

No 33

Jerusalem

October 22. 1853

My Lord

I have the honor to report that the hostile attitude of Abu Gosh and Osman Lekhama continued notwithstanding the remonstrances of Mr. Botta and myself until the 13th Instant when we suddenly learned that another truce had been made orally for twenty days - That again has been broken by the Ziyahat

His Excellency
 The Hon^{ble} Lord Stratford de Redcliffe
 Sec^y &c

and

Dated Oct. 13. 1853

Oby

Enclosure in No 32
 of 1853
 from Mr Consul Pasha

and Tauri Arabs occupying
Bethlehem in force of about a
thousand horse and foot, and
four days ago sending a letter to
Abu Gosh to say they were ready
to support him and the Turkish
Government against Osman Lekham

A skirmish took place the day
before yesterday over the ground
between Bethlehem and Bait Lala
in which six lives were lost.

But the light in which the
Liyahab placed the matter of
their return, namely that of
assisting Abu Gosh and the Turkish
Government, coincides with the

accusations which I made to
Hafiz Pasha himself on the 13th Instant
that he had fed the Arabs, had
sold gunpowder, and offered the
use of a piece of cannon to Abu Gosh

That letter has not been
answered, but on the contrary, the
Diwan Effendi has told my Dragoman
that he did not intend to answer
it. - he said - "Let the Consul write
what he will to Constantinople, the
Embassy is now too busy to help him."

I rode to Bethlehem to day in
company with Major General Sir Charles
O'Donnell, and on the road we met
a large body of horse and foot.

526
well, but variously armed,
consisting of the peasant partisans
of Abu Gosh, the Taamri and
Tiyahah Arabs, with flank scouts
thrown out from the main body
on the march. I reckoned them
at between seven and eight
hundred, about half being well
mounted, the rest on foot - but
Sir Charles rates their number
higher. They were officered by the
Arab Shaikhs, and by three members
of the Abu Gosh family, including
Hadj Mustafa the responsible person
to Government. They saluted me
civilly.

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527
The meaning of this proceeding
is that the Pasha had three days
ago ordered the Arabs to evacuate
Bethlehem in three hours, but they
were only then leaving that town.
(Having in the interval fought the
before mentioned battle). - and
instead of obeying the order to
retire southwards toward Hebron
they were making a demonstration
by passing before Jerusalem northwards
to the villages of Abu Gosh near
the city itself.

In Bethlehem we found the
St. George's Convent had been barricaded
and Stratford de Redcliffe
S.C.B. &c. within

within, during the days of the
last occupation of the town by the
Bedaween -

I beg leave to represent
to Your Excellency that there are
but about three men in Jerusalem
who do not look upon Abu Gosh
as the instigator of all the
dispensions, and as being particularly
in fault with respect to the
banishment of the numerous
families from Ain Karim - but
those three men are highly paid
with bribes.

M. Botta coincides in my
opinion, and expresses it strongly.

A clever member of the family
of Abu Gosh, named Besheer, is
constantly visiting and spying
about from house to house in
Jerusalem, and keeping up a
correspondence with his village -

Hadj Mustafa the leader of the
family returned unexpectedly in
the summer of 1851, from his
Exile of five years. - Since that
time he has behaved tolerably
well, until Europeans have been
smiled at the idea of Abu Gosh
being a terror to travellers in

the time of Chateaubriand and Lamartine, by demanding toll on the road from Jaffa by force of arms: but so much has that family risen of late into importance that it appears, they have only ceased to be highwaymen in order to rule over large districts and keep up perpetual warfare.

The head of the family is paid £400 annually by the Government for keeping his part of the Jaffa road in safety, besides immunities of villages without taxes, but of the latter the Pasha knows nothing
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Yet robberies have been frequent of late, and particularly one has recently occurred within his extent of the road.

His village and home is Kuriat el Anab, by the highway side, at less than three hours from Jerusalem.

In conclusion I have to represent strongly that I feel it absolutely necessary for the peace of the country to punish Hadj Mustafa Abu Gosh once more with at least Exile, and to send another Pasha to Jerusalem as
Excell^{ts} Hon^{ble} d. Stratford de Redcliffe
S.C.B. &c
speedily

528
Speedily as possible.

In various matters, I obtain
no redress from Hafiz Pasha - my
letters to him remain unanswered
- for his memory is greatly failing
and he is the more agent of the
people about him, who are
receiving bribes to a considerable
amount.

The Battalion expected from
Aleppo has not yet arrived in
Jerusalem.

It is a matter of much
satisfaction that the districts of

530
Nablus and Hebron remain quiet.

I have the honor to be

My Lord
with the highest respect

Yours Lordships

Most obedient

humble servant

J. Fenn.

No 34

Jerusalem

October 23. 1853

10 o'clock AM.

My Lord.

I have the honor to inform
Your Lordship that six companies
of Infantry, i.e. six hundred men,
have just arrived in Jerusalem
from Aleppo

I have the honor to be
My Lord

Excellent
Honble

and Stratford de Redcliffe
GCB. &c.

The Consul General

No 33.

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State of the country
- necessity for clearing
the fields of Jerusalem
and for purchasing
the yoke