No 7

Jerusalem
21 March 1848

My Lord

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No 3, enclosing a translation of the Vizirial letter to the Pasha of Jerusalem which orders the punishment of the African guardians of the Haram esh Sherif in Jerusalem on account of the violence committed on Dr Macgowan; and the restoration of Mahomed Danef to his family.

This I received on Sunday last, and on the same day by the same post the Pasha received his Vizirial Order, but I regret to say that he delayed so long to carry the Order into execution, that I found it necessary to call upon him to do so.

The

Lord Cowley
&c &c

1848
Jerusalem 3 March
Mr Consul Finn
No 6
Rec'd 16th April
6
Approbation of the Conduct of Mr Finn

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this morning, Tuesday, in a letter of which Enclosure 1 is a Copy. After delay of several hours in order as he said, to enable him to answer in Arabic, the reply arrived in Turkish of which Enclosure 2, is a Copy.

The reason assigned by the Pasha for his conduct is fear of the Moslem populace, which I am convinced is utterly a groundless apprehension — even if he could be at liberty to judge, instead of obeying His Majesty the Sultan, and the decision of the Heads of Moslem law in Constantinople.

On the contrary I do believe that some danger does arise from his trifling with the plain simple duty before him — from his allowing the whole city to know that he is working against English interests by procrastination of obedience — and from his asking counsel of all sorts of people, such as his Dragoman, the

Colonel of the garrison, and the Kadi.

Again, if without punishing the African guards, or restoring Danef, he were to double the precautions at the gates, and according to the Viziriat order he were to make a public proclamation that the prohibition of Christians remains the same as before — this would be exciting fanaticism, and would leave entirely untouched our protest against an Englishman being beaten to the risk of his life, without trial or sentence by his lawful magistrate.

Soon after receiving the Order, the Pasha repaired to His Lordship our Anglican Bishop, entreating him to intercede with the Consul not to press the matter. He staid above an hour pleading with pitiable earnestness — to which of course the only answer that could be given was given, that the matter did not belong to the Episcopate.

The next day, yesterday, he sent his Dragoman to Dr Macgowan to summon the Dragoman who had been present with him during the assault, in order that the affair might be examined afresh. The answer was of course, that he could not meddle with the Consul's business, and that the person summoned was no longer in his service, but residing in Beyrout.

The Pasha's Dragoman then came to report to myself this reply of the Doctor, and to ask what was to be done. I answered simply that I could not interfere between the Orders of His Majesty the Sultan, and the Pasha – neither could I consent to have the business investigated afresh, after its reference to Constantinople.

A more pitiable exhibition of fear it has never been my lot to witness than such behaviour exhibits – a fear which is totally unnecessary – The town

feels as we do – Several Effendis of the Divan, have said (whatever they may mean) that the Pasha is to blame – the only apprehension lies therefore with the residents within the precincts of the Serai – i.e the African police and Zurwesches instigated by the Kadi who (as the Pasha confessed to our Bishop) is the root of all the mischief – of this conversation however I have no official evidence. – But I consider that when the Pasha says he is afraid that it does not necessarily imply any reason for fear.

That cowards may be cruel is well known – and the letter of which I have the honor to enclose Copy, will confirm this experience – besides the fact that His Excellency on at least two occasions within my knowledge has inflicted bastinado punishment upon criminals with his own hands.

No 3

The Pasha has not directly informed me of his terror at shadows – he has not directly and officially tied to lay the fault on the Kadi or others. If he had, I should be able to prove his having abundantly committed himself in the following points – besides the consideration that he alone is the Officer to whom I look for redress.

1. On the very night of the offence he arrested Danef, without counsel of the Medjlis, and told me that he was ready to punish even the Sheikh of the Kharam, if proved that he had invited Dr Macgowan within the precincts.
2. On the next day he reviled Danef in my presence, and sentenced him to distant imprisonment.
3. He then demanded that I should punish Dr Macgowan and his Dragoman – which demand he repeated afterwards in a private interview – reiterating it when I asked if he spoke in jest or earnest.
4. He told me publicly that had he

been present, he would have joined in inflicting the blows.
5. He has cruelly treated the family of Danef.
6. He now refuses to obey the Sultan's command through the Grand Vizier, for as well as I understand his letter (being in want of an efficient Turkish Dragoman) he intends to renew the investigation upon the basis of the word لم (Why) which may possibly be found in the Original of his Vizirial letter.

I beg leave to express my great satisfaction at the identity of sentiment in your Lordship, and Colonel Rose with myself. We have never aimed at intruding forbidden persons within the Kharam, or in any way insulting Moslem religious feeling – But the circumstance is revolting in the highest degree that an English gentleman should be struck to the ground, and still beaten while prostrate, in violation of all honorable feeling, and as the Majesty's

Consul General has well argued with the Pasha, in defiance of the Capitulations and the Tanzimat Hairyé.

In conclusion it seems to me that it has now become absolutely necessary for some steps to be taken announcing to popular publicity that His Majesty is faithful to his Capitulations and other Documents for the security of British life in every place.

