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Political  
No 7.

Jerusalem  
April 29. 1853

My Lord.

I have the honor to report  
that the festivals of Easter have as  
yet passed off very quietly. For  
this we are mainly indebted to  
the wide separation of period  
between the Latin and Greek  
celebrations according to the Calendar.  
— Next Sunday will be the  
Oriental Easter. — Had it not  
been for this separation it is most  
likely that the recent decisions in  
Constantinople respecting the claims

Right Honourable  
Earl of Clarendon  
G.C.B. &c.

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on the Sanctuaries of Jerusalem and Bethlehem would have led to some collision of the pilgrims.

The greatest danger however of this year has been apprehended to arise between Moslems and the Greek Christians: but this requires some explanation.

It is an observance from very remote times, for Greek pilgrims to proceed to bathe in the Jordan on the Monday before Easter - I mean pilgrims of whatever nation, professing the Greek creed: - They go in a body sometimes amounting to two or three thousand: most of them armed as precaution against the Arabs: and they are escorted by a large force of infantry and irregular cavalry, nominally for their

protection, and to keep them in order - but quite as really, to obviate political inconveniences that might arise from so large a body marching with arms about the country.

This guardianship is however not considered sufficient for the defence of the country. - The Moslems have created a festival and pilgrimage to the supposed Tomb of Moses on the wild hills near the Dead Sea, for the same period of time. - and however the date of Palm Monday may vary in the Greek calendar, the feast of Nefy Moopa always accompanies it.

This celebration consists of Town and Village parties marching in procession with banners to Jerusalem for prayer in the Great Mosque - thence they go to the Tomb of Moses with music

guns firing, Carjuns and Dervishes, mostly along the same road with the Christian pilgrims proceeding to the Jordan: though it is true they are not all limited to the same one day with the latter: but they keep up a very noisy and frantic excitement in and around Jerusalem all the time of Easter.

This year more than one fourth of the district of Nablus, the most fanatical portion of Palestine, has been poured into Jerusalem, as pilgrims to Naby Moosa, and caused serious alarm in the minds of all persons in authority.

This unusual proceeding is attributed to the extra number of vows of thanksgiving made for the late and unexpected blessing of rain after

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after the usual time had passed without it. — But I, as well as others, attribute it rather to the feeling ready to break out immediately upon any certain tidings arriving of the Russians directing hostilities against Constantinople.

The Pasha has expressed to me his serious persuasion that disaster would ensue here on such a step being taken.

Yesterday so much apprehension arose from the fact of a dense body of Nablusians all well armed and firing in the streets, sweeping every thing before them down the principal Christian street, that the Pasha

ordered out two companies of infantry to move about, and prevent firing within the town.

Edw. Hamilton  
Paul of Alexandria G.C.B.

Some Austrian Jews passing  
along were beaten, and one received  
some small shot in the face.

Should a conflict arise between  
the Moslems and Greek pilgrims, it  
would lead to serious results, for  
the former are capable of committing  
any excess, and would be aided by  
the adjoining villages and the towns  
of Gaza, Hebron and Nablus. —  
The latter are a burly hardy race  
and many of them have been  
Russian soldiers.

The Greek Holy-fire is to take place  
tomorrow, and in a few days, as  
we hope, the city will be cleared of  
all kinds of pilgrims.

It was a very suspicious incident  
that a few days since, a native of  
Pretoria, belonging to the Greek

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Church, attempted to land twenty  
three barrels of European gunpowder  
at Jaffa, from a small Turkish craft.  
— The powder was seized, and  
confiscated to the government service.

In Jerusalem the English  
travellers have sufficient reason to  
be on their guard against Russian  
spies in the hotels.

I have the honor to be  
My Lord  
with the highest respect  
Your Lordships  
most obedient  
humble servant  
J. Fraser.

No 15.

Jerusalem

May 17. 1853

My Lord.

I regret the necessity of laying before Your Lordship the Correspondence here enclosed, which has passed between the United States' authorities in Palestine and myself.

My complaint is of the failure of Mr Consul Smith, United States' Consul in Beyroot to afford redress for a course of official incivility in his Agent at Jerusalem.

This Agent is an Armenian, utterly ignorant of our language - of mild  
 Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lord Stratford de Redcliffe  
 G.C.B. &c &c

From the Consul's Office  
 to Lord of Chancery

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Dated April 29. 1853

Enclosure 2 in the  
 Consul's Office No 14  
 dated April 29. 1853