

Copy
Political
No 25

Jerusalem

Oct. 28. 1853

My Lord.

I have the honor to report that since my last Despatch, the truce between the village belligerents has been broken, and again orally renewed. In consequence of this unsettled state of the country, the periodical agricultural operations have greatly suffered, and we may expect a scarcity of supply next year, as well as considerable detriment to the Sultan's revenue.

Yours
Dering

How Mr
Earl of Clarendon
G. C. B. &c

The General's Office

No 35 2 Encls

Rec'd

During the second week of this month several lives were lost in the quarrels between Abu Basma and Malkhal.

The Bedaween Arabs have not retired from the country, but occasionally appear as allies of Abu Gosh. The Pasha has given them arms and drapery, and allowed them to make in his own presence, on condition of not plundering the village in the south - they left his presence, and went to plunder those very districts. - At last they occupied Bethlehem for nearly a fortnight, and lived there at free quarters: being joined by the proximity of Abu Gosh's interest (the Beni Malik).

they made up a force of about a thousand men: and on the 21st Oct. attacked the neighbouring village of Beit Sela, in which Osman had taken up his head quarters - Some lives were lost on each side, but they were driven back into Bethlehem.

The Ganim of Bethlehem were besieged inside for about a week.

I took occasion to address the Pasha in writing on the subject, informing him of the rumours I had heard from good authority, that he had allowed a maintenance for the Arabs while in this neighbourhood, had given a written licence to Abu Gosh to purchase gunpowder, and had even fired him the use of a piece of artillery from the Castle.

I promised to induce Osman once

more on the faith of an English word
"stronger than armies of soldiers" to
enter the city as he did before, if
an open and impartial investigation
were allowed him - and
remonstrated on the disgrace of having
not only the country infested by wild
Arabs, plundering on the road and
in villages, but even the streets of
Jerusalem occupied by them riding
with spears. — Adding that
a copy of my letter was to be sent
that day to Her Majesty's Embassy in
Constantinople.

No answer was given me, but
His Excellency's son in law, Nashed
the Divan Effendi told my
Dragoman, they did not intend to
answer it, for he said - "Let the
Consul write what he will, the
Embassy

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Embassy is too busy with other
matters to help him.

I have petitioned Her Majesty's
Embassy to request another Pasha
for Jerusalem: inasmuch as the
present Pasha, though probably a
good officer of the Ottoman Government
in former years, is now so old and
infected in intellect as to be
incapable of ruling the country at
the present time. — And have
represented in detail the conduct of
Abu Gosh as deserving of future
punishment, such as a continuation
of the five years' exile from which he
returned in 1851.

At Home
of Constantinople
SBCS
On the 19th Hafiz Pasha had
ordered the Arabs to evacuate
Bethlehem

Bethlehem in three hours and retire towards Gaza and Hebron. They remained three days, and within that time attacked Bait Sala as above mentioned - they only retired on the 22nd on hearing of the close approach of the Aleppo Battalion to the city.

On that day I was proceeding to Bethlehem with Major General Sir Charles O'Donnell, and we met the party approaching, consisting of Tiyahah and Taamiri Arabs with Beni Malik peasantry, altogether between 7 and 800: half of them well mounted, and all well armed. Sir Charles estimated their number higher than I have done - They marched in a body, but with a small

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party thrown out on each flank. The principal Shaikhs of each contingent were among them. They saluted us civilly - Then instead of proceeding Southwards, they went Northwards and passed in boastful procession by the walls of Jerusalem towards the capital of Abu Goli's district - and the Arabs still remain among his villages at a short distance from us, although the Battalion is arrived.

During the recent occurrences Poman had petitioned M. Botta (the French Consul) and myself, to interfere in his behalf - We have both made some efforts separately, but not being aided by the Pasha, who is jealous of foreign interference, and from our not acting in concert, we have not effected much in the matter.

I corresponded with both parties,
sending messages by my Dragoman
- and I refused the Chief of the Abu
Gosh family an interview, until those
families banished from Ain Karim
should be replaced.

I consulted with Mr. Botta -
but he made no advances to a
cooperation, he rather represented to
me the peculiar right he had to
interfere, inasmuch as the Latins have
a considerable Convent in Ain Karim.

We are both of the same mind as
to the merits of the business.

I have reason now to be satisfied
that no cooperation was adopted, for it
is become apparent that Mr. Botta has
an object of advantage to gain by his
intervention:

The

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The village of Bait Sala (which Osman
has lately made his head-quarters) is
peopled by Greek Christians who have a
Church and Priests of their own. - The
Latins have long desired to get a
posting in the village, and have on
various occasions purchased a few
converts, who however always relapsed
to their former communion -

A room which had formerly been
used for Latin Divine Service is now
partly fallen down, and there are no
Latin communicants in the village -
yet Mr. Botta and the Latin Patriarch
have resolved to reestablish their faith
there, and accordingly sent yesterday
two mule loads of pictures and church
furniture, with masons to Bait Sala.

The Greeks and their partisans in
the

the City Mejlis remonstrate, but Mr. Botta persists in his design, and the Patriarch is residing for a time in the village.

The people in that place are noted for frequently offering themselves and their church to new creeds. Since the establishment of the English Episcopate in Jerusalem they have several times applied to the Bishop to be made Protestants, but were not received.

Whatever efforts I have lately made for restoring peace between the contending factions, have been made simply for the preservation of public tranquility and safety: patronizing neither party, although believing that all the aggressions have come from the side of Abu Gosh.

I expect to be soon invited in writing by both parties to decide the dispute

for them.

The affair remains in suspense - The Pasha temporizing with both sides under a pretext of hearing what they have to say: meanwhile the agricultural season is advancing.

I have the honor
to be
Yours
J. Finn.

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Political
No 26

My Lord

Jerusalem

Oct. 28. 1853

I have the honor to report
that on the 23rd Instant, a Battalion
of Eight Companies of Infantry
arrived in Jerusalem from Aleppo
and Tarabulus - the general peace
and order of the City and Environs
are greatly improved in consequence

On the 26th His Government
Kafiz Pasha proclaimed by a crier
through the streets the fact of
declarative

From the
and of Jerusalem
Ry - G.C.B.

Dated Jerusalem
Oct 28. 1853

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Continued over the
state of the Country

Enclosure 1 in
Mr. P. M. Dehghani's
of Jerusalem Nov 1
1853