

No 17

Sir.

Jerusalem

2 May 1848

I have the honor to report to
 Your Excellency that after the
 disturbance in the Church of the
 Holy Sepulchre on Easter Eve, in
 beating the Jews who had imprudently
 entered there - The Prussian Acting
 Consul here informed me that he
 had been told by the Pasha, and
 also by the Greek Patriarch, that
 a Firman exists, which allows
 Christians to beat Jews if found
 within that Church, or even if passing
 along the street in front of it -
 and which declares that in case of

Your Excellency
 to S. Canning

a Jew being killed under such an infliction, the price of blood should be rated at only ten paras - value about three farthings.

When told of this I recollected indistinctly having heard some such tale long ago, and I wrote to the Pasha a note, of which Enclosure 1 is a Translation.

The next morning His Excellency sent me an Answer, of which Enclosure 2 is a Translation - explaining that he had only repeated a rumour common among Latins, Greeks, and Armenians: but of the truth of which he had no knowledge.

As the mere publication of such a rumour by the Heads of those Communities might occasion mischief, I have thought it my

duty to beg of Your Excellency to enquire in Constantinople if such a Firmian is known there to be in existence - and whether in case of such being the fact, such a document could remain in force, in opposition to the tolerant and humane Declarations of His Majesty the present Sultan on several occasions.

I have now before me a Public Order issued by Mehemmed the last Pasha of Jerusalem, in which he refers to the practice as an old custom - but forbids Christians themselves to beat the trespassers - commanding that these should be brought before him for punishment.

This, together with the good conduct of the present Pasha in the

same matter last week, seems
at least to imply that the
Latins, Greeks, and Armenians,
have no such a right to maintain
— Else they might have protested
against a Pasha's interference.

I have the honor to be
Sir
with the greatest respect
Your Excellency's
most obed^t humble servant
J. Finn.

No 18.

Jerusalem

5 May 1848

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose for
Your Excellency, Copies of my
Despatches 17 and 20 to
Viscount Palmerston.

I have the honor to be
Sir
with the greatest respect
Your Excellency's
most obedient humble Servant
J. Foss

His Exc^{cy}
Sir P. Canning

1848

Jerusalem 2 May

Mr Consul Foss

2 Books - No 17.

Rec^d

Beginning concerning
a Pension for visiting
Jews at the Church of
St Mary Sepulchre

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