

Jerusalem

November 18 1853.

My Lord

I have the honor to report that on the 3^d instant His Lordship our Bishop sent me an official complaint that his school house at Nablus had been entered by persons of the Greek religion in that town, who beat the native Protestants assembled there for prayers, and drove them out of the premises.

I sent my Dragoman together with the Dragoman of His Lordship to our Pasha to represent the case and we obtained a letter for the Governor of Nablus. The former of the two rode off that night to see the case properly investigated

Wm. G. C. D. he

Copy

Political
No 28th

Jerusalem Nov 22

The Consul Sir

No 41 - 13th DecRec^d I

The Consul

My Lordship

in return

Rec^d in Nablus -
asking for removal of
the Greek - and
Royal Order for a
Protestant place of
worship there.

On arriving there he found the
Dewanli Governor who has been
recently established utterly helpless
for he has only 19 of the petty
police with him for governing that
troubled mountain district which of
late years could scarcely be kept
quiet by a ruthless military Basha
with a regiment of cavalry, half a
dozen pieces of artillery, and a large
number of irregular horse.

On that day the Mueftis (Council)
was fully occupied with the business
of the Sultan's conscription. Next day
came an agent of the Greek Consul
named Nephon who immediately spent
10,000 Piasters (or £100) among the members
of the Council - and the Governor
refused to summon a meeting that
day under the pretext of its being
Friday, or Public prayer day.

When they met on Saturday,
the Muefti silenced all discussion and

on his giving a signal the room was
quickly surrounded by a riotous mob,
who for the most part "far from
knowing why they were called together
thought it was to get up an excitement
against the Greek Church in the town,
and accordingly vociferated as to the
necessity of destroying Christian Churches,
or at least of diminishing their privileges
and lowering their doors and windows
- They shouted out, "Look at the Dragoman
sitting on a chair. Kill him - Kill him.
Did you ever see a Christian like that
before?" - And the Muefti drew
up a Fetwa, or a legal decree that
it is against the honor of the Moslem
religion to permit Christian Churches to
be erected, but only to tolerate such
as were found in the country at the
time of the Mohammedan Conquest -
he also reiterated orally, that the
Protestants should not be allowed to

worship in any place of general meeting,
and even in their own houses not above
three together, and then in a subdued
voice.

The next day being Sunday the
Dragoman (himself a native Protestant
from Damascus but educated in
England and France) attended public
prayers with the rest in the house of
one of the Protestants - not in the
school room - Then returned on the
morrow to Jerusalem.

On learning the tidings I proceeded
to the Pasha whom I found very ill,
chiefly from the infirmities of his
advanced age - I complained of the
violence of the Mufti the threats of
the crowd to kill my official
Dragoman - requested a copy of the
Fetwah and demanded that the Mufti
with a certain Sheikh Shehadeh be
brought to Jerusalem to answer for
their resistance to the gracious Edicts

of His Majesty the Sultan in favor of his
Protestant Subjects

The Pasha refused to do any thing till
he should receive an answer to the letter
which the Dragoman had taken to Nablus
about the original beating - There had
been already an abundance of time for that
answer to be received here, but still
his Government persisted in the refusal and
I have not yet heard that an answer
has arrived.

That was Tuesday, and I wrote by the
Turkish post of Wednesday to the Vice
Consul in Caiffa requesting him to be
present on the ensuing Sunday (13th Inst.)
at the Bishop's school in Nablus to
protect the native Protestants if they
should meet there for prayers - and
I addressed letters to the heads of the
leading families of Nablus appealing
to their good sense and past friendliness,
requesting their assistance in dissuading
the

Honorable
Earl of Clarendon
G. C. B. &c.

the people from measures hostile to the will of His Majesty the Sultan.

The Agent of the Church Missionary Society (Mr. Chł. Sandreczyki) left Jerusalem to escort the Rev. F. A. Klein and Lady Michie on the way to Nazareth. They took with them a certified copy of the Sultan's Firman, in behalf of Turkish Subjects being Protestants.

The Vice Consul by a long forced march reached Nablus in one day, viz. Saturday.

The next morning he sent notice to the Governor, that the native Protestants were about were about to hold Divine Service in the School room. The Governor advised them not to do so, and sent for the headman of that community to whom he read a letter from the Pasha of Jerusalem warning him not to allow the Protestants to have a special room

for worship without a vizirial order from Constantinople.

Divine Service was however performed in the School room, and also in the afternoon in a private house where the rite of baptism was administered to an infant.

Next day a Council was held. The Governor refused to produce the Pasha's order, but the Vice Consul has been informed by persons of the town that it is dated several days after the first riot.

And so the matter stands at present. The Protestants of Nablus have been advised by Mr. Sandreczyki not to meet again for prayer in the School room until a vizirial order be obtained, in compliance with the Sultan's Firman which fully allows them to have stated places of worship.

And His Lordship the Bishop is about to apply for this to the Embassy in Constantinople to which I shall of course report all the above occurrences.

I should add that the fanatical Mufti of Nablus is not a learned man, and is considered a plebeian parvenu among the old Arab families of that town - At the same time a really learned man is living there whose ancestors for several generations have been Muftis of Nablus - and he is a good friend to the Protestants. I intend to recommend him to that office instead of the present man.

I have the honor to be

My Lord

With the highest respect

Your Lordship's

most obedient humble Servant

(Signed) J. Finn

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 Rt. Honorable
 Earl of Clarendon
 Secy. G.C.B. &c

Jerusalem.

Nov. 23. 1853

No 42

My Lord.

I have the honor to enclose
Copy of the Fetwah of Nablus.
referred to in my Despatch No 41.

Having only just received it
I regret that I cannot get it
translated before the departure of
the Post.

I understand that the Mufti
Excell^{ty} (Ahmed Effendi) now declares
for Hon^{ble} Mr
and Stratford de Redcliffe
G.C.B. &c that

to the Commission

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Nov. 18. 1853

Copy.

Preservation of
Protestants
in Nablus

Enclosure in No 41

1853.

from Mr. (Mait) King