I have the honor to be
My Lord
Your Lordship's
Most Obedt Humble Servant
J. Sims

Copy

Jerusalem

20 March 1848

Sir

In my statement to you of the outrage on my person three months ago, while engaged in a professional visit to a Sheik of the Sharam, I mentioned the courageous conduct of Muhamed Danif the keeper of the gate, in defending me from the brutal violence of the slaves who assaulted me on that occasion. You are aware that the said individual was, in consequence of the part he took in that affair sentenced by the Pasha to be sent in prison at Jaffa, notwithstanding your intercession on his behalf. I now take the liberty of communicating to you the unhappy event which was recently taken place in his family, of the

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Jerusalem 21 March
Mr Consul Finn
No 7
3 Enclosures
Recd 16 April
(8)
Pashas conduct on receiving the Consul's Order

death of his wife; which I consider, is in a great measure to be attributed to the anxiety and distressed occasioned by the cruel and unfeeling persecution to which he was subjected at that particular and under those peculiar circumstances. On the same night that Muhamed Danif was carried off as a prisoner to Jaffa, his wife was brought to bed and delivered of twins. Upon being informed of this event I sent to a relative of the family to offer my services in any way that might be acceptable to them. But that person gave me to understand, that he could not venture to accept any assistance from me, either pecuniary or professional on their behalf, for fear of exciting observations which might give occasion to still severer measures against them. I then wrote to Consul Asseid Nayat at Jaffa, begging that he would kindly enquire after Muhamed Danif

and render him any assistance he might require. That gentleman immediately sought out Muhamed Danif but his offers were repeatedly refused, and it was with great difficulty that he was at last persuaded to accept of a small present.

For the reasons alluded to I had no further communications with either Muhamed Danif or his family until Wednesday the 16th Inst., when I was waited upon by two relatives of the family, who begged me to go and see Muhamed Danif's wife, who was dangerously ill. They informed me at the same time, that they had applied to the Pasha to solicit that he would be pleased, under these distressing circumstances to release Muhamed Danif from his confinement and allow him to return to his family. But the Pasha had positively refused to grant their petition. They earnestly begged that I would intercede with you

Sir, to use your influence with the Pasha in his behalf.

On visiting Muhamed el Damif's wife I found her suffering under a severe attack of Typhoid Pneumonia, in so advanced a stage as left but faint hopes of her recovery. She was lying on a matrass in the corner of a dark comfortless room, in which the cradle of her twin infants formed almost the sole article of furniture. Her mother who was her nurse and attendant, informed me, that she had not been well and never ceased pining since her husband had been sent away. She hinted likewise at the distressed circumstances in which that event had left the family, but she resolutely refused my offer of assistance. On leaving the room I put some money into the hand of the relative who had accompanied me, for their immediate

necessities

necessities. On the next morning I found the patient much worse. She died that same night.

This distressing event, which there is good reason to consider has been caused by grief of mind together with distressed circumstances, has greatly damped the satisfaction I should otherwise have felt at the liberation of Muhamed Damif from his confinement.

I am induced to communicate these particulars to you in the hope that some measure may be taken to obtain some compensation for Muhamed Damif for the cruel treatment he has experienced, as well as to protect him against future persecution to which he has exposed

I have the honor to be Sir

Your faithful and obedient Servant

(signed) Edward Alexander

Copy of Letter to
the Lord of Dundee &c
Edmond
21 March 1828

Dundee
Edmond
21 March
1828

Dundee

1848
Jerusalem
Inclosure 3 in
No 7

Copy of Letter from
the Pasha of Jerusalem to
H.B.M. Consul -
21 March 1848

عزتلو کاملو رفعتلو دوستم بیك جنابلری

مسبوق اولانه عربلر کیفیتنه دائر بو دفعه وارد اولانه بر قطعه شقه‌کز مآلی معلوملرم اولمشدر و بو مادّه حقنده بو هفته یوم سن

نظمه امرنامه‌سامی سرقطهور ایدرك مالاً عالیسنده محمودك جلیله اهل صاحب تهمت اولانه عربلرك حبس او لنمس سبب اولد

واستعار بیوردم اولدقجه موجبراً ایجاب حالك اجراسی لازم دونه ایسه م مذکوره طرفمزدنه موجهاً بازیلوبه نفریت اولنمجه اع

افندی طرف دوستانه‌لرینه و دوغیردونه اشعاره گوره یازلدیغی اکلانلدیجه موردنه اجراسی برمنوال محرر طرفمزدنه بازیلد

نخریرلرك جوابه تعلیقی ایجاب ایده‌ر ایسه‌م ماده‌لری بو دفعه بوحوالله امر و اشعار بیولمسنه اشاده للاوام مرفوم محمود

حلب دعیلرد فی حبس اولنمشی اولدیغی معلوم روشنانه اولمق اوزره شقه وداد کاری تحریم اولنمشدر

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Vr Vr

1848
Jerusalem
21 Apl
[illegible]

Copy of Letter from H.B.M. Consul
to the Pasha of Jerusalem
21 March 1848

[illegible]

No 8

Jerusalem
22 March 1858

My Lord.

I have the honor to call your Lordship's attention to the consistent hostility which the weakness of Mustafa Zarif Pasha has offered to British interests since his arrival here as Pasha.

In every point that I can recollect, of business transacted with him, he has at least delayed Justice; and endeavoured by every means to impede our rightful objects – as for instance –

1. In the Cemetery purchase, though now almost concluded, he has protracted the negociations to the last feeble thread: and it has been my unfortunate duty to find him and Riamil Pasha the late Mushir of Saida, directly and flatly contradicting each other in the correspondence, without my being able to ascertain

on

Lord Cowley
&c &c