

Her Majesty's Consulate

Jerusalem March 6<sup>th</sup> 1873

N<sup>o</sup> 4

sent Home as Political  
N<sup>o</sup> 3 of same date.

Sir

In my despatch N<sup>o</sup> 3, of the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1869, I reported the burning of the Tapestry in the Grotto of the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, and the contention which had arisen between the Latins and Greeks as to the right of replacing the same. Since that period no final decision had been come to on the point, although a piece of Tapestry had been received a year ago from France for the purpose, with respect to which the instructions of the Porte were to place it if the Greeks and Armenians could be induced to consent, which, as was to be expected, they did not. Last week the Latins cut short the dispute

His Excellency The Right Honourable

Sir Henry Elliot G. C. B.

H. His Ambassador Extraordinary

Constantinople

Admiral

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by an unauthorised proceeding. Having quietly prepared everything beforehand they, during the night of Friday last, put up new hangings of their own. On the following morning, the Greeks were amazed to perceive this, and of course at once protested and appealed to the Governor of Jerusalem, who formally called upon the French Consul to cause the tapestry to be removed.

The French Consul professes to blame the Latin Clergy for this proceeding and has engaged to require them to take away the tapestry if that received from France is immediately fixed in its place. In the meanwhile the Latins evince a determination to resist any attempt at the removal of the hangings they have placed, from whatever quarter, by active hostilities.

The Governor has limited himself to strengthening the military force at Bethlehém and posting troops in the Church <sup>and</sup> sentries at the door of the Grotto,

with orders to bar the entrance to all comers, and referring to Constantinople for instructions.

There can be no doubt that the Latins have taken advantage, to effect this coup-de-main, of the breach between the Greek Clergy and the Russian Agents consequent upon the late dispute concerning the ex-Patriarch Nyrilos and the defeat sustained by Russian policy on that occasion, and as a set-off for their own discomfiture in the matters of the Armenian Church of St. James and the Church of St. George at Lydda.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your Excellency's

Most obedient

Humble servant

Northampton Moore

Her Majesty's Consulate  
Jerusalem, March 21<sup>st</sup> 1873

N<sup>o</sup> 5  
sent Home as Political  
N<sup>o</sup> 3, of same date

Sir

In continuation of my despatch, N<sup>o</sup> 4, of the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant, I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that pursuant to instructions transmitted by the Porte, the Tapestry sent from France has been definitively placed in the Grotto of the Nativity, in the presence of the Governor of Jerusalem, the French Consul, and representatives of the Latin Clergy, in lieu of that put up by the latter.

It would not be surprising, if this covering should some day be found burnt.

The Greek lay Community have withheld all support and sympathy from their

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H. M. Ambassador Extraordinary  
Constantinople

Jerusalem - March 8<sup>th</sup>  
Comte Morel  
N<sup>o</sup> 4.  
Recd N<sup>o</sup> 4.  
by Post.  
H. M. Ambassador  
proceedings of the Latin  
I should be glad to  
know what the Porte has  
heard of their intention to  
carry out the proposed  
March 19<sup>th</sup> 1873.  
The Porte has now received  
intelligence  
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in selling them from Germany,  
but which had been in  
much expectation. The  
the first statement. The  
advice sent to the Municipality  
of that place, said the  
Grand Vicar, are to be  
endorsements to conciliate  
the parties and settle  
the differences impartially  
and without exciting  
feeling on either side.  
The Porte is convinced  
that the principal matter  
in the conflict is the  
March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1873.  
H. M.