

1878  
Jerusalem / in  
No 19 from  
Jerusalem

Copy

No 22

239  
Jerusalem  
17 July 1878

My Lord.

I have the honor to report that the tranquility of this country has been much disturbed of late by conflicts of its rural population.

The whole of the inhabitants of Palestine from North to South, are comprised in two great mother-tribes, the Yemen and the Kais - in this part of the country the leading men of these factions are, Abu Gosh on the side of the former, and Ibn Simbhan Governor of Lydd on the side of the latter.

These factions have been for an unknown length of time in actual warfare with each other on every

Vice Palmiston  
S.C.B.

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possible opportunity, and thus blood-feuds are perpetuated from generation to generation.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> ult. the brother of Ibn Simkhan named Said, who was Nazir or Chief Sheikh of the Beni Hhared villages between Jerusalem and Nabloos, was returning from paying his Miri taxes in Jerusalem but near the village of Ain Keeneh was assailed by a shower of bullets under which he instantly fell dead.

Upon hearing this, and before the news could reach the Pasha of Jerusalem, Hhuf's'n Ibn Simkhan of Lydd, marched his people to Ain Keeneh, and destroyed all the harvest and growing crops by fire.

tidings of this being brought to Jerusalem, the Pasha instantly apprehended Abu Gosh who had arrived at the same time, and placing him

under surveillance of an officer of <sup>240</sup> Bash Bejuk, and sent them both to discover the murderers within three days.

On the third day afterwards Abu Gosh had returned, and was seen walking publicly in the Bazaars, but no murderers were in custody. The Pasha then sent two Effendis of Jerusalem to parley with Ibn Simkhan.

The rumour becoming more general that the Pasha was sent for to Constantinople, there ensued speedily a general relaxation of authority.

The Pasha sent to recall the two Jaamri Sheikhs from Jaffa, who had been sent thither manacled, as described in my Despatch to your Lordship, No 21.

They were to travel by night, and his intention was to lecture the rivals

into a promise of good behaviour  
and then to release them. - but  
by some means, intelligence of this  
step was communicated to their  
people, and on the road their guard  
of twenty five soldiers were attacked  
by the Faamri, and after a conflict  
in which the Arabs lost one man,  
and the soldiers had several wounded,  
the Shikhs were carried off in triumph  
to their wild hills.

At the same time Abu Gosh  
levied contingents of armed men from  
different villages, one hundred of them  
from the village of Difta near  
Jerusalem, adjoining which I have  
encamped my family during the  
heat of summer - and one of the  
peasants employed by me in some  
menial offices, only obtained  
exemption on the plea of being in  
my service. The aged owner of the  
ground

Copy

ground, sent one son and two<sup>241</sup>  
grandsons to the war (as it was  
called) at the same summons of a  
horseman well armed who visited  
us before daybreak in the morning  
of the 6<sup>th</sup> of July.

The total levy on this side is  
said to have amounted to nearly  
two thousand men.

I instantly communicated this  
intelligence to a party of soldiers who  
were washing their clothes in the  
neighbourhood, and an hour afterwards  
to the Pasha.

On the same evening a camp of  
the garrison of Jerusalem was formed  
outside the Saffa gate.

The next morning (the 7<sup>th</sup>) the  
hostile parties met at a village named  
Jair Bezeer, and it is reported and  
believed that the Abu Gosh party  
sustained a loss of forty men, though  
they do not acknowledge it.

R. Palmunt  
S.C.B.

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On that same day the petty garrison of about ten Bash Bezuk at Jericho, fled to Jerusalem at the appearance of a few Arabs from beyond Jordan - And near Beerah two or three hours north of Jerusalem five men were robbed and entirely stripped by Yaamri Arabs, and were met near my tents by my groom.

On the next day, the 8<sup>th</sup> the famous Abderrahman el Amir entered Hebron with two thousand armed men, and drove out Rasool Aga the new governor appointed by the Pasha in his place. And his son attacked and plundered a camel party of traders between Hebron and Bethlechem.

The Pasha left Jerusalem for Jaffa on the morning of Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> there to embark in Her Majesty's Steam packet "Novelty" for Beyroot on his way to Constantinople - and we

were left in the centre of a circle of disturbances extending from Ain Keenah to Lydd, Hebron, Jericho and Beerah.

On Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> Babkri Pasha arrived from Acre to hold this Pashalic ad interim, leaving a deputy in Acre: and one of his first acts was to send for Abderrahman and Rasool Aga - and bestowing on the former a robe of honour, he ordered the latter to escort and instal Abderrahman as governor of Hebron.

