

Enclosure 2 in
Despatch No 10 of
June 1861

598

Copy

The General
and Sir John Russell
(Circular 1125)
Jerusalem April 12. 1861

Copy

Political
No 10

Near Jaffa
April 12. 1861

My Lord.

I have the honor to report that the
French party who came up to Jerusalem
for Easter, amounted to 35 Military
Officers, with 50 Privates, and 15 Naval
Officers including the Commodore M.
Lagrangiere.

On Good Friday morning during the
representation of the crucifixion of the
image, and the French sermon on Calvary

Right Honorable
Lord John Russell

(as

(as on that day it is customary to preach several sermons in separate languages) the preacher concluded by a fervent appeal, extending his arms to the figure on the cross, invoking a blessing on the "chère patrie" of France, and her glorious hosts, especially in this country.

All the Roman Catholics present, not French, were taken by surprise, and shocked, more especially when the above was applauded by the French General (Ducrot) the Consul, and M. Ferdinand de Leseps, clapping their hands as at a

theatrical exhibition.

On Easter Sunday all the party had their swords blessed at the Sepulchre as well as the rosaries and other curiosities purchased in the streets, after which the objects were laid on the high altar of the Latin Chapel adjoining, and the Patriarch delivered to the General, his sword from among the rest.

The religiously minded natives were shocked at the levity and insolence of the French soldiery on those occasions, and it was remarked that when the

French Councillors presented the
Military Patha to the General, the
latter purposely turned his back upon
him without even speaking to him.

There was a large company, or
Caravan commonly so called, of French
Clergy and Laity, present in Jerusalem
at the same time. - among whom
were two remarkable members of the
Jesuit order, named Gargarin and
Balabine, the former a Russian prince
- the other a brother of the Russian
Ambassador at Vienna - both converts
to the Roman Catholic religion - the
former

former of these preached the Russian
sermon on Good Friday.

I have the honor &c

(Signed) James Finn

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Enclom 3^m
Dispatch No 10 of
June 1861

The General
to Lord John Russell
Political No 10
June 1861
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Copy
Political
No 12

My Lord.

Near Jaffa
April 12. 1861

I have the honor to report, as
learned from the temporary holder of
the Vice Consulate of Caiffa, himself
a Maronite, and therefore favorable
to the French, that on the recent
progress of the French military party
from Caiffa overland to Lincalun,
they summoned to meet them,

Skili Aga, a noted character for some
years

Right Honorable
Lord John Russell
to do