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1861
Jerusalem Sept. 24
The Consul Rivie
No 30 - Jerusalem
Recd Oct. 10.
Sent by Revue. Pasha

Copy

Political
No 21.

Jerusalem
September 24. 1861

My Lord.

I have the honor to report
that a few days ago H. E. Suraya
Pasha informed my Dragoman
that he had sent in to
Constantinople, his resignation of
office.

Right Honourable
Earl Russell
H. H. H.

Two

Two days before this he had
dispatched a military expedition
of 200 Bashi Bozuks, with ten
men of the regular infantry, and
a few officers, besides a couple
of civilians to the town of Kerak
beyond Jordan - a step which
the Turks have hitherto considered
it very hazardous to take,
inasmuch as Ibrahim Pasha had
had a large Egyptian army cut

off in that district -

But when H. E. came to my
house to consult me on the
subject, I encouraged the expedition
- inasmuch as circumstances are
widely different now from what
they were at the time above
referred to - The whole country
was then in insurrection against
the Egyptians, and in favour of the
Sultan, as lawful Caliph: and
now no Moslem here would dream

of resisting his authority openly.

I represented to the Pasha the fact of all the rest of the country being now subdued and disarmed - the local government being well supported by European Consuls - and the happy prestige of a new Sultan enjoying a reputation for vigour of action.

On the other hand - the Pasha argued the delicate management required in such matters, seeing
that

that the town of Berak has a mixed population of a few Christians and many Mohammedans -

Perhaps - he said - on hearing of the advance of a military force, the latter might rise up and destroy the former - Or perhaps they might send me a public threat that they would do so - and then, as a large party of French naval officers

Right Honourable
Earl Russell

and

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and Seamen were at the time
in Jerusalem, these latter might
take a march to Terak for
protection of the Christians, and
lodge themselves there permanently
- being that they have already
declared to the world, that next
time they come into this country,
on such an errand, they will
do so unfettered by any alliance
On consideration of the whole

subject, I still counselled the
sending of the expedition.

The 220 men however were
delayed a few days beyond the
appointed time for starting, owing
to the difficulty experienced in
impressing sufficient animals of
burden from the peasantry for their
use.

The Pasha proposed to move down
to Kiricho with 200 of the regulars
to act as a demonstration in
moral support of the party now

gone on - but I do not perceive
any preparations for such a journey.

The reason assigned by His Excellency
for the expedition did not seem to
me weighty enough to justify the
proceeding - he had only to
complain of three or four of the
Kerak people having been wounded
or killed (he did not know which)
in a squabble for the right of being
the first party, Moslems or Christians

to

to show hospitality to some
Bedaween visitors.

It is true however that Kerak
is very deep in arrears of paying
their Sher taxes - and the town
is always considered nominally
as belonging to this Pashalic.

I have the honour to be
Yours &c

(Signed) James Fergusson

Right Honourable
Earl Russell

Yours &c

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Enclosure in No 30
of Jerusalem 1861

1407

Copy

Sept 24. 1861

Mr General Sir
Earl Russell

No 31

Jerusalem

October 21. 1861

Sir.

I have the honour to forward to
Your Excellency, Copy of my Despatch
Political 22 to London, of this date
respecting the expedition to Kerak.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your Excellency
Right Honourable
Sir W. L. Russell G. C. B.

&c. &c.

with