61 Jer.

Jerusalem. 191

October 23. 1905

No. 45

"Confidential"

Sir,

With reference to my telegrams of today's date I have the honour to report to Your Excellency that the Abyssinian General Michachia, who had been staying in this City for over two months, left on the 17th instant and embarked at Jaffa on the 20th instant on the Austrian Steamer "Aglaja" for Beirut, where he took the French Messageries steamer "Equateur" for

His Excellency
The Right Honble
Sir N. O'Conor G.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

for Constantinople.

As was already stated in my Despatch to Your Excellency No 35 of the 21st of August last, General Michachia intends to again bring forward the claim of the Abyssinians to the ancient building contiguous to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and now in possession of the Copts, called "Deir-el-Sultan", and hopes that by the production of further testimony in support of this claim he may eventually obtain a decision in favour of the Abyssineans. He accordingly proceeds to Constantinople to state his case to the Sublime Porte.

On arriving in Jerusalem General

Michachia

Michachia was accompanied by twelve little black boys - negroes from Central Africa - who it was reported were slaves and eunuchs, but on my making inquiries of some of the members of the General's suite I was informed that they had been slaves who were captured by the Abyssineans from a slave-raider, but were brought to Jerusalem in order to be educated in one of the French Missionary Schools.

On General Michachia's departure, however, I ascertained that nine of the negro lads referred to left with him, and further that on their arrival at Beirut on the 21st instant they reembarked with the General in the French Messageries steamer, which sailed from that port on the same

day

day and would reach Constantinople on the 25th instant.

It is reported here that the object of General Mischachin in taking these negro boys to Constantinople is to present them as a gift to the Palace officials if not to the Sultan himself.

I have the honour to be
With the highest respect
Sir
Your Excellency's most obedient
Humble servant.
John Dickson

Jerusalem Oct 25th
Consul Dickson
No. 45 Confl.
Recd
By Post 7 Nov
Ref. to Telegram of 21st inst
Movements of General Mischachin
reporting his having taken
to Constantinople some negro boys.
[illegible]
Copy to Cairo
[illegible]
Seen
[illegible]
62 Jer.

Jerusalem 333
October 28 1905

No 46

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Despatch of the 24th ultimo transmitting copy of a letter which the Baptist Missionary Society had addressed to the Marquess of Lansdowne relative to the statement made by one J. S. Hovil that a Baptist publication had charged the Turkish Tribunals with having condemned a native Protestant at Kerak to be burnt alive

and

His Excellency
The Right Honble
Sir N. O'Conor G.C.B.
&c &c &c