

Copy
No 46
My Lord.

Hebron 5 Sept. 1849

I have the honor to report that a Firman from Constantinople having recently appointed the second Rabbi of Jerusalem Coadjutor to the Chief Rabbi: by which the latter is relieved from the burden of secular matters, a conflict of interests and parties has thereby ensued, very grievous to the friends of peace and concord, and to the interests of the Jewish people.

On the 29th ult. the Chief Rabbi had made up his mind to forsake Jerusalem, and reside in Jaffa - but as this would have been tantamount

Vice^t Palmestine
G. C. B.

Copy of the Great Firm
to His Excellency
Viscount Palmerston

Dated Hebron 4 Sept. 1849

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as +

Greek Patriarch's
consent & schools
established by the
English Mission -

Indemnity 2 in the
Great Firm: No 31
11 Sept 1849

tantamount to resigning his office
- according to the Canon. "Out of Zion
shall go forth the Law" - and not
from other places. - The people
assembled tumultuously in their
synagogues during the night to
prevent his departure: when others
came in and beat them with sticks.

In the morning the Chief Rabbi
wished to imprison the beaters - this
produced so much confusion that
I was called on to intercede between
the two parties - I accordingly
visited both, and obtained as a
favor that the beaters should not
be placed in a Turkish prison: but
as the Chief Rabbi would not consent
to pardon the outrages made in a
place of divine worship, where the
Law and the ten commandments are
kept, he had about twenty out of

544
about a hundred of the offenders
brought before him and he beat
them with his own hands -

The dispute however concerning
the Firman, and its separation of
authority, runs as high as ever.

The Chief Rabbi complains of the
insult offered to his dignity
without his previous knowledge
and acquiescence: and of the
probable dishonest means by which
it was brought about - especially
of the likelihood that the Firman
was known in Jerusalem, if not
received, while Sir Moses Montefiore
was there - but purposely kept
back till his departure.

The Chief Rabbi says that he
never sought to obtain his elevation
and that he is able to live very

peaceably without it: but that
while he does hold the office, he is
unwilling to be disgraced before
all the Jews in the world - He
accordingly considers that until he
obtains a reply from Constantinople
to certain enquiries in the matter
the document ought for the sake
of his office to be deposited with
him, because there is no possibility
of his dealing unfairly with the
document, as it is already registered
in the Turkish Mahhkamah.

The other party have argued that
as the second Rabbi has received
this honour undivided, no man
has a right to require him to
make any other use of the document
than to keep it, and fulfil its
obligations - and that the document
having

having been sanctioned by the ⁵⁴⁵
Turkish Court as genuine, the
Chief Rabbi has no right to
investigate further concerning it.

During my attempts at reconciliation
I heard sentiments uttered in the
house of the Second Rabbi, by a crowd
of Rabbis of his faction, which
convinced me that peace is for the
present but a very distant
expectation - and that these people
are doing what they can to drive
the Chief Rabbi to angry and violent
acts.

The Chief Rabbi was elected less
than two years ago in consideration
of his profound learning, but it
seems probable that he has not
proved to possess much of habits of
worldly business -

His opponents are rich, (comparatively speaking) learned, all very talented, ambitious, united, and numerous. among them I believe the third Rabbi (Minkhas) to be more ambitious and crafty than the second.

I have the honor to be
My Lord,
with the highest respect
Your Lordship's
most obed^t. humble servant
(Signed) J. Finis

No 32

Jerusalem

3 October 1849

Sir.

I have the honor to enclose
for Your Excellency, Copies of my
Despatches numbered 51 and 52,
addressed to Viscount Palmerston.

I have the honor to be
Sir
with the highest respect
Your Excellency's
most obedt. humble servant.

J. Fium

Rt Hon^{ble}.His Excellency Sir L. Canning
S. C. W.

Separate copy
of the General Order
to Vis^{ts} & Palmerston

Dated Hohen 5 Sept. 1849

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The second Ralli
appointed Captain &
the Chief Ralli -
Discord in consequence

Enclosure 3 in the
General Order No. 31
11 Sept. 1849