These disturbances appear to have had little or no connection with each other. The Hebron quarrel is one by itself - and the Yaamri violence, are performed in Abu Gosh's territory against his will, he being in direct hostility with one half of that tribe.

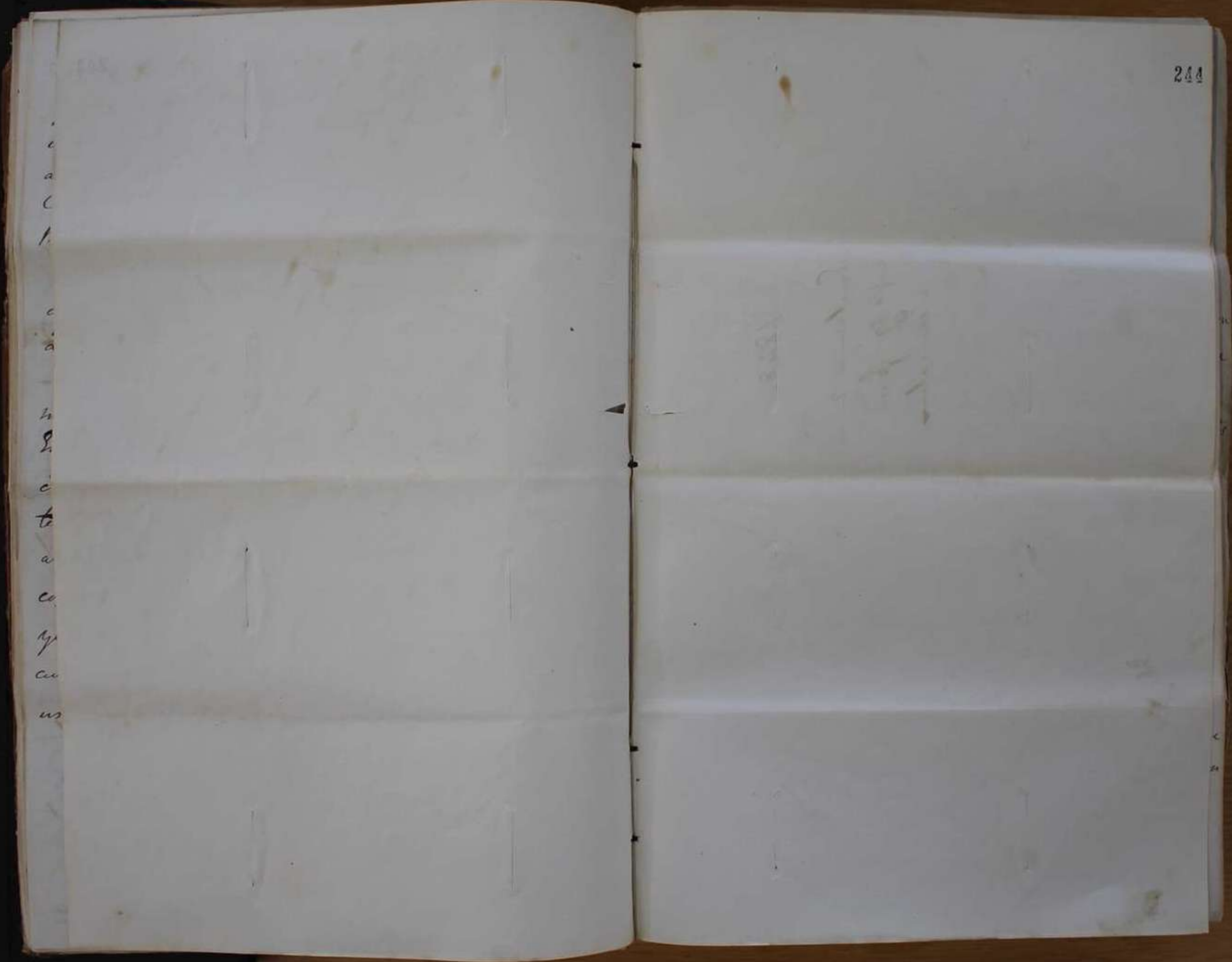
Even in the Medjlis of Jerusalem  
the

the factions are strongly divided into  
Yemin and Kais - The Pasha was  
induced by some of the Effendis to  
arrest their leading opponents in the  
Council as traitors, but induced by  
threats of others, to release them.

The contending factions have  
agreed to a truce for three months,  
and the military camp is broken up.  
- Meanwhile European residents feel  
no alarm for themselves: and our  
English families with ladies and  
children, have begun their summer  
tent-life in fields and plantations,  
at easy distances from the city, as  
confidently as last year and the  
year before - this being a new  
custom that has grown up amongst  
us, and greatly conducive to health.

