

Copy

No 23

My Lord

Jerusalem

19 May 1849

I have the honor to report that I lately made a tour from Jerusalem to Gaza and Hebron, principally for the purpose of inspecting the Quarantine establishments in those two towns on the frontier towards Egypt, and enquiring into their regulations.

I found the arrangements of the Quarantine Institution along the line much more effective than I had expected.

In each of these towns there is a Lazaretto surrounded by high walls, and served by an Inspector and a Doctor, a Guard of a few Nizam Infantry and a number of Bash Bezuk in constant movement along the frontier,

Wm. Palmerston
S. C. B.

Jerusalem 21 May
Mr. Great Britain

No 19 - 3 Snider.

Recd June 10.

See p. 10.

the Mediterranean to Terak, wearing
badges inscribed with the words Guard
of Health in French, and Quarantine
Service in Turkish and Arabic.

The two Lazarettos are independent of
each other, and each receives its orders
from Constantinople.

The whole of this Institution has been
created within two years - and is
independent of the local governors of
Palestine, to the great annoyance of
the latter.

It is also a remarkable circumstance
that suddenly such an importation of
the Turkish language should have been
made to the verge of the Desert, where
it has been scarcely heard before.

The Lazaretto buildings are of stone,
and are well supplied with air and
excellent water - the arrangement
however of the officers, is in certain cases
disgusting if not unwholesome, especially
in Hebron -

The Nazir and Medical attendant in

Gaza, are I believe very efficient men.

The Bash Bezuk are paid at a ⁴⁰⁰
higher rate than those in the usual
Government service, and pride themselves
in their work because it has so much of
wild adventure, and owes no other
immediate allegiance than to their own
Captain.

There is moreover a strong tribe of
Arabs in Quarantine pay, to assist in
the service. -

I was present when four Arabs of the
Desert were produced in chains before
the Nazir, for having struck one of the
Nizam soldiers near Khan Yunas. -
being identified they were remanded to
their dungeon among insults and
cruel beatings of the Turkish soldiery.

I have the honor to add that the
English and Americans, who constitute
by far the greatest number of travellers
arriving from Egypt towards Jerusalem,
generally complain to me of the hardship
of being obliged to spend seven days,

the - i.e. five real days in Quarantine.
ba after leaving a country clear of Plague
of as Egypt is, and traversing the Desert.
Ser This is peculiarly felt at Hebron where
the travellers have visited Sinai, or
ca frequently Petra also, since leaving Egypt
for The Quarantine Authorities could only
ore reply to my enquiries ^{on this point} that as their orders
ine from Constantinople ordain seven days
Pas for every arrival from Egypt, their only
the duty is to obey the rule - And the
reason given to them by their Superiors
is, that the Desert ought to be
the regarded as in a state of suspicion
the on account of the constant travelling of
ma Arabs between the two countries.
it

I have no reason to believe that our
ans travellers are subjected to unnecessary
exe vexation or excessive charges by these
hor establishments at Gaza and Hebron.

Arriving thence in Jerusalem they
dis produce at the gate a certificate from
in the Lazaretto where they have passed
their Quarantine

In

2
In each of the Ports of Sidon, Sur. 465
Acre and Caiffa, there is a person
appointed to receive such certificates
from Ships arriving there, and if these
are not found satisfactory, to pass
them on to perform Quarantine at
Beypoot or Jaffa -

During my three years' residence
in Palestine, I have had no opportunity
of judging from personal experience as
to the utility or the contrary of Quarantine
institutions - But I cannot wonder
at a joint party of English and
Americans now in Jerusalem having
felt annoyed by a detention in Hebron
like all others, after more than
thirty days absence in the Desert
from Egypt which is declared clean

Wm. Palmerston
S. C. B.

I have the honor to be
My Lord

with the highest respect
Your Lordship's
most obed^t humble servant

(Signed)

J. Fenn

Jerusalem

19 May 1849

Copy

No 24

My Lord.

I have the honor to report that I have recently been requested to establish Agents both in Gaza and Nablus for the protection and assistance of the numerous English Travellers who pass through those towns.

But I have constantly replied that I believe it is not the wish of Her Majesty's Government to multiply such Agents; — and when applied to by persons of sufficient consequence I have assigned one or more of the following reasons according to circumstances.

1. There is really no commerce in those places

Wm^l Palmerton
S. C. B.

1849

Enclosure 1

in No 19

from Jerusalem

about 1847
Packet Office

Copy of No 23
to Wm^l Palmerton
in Enclosure