thing. —

Arrangements have been entered into with Mr. Flinders Petrie, the well known and successful explorer of Egypt, to carry on the work. And appeals are made to subscribers and friends for assistance in raising the required funds, which it is estimated will amount to £1000, for the labors during the Spring months.

As I am a subscriber to the Palestine Exploration Fund, and am personally acquainted with Mr. Petrie, I shall endeavor to keep informed as to all important discoveries made in the work, duly transmitting accounts of same to the Department, if so desired.

Mr. Petrie has already arrived here.

I am, Sir
Your obedient Servant.

Consul.