I have the honor to be

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Commander D. G. ...

Enclomure 2 in  
No 19 from  
Jerusalem

1848

Copy

Sir

Jerusalem  
April 19<sup>th</sup> 1848

I have to bring under your notice an outrage and assault upon my person perpetrated near Jericho on the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month.

Towards evening about 1/2 past 5 of P.M. on Monday last, I was walking in company with a party of English travellers escorted by their guard hired from Abou Dis, to visit the fountain called Ain Sultan. The first of a chain of Centinels stopped our passing out of the camp, pointing towards the horse road leading into Jericho from Jerusalem, as the only place where a pass was allowed - The second Sentry as we walked along the line towards this road, did the same, saying it was the "Bab". At this time a Sentry, the third from this roadway flung a stone at the wife of one of the English Carpenters, who were accompanying us. She was stopping to pick some flowers and apparently about 2 yards beyond an imaginary line drawn by the eye from post to post - I remonstrated with the Sentry for doing so, meanwhile our party reaching the roadway

turned off along it. I was in the rear - The Sentry on one side this road was saying something to the most advanced one of our party, the Rev<sup>d</sup> Henry Higgins - which he could not be supposed to understand or notice being Turkish. - he continued his progress, and when about 4 or 5 yards beyond the Sentry, a Soldier in undress - not one of the Centinels - rushed with loud shouts from the Camp, and with a piece of fire wood commenced assaulting Mr Higgins, who having only a slight fly-net in his hand, let it go, lest the soldier should break it, but to save himself from the stick wrenched it out of the man's hand - by this time, some two or three soldiers had closed round him, beating him with all sized sticks. Upon this another of our party, Mr de Grille, an Englishman, rushed forward exclaiming not to suffer Mr Higgins to be beaten thus, and forced off the attacking soldiers, who turned their fury upon him, but his thick padded hat saved his head from the violent blows poured upon him. Suddenly they ceased. I separated them, and having marked the primary aggressor all along, took hold of the open jacket breast, saying "Al Umbashee" - he collared me, repeating the same words, and we quietly proceeded towards the Commander in Chief's tent -

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Now however a crowd of soldiers fell upon me endeavouring to force me from the direction of the Commander's tent into their own lines - to prevent this - as I feared a murderous beating and losing my man whom I held firmly with one hand, and with my left my fowling piece upright: I was obliged to plant the sole of my left foot against the loins of the nearest man, who collaring me upon the left was aiming a stroke of a stick at me: and giving a steady push, I shook off the soldier on my left, and endeavoured again to seize the man - I reached the Commander's tent, but great crowds were round me, and they fell to beating me upon every side - several tried to wrench my gun out of my hand - I stood still, without returning a blow, only keeping the barrels of my gun upright and giving all my attention to keep the hammer from being struck, lest it should explode - while this went on for some time, I called for the "Um Bashee" and upon the gentlemen to help me. I felt now a blow sound upon my right temple, and was thrown backwards by it so violently as to detach me from those who assailed me on that side. I could just see the stick, which fell short when again levelled at me, and the soldier holding it - it was a branch of 7 feet long, and with a knot at the end fully 2 inches across. I was almost senseless, and lost my sight for a few seconds.

Reeling backwards, somebody caught me - my game bag was torn off my person, and my cap under the feet of the soldiers - my gun I still held safe, but lost my prisoner. As soon as the soldier saw the blow I had received, they fled off, and I heard an officer direct them to attack our unoffending guard - they fell upon four and beat them cruelly to the ground, broke their guns, even across their backs, and apparently killed them. I now rallied so as to reach the Commander's tent, and found the gentlemen standing there. The Commander in Chief was not there at first, but soon slipped in from behind, in his shirt sleeves - he broke into furious language at us, though I am certain he had seen his soldiers' brutal conduct towards me - I immediately sent for the Dragoman of the English travellers, and when he came, represented to the Commander that we felt ourselves outraged - he spoke to us in a most unbearable manner, and his A.B.C. treated me as a peasant under their rule.

The Commander declared that Sentinels were entitled to shoot us, and I was accused of presenting my gun at one. I insisted on their producing the man and totally denied it: this they dropped soon.

I warned the Commander that we were English and that I would fully report all to the British Consul at Jerusalem - he insolently ordered us away, sending an A.B.C. to conduct us to our tent - and many privates spat at me while passing by with the A.B.C.

A.B.C. - he desired us to remain at our tent, and endeavoured to coax us into good humour refusing to do any thing to the soldiers, and saying *Maresh Tarar*, No matter. Mr Higgins was obliged to support me, I was so sickened and weak with the effect of the last blow.

