

1907.

Jerusalem,
October 16, 1907.

Consul Blech,
No. 51.

Last Paper.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

TURKEY

No.

Received by post.

(Subject.)

Home for Nurses in Jerusalem.
Furnishing observations respecting
Bishop Blyth's application for a firman
to erect -

(Minutes.)

Dragomanate to support
Mr
See Mr. Ryan's memo No. 3 of Jan. 10, 1908.

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219

237

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No. 51.

Jerusalem,

October 16, 1907.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 11th instant calling on me to furnish observations on the request addressed by Bishop Blyth to His Majesty's - Principal Secretary of State that application may be made for a firman for the "St. Helena's Home for Nurses."

In reply I have the honour to report that, as stated by the Bishop, it is proposed to build the home upon the property known as St. George's Estate on which St. George's College, the Church - and the Bishop's residence already stand. A firman dated Rejib 13, 1311 (about February 1894)

Encl. despatch of
Feb. 15, 1894.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable,

Sir N. R. O'Connor, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.,

cc.

cc.

cc.

was issued allowing the construction, upon the land in question, of a residence for the Bishop, a small Church, and a house for the Bishop's assistant clergy. The firman lays down the exact dimensions of each of the proposed buildings, but I am not aware that these dimensions have been strictly adhered to, and the Bishop is at the present time engaged in carrying out a considerable addition to the Church, for which no authorisation has been obtained. It is stated in the firman that the Local Authorities had reported that there was no objection to the construction of the buildings mentioned, and I can affirm confidently that if your Excellency causes application to be made for a firman for the St. Helena's Home, no difficulties will be raised on topographical grounds. The utility of such an institution is dwelt on so thoroughly in the Bishop's letter that it is unnecessary for me to add anything on this score. But your Excellency is aware that the Authorities are not as a rule —
favourably

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favourably disposed to the erection of new institutions of a religious or quasi-religious character, and I hardly think that Moslems are inclined to view with a favourable eye the visits of — Christian nurses to their womenkind. However, when the matter is referred from Constantinople for a report, I shall do my best to see that the Mazbata which the Administration Council draws up on the subject is couched in terms as favourable as possible. Bishop Blyth, with whom I have been in communication on the subject, was of opinion that it might be well to consult the Mutessarif beforehand and obtain from him definite answer stating — either that no objection existed, or else the nature of the objections. I hardly think, however, that this is a practical suggestion. Ekrem Bey would, I think, either decline to give an answer or else would reply that so far as he was aware no objection existed, which reply would not prevent him from finding objections later on when the actual application

application came to be made.

I have the honour to return herewith
the papers inclosed in your Excellency's despatch
under reply.

I have the honour to be,

With the greatest respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's

most obedient,

humble servant,

E. C. Blech-