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I will not detail the long and renewed efforts I had to make to rescue the four men of our guard from the bastinado. I had not hired them and cannot prep that part of the outrage. Nor do I mingle my case with that of Messrs Higgins and DeGrille. Insults were repeated by all the orderlies while I was insisting upon the release of the four men, which however I gained. My head was considerably affected. I could not bear any thing touching it, or lie on that side at night.

I would call your attention, Sir, to one or two points in this case. It was a private in undress not a Sentry, who assaulted Messrs Higgins, and therefore Discipline does not justify that part and act. We were proceeding with our hired guard along a road pointed to by two sentries as the passing point - and this not conscious of any breach of orders. Again the Commander in Chief and his officers whom I saw around took no measures to stop the affray, for I was maltreated some 5 minutes after the first onset. Particularly do I prep on your observation Sir, that I was all the time within the lines - that I never struck a blow under

all the provocation, and was proceeding quietly with my man to the Commander's tent. It cannot be said that I was wrong to seize the aggressor - for there is no distinguishing mark to recognize a private by here, nor am I called on to stand still and shut my eyes to an assault upon a clergyman and an elderly gentleman, or any of my nation.

But Sir, consider the danger if my double barreled gun loaded with ball and slugs had exploded in the attack so long carried on against me - Could I hope to escape unscathed - it would have brought all the soldiers to revenge the supposed firing at them - this was to me a dreadful thought while I was exposed to and enduring their savage blows - and then from the size of the stick used, my escape in of the hand of providence - had not the blow falling on one side glanced off my head, I could scarce have escaped falling senseless at their feet, and in their power, and by the reeling backward from the violence of the first, I escaped the second blow - When spat on, I never struck I bore all calmly lest my gun should explode - my life I scarcely know how to save from the banded fury of the detachment of unbridled soldiers - The officers and men knew we were English, for on the line of march we overtook them and were stopped but on application to the Commander in Chief, were permitted to proceed as Englishmen travelling with their own guard.

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My game bag was torn off my person - my cap trampled under the soldiers' feet - my person subjected to violence and indignity - my national security violated - my watch broken and rendered useless during my travel - my limbs endangered by the implements used - and my life seriously enrisksed and threatened - all this occurred within 20 yards of the Commander in Chief's tent unrestrained by him - unprovoked by me.

It was not in support of discipline at all - but a clear military outrage - my complaint as an Englishman was neglected and slighted, and insolence returned.

Such are the facts of the outrage committed, and such the subject of complaint, Sir, on my part against the officer commanding and the troops composing the escort in camp at Dericho.

I will expect just reparation for this occurrence which now leaves my head and back painful & sick - I have to request of you Sir, to represent the matter as is necessary - any details you ask I will develop -

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most obedient

Geo<sup>d</sup> Dalton A.B.

F.C.D.

(Signed)

J. H. Thompson  
Jerusalem

Jerusalem Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> 1848

My dear Sir.

Enclosed is a positive denial to the charge of aiming my gun at a soldier, from which I will never withdraw. In the report I gave in yesterday I forgot one or two points strongly bearing against the military - and these are what I would wish a satisfactory explanation of from the Commander in Chief. to whom I lay all the blame - First, How was it that at 3 of Mr Higgins was permitted to ramble out with part of his guard, through the line of centinels in search of butterflies, and in the same direction we afterwards took - again, Why were numbers of the Pilgrims allowed to range about in the thicket unguarded, and yet when we were proceeding according to direction along the road way out, were attacked by idle soldiers, our persons, property and servants maltreated - and finally How could the

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 Jackson /  
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 from Jerusalem

Sentinel dare to stop us, and yet permit  
Mr Gye on horseback with his Dragon  
and no guard to pass by the Fountain  
and that too so conspicuously mounted,  
and return unchallenged?

I must declare discipline has no  
connection with this outrage, which I feel  
well convinced was a malicious venting  
of spleenetic fury, requiring well applied  
chastisement.

In haste

Yours sincere

(Signed) Geo D M Dalton

Copy/

(Enclosure)

Sir

Jerusalem April 20<sup>th</sup> 1861

I beg to tender my most distinct and  
unqualified denial of having aimed or  
presented my pointing piece at any individual  
Military or Civilian, during the affray of the

17<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> at Jericho -

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I have the honor to be  
Sir

Yours most obedt

(Signed) Geo D M Dalton  
A.D. 1861

To Mr Melcom  
Jerusalem

Copy

Jerusalem  
20 April 1848

The Pasha of Jerusalem declared this day in open Divan, before Her Britannic Majesty's Consul and ourselves, besides numerous Turkish Soldiers, with their Officers the Miralai and Bin Bashi - That he could nothing for whatever the English Consul could write to Constantinople, because he told falsehoods.

These words the Consul immediately took down in writing, and had them deliberately repeated to the Excellency in Turkish - but no apology or explanation was offered.

(Signed) Geo Wm Dalton M.D. F.R.S.  
Bilghyngford G. Cantab.

Georg de Gille

James Schwartz, Interpreter

1848

Jerusalem 2

in April

from Jerusalem

Charles Longuet Higgins M.A.  
Henry H. Higgins M.A.  
Richard Sandford M.B.C.P.

MS

J. Davis Esq  
St. St. St.

London April 26<sup>th</sup>  
1828

Dear Sir,

During the progress of the application made through you for an account of ground designed for the American Whaling party, now at the Dead Sea. I was present at the Detachment, when in your view, the Pastor of Jerusalem, declared before you and several of your Countrymen (including perhaps numerous Jewish Elders with their Officers being present) that he could attest for the representations made by the British Consul to the Sultan, inasmuch as these representations were absolutely false.

I endeavor of course to give the words of the Detachment, and if I have not used the precise terms reported to you as the

MS  
Rochester 8  
in King  
for Jerusalem

meaning of his Excellency's answer, it is  
because I have perhaps offered some of  
the more offensive expressions.

I presumed that you immediately took  
the words down in writing, and that you  
directed the Interpreter to repeat them to  
the Pacha in Turkish. I am not aware  
that any apology was offered. Certainly  
none was communicated by the Interpreter.

Respectfully Yours &c  
Henry P. Anderson

(Signed)

CPM

I do hereby declare that the charge made against Mr Dalton an English gentleman resident in Jerusalem, of pointing a gun at a Turkish soldier at the encampment near Jericho on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, is utterly false and without foundation - and that Mr Dalton did not in any way present or point his gun towards the soldier.

Witness my hand  
 (Signed) Charles Longuet Higgins  
 an English gentleman traveller  
 and now at Jerusalem

April 20<sup>th</sup> 1848.

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from Jerusalem

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We the undersigned declare that on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, an application was made by the Britannic Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem to the Pasha of Jerusalem, to investigate a charge made against a Turkish Soldier by an English gentleman - and we further declare that the Pasha neglected to take such measures as were requisite for the due administration of Justice.

(Signed) Charles Longuet Higgins M.A.  
Henry H. Higgins M.A.  
English Clergyman.

April 20<sup>th</sup> 1848

Copy

The Memoir of the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1848 regarding the application of the Pasha of Jerusalem in open Divan is to the letter true, and I have accordingly

Signed it.

The proceedings in this matter on the part of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem was most fair and just to all parties - He entered regularly into the affair as it occurred clearing the way to arrive at that part of it in which Mr Dalton took part, but the Pasha continued to mix up the matter, although the Consul over and over again repeated that when the first part of the affair in which Mr Dalton bore no part was disposed of, he would enter into that in which he did.

No efficient means were taken to find out the <sup>officer</sup> man who commenced the first assault, but as if to mislead, a certain quantity of men were brought forward, bearing no proportion to the number engaged in the affray in the Valley of the Jordan where the pilgrims were encamped on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, for us to point out the soldier who committed the outrage. It is clear if the Pasha was serious, all the men should have been brought forward.

When the men attacked Mr Dalton first, my back was turned, but on the instant almost, I

turned round, they were brutally beating him, seizing his gun, which was pulled down to a level in endeavouring to wrest it from him.

Our guards, I believe called Fellahs, were also most ferociously and brutally attacked and four unmercifully beaten though wholly unoffending.

Personally, I should not have uttered a word of complaint against my being constrained to keep within the lines, if such was the regulation - but it is the attack with sticks that I complain of, and the non interference of the regular centinels who were very near, and who would have been instantly seized if they had shown any sort of movement to prevent our exit. - but a man with a stick in undress coarsely seized and struck my companion, to whom I gave my assistance.

(Signed) George de Grille  
English subject  
residing at Paris.

Jerusalem  
20 April 1848.

Copy  
Jerusalem  
31<sup>st</sup> July 1848.  
No. 24.

My Lord.

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that the removal of the interred bodies to the New Christian English Cemetery in Jerusalem took place last week.

Bishop Alexander, Mr. Watson, and the child of Sir Cecil Bishop were removed on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst, and the rest on the next day.

The Chief Rabbi requested to have the body of the Jew who was shot in the autumn of 1846, and whom his predecessor

Genl. Palmerston  
G. C. B.

1848  
Enclosure 6  
in No  
from Jerusalem