

Jerusalem, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1846  
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Sir,

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that almost all the British Travellers who have lately come into Palestine by way of the Egyptian Desert, have been stopped by the Arabs and compelled to pay the ghoffa. This old custom was entirely abolished by the Egyptian Government. It has now been revived by the Arabs on this frontier in consequence of the feebleness of the present Government of this Country. If the toll could be properly regulated, it might be considered a fair tribute to pay to the Arabs for a peaceable passage through their country - but, if it be left to the arbitrary arrangement of the Arabs, it will very soon become a system of plunder.

Your Excellency  
The Right Honourable  
Sir Stratford Canning G.C.B.

plunder, and extortion terminating  
eventually in serious disputes with  
Travellers, or in the entire abandon-  
ing of the route. The amount which  
Travellers have stated to me, they have  
been compelled to pay, has been various,  
in most cases trifling, - but in all  
cases, it has been peremptorily demand-  
ed, - under threats of violence in case  
of its being refused - In one case as  
much as six piastres were paid by a  
party of English, - which was an outrage -

Abu Goush has also attempt-  
ed to revive his claim to ghoffer  
between Ramla, and Jerusalem, at  
3 piastres per head on all persons who  
pass his Village, and attempts have  
been made to revive some of the old  
extortions practised on the Convents  
here - but hitherto without success -  
not so much from any disinclina-  
tion on the part of the Turkish Au-  
thorities, to restore the old abuses, - as

from

from fear of the consequences to which  
it might lead - in their relations -  
with European Governments - 289

I believe the Turks would rejoice to  
see the whole system of fanatical  
violence and abuse revived, regard-  
ing it as the only means by which  
their Authority in this Country can  
be maintained -

I have addressed His Excel-  
lency Hyder Pacha a note, on the  
subject of the ghoffer being demand-  
ed by the Arabs, of British Subjects;  
reminding him that it is the revival  
of a custom, which has long ceased  
to be recognised, and now therefore  
considered an abuse, and a violati-  
on committed by the Sultan's subjects  
on the property of Her Majesty's Sub-  
jects. - But I do not think the  
Turkish Government has the power  
to prevent it.

I have the honor to be,  
with the greatest respect,  
Sir,

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Sir,  
Your Excellency's  
Most obedient  
Humble Servant,  
A. Young

Postscript -

I must state to Your Excellency that Hyder Pacha has replied to me that he will give the matter his best attention, and write to the Governors of Gaza, and Hebron, to send for the Arab Sheiks, and require them to refund what has been taken, and to warn them that their proceedings in the matter of the Ghoffer has not the countenance of the Sultan's Government.

A. Young

Jerusalem, 1<sup>st</sup> April  
1841.

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Sir,

I have the honor to report  
to Your Excellency a case of interference  
with the British Consular Agent at  
Jaffa, on the part of the Consular Agents  
of other European Powers; which I think  
Your Excellency, no less than the Am-  
-bassadors of the several Governments  
whom these Agents represent, will dis-  
-approve of.

In the month of October,  
last year, my Agents, Messrs Blach and Co.  
of Beyrouit, sent to me a group by a  
boat to Jaffa, which was pilfered on the  
way.

On Mr Mudbrak's applying  
for the group, - it bore the marks of hav-  
-ing been opened, - and he consequently  
refused to receive it without the contents  
being counted in the presence of witnesses.

The

Your Excellency  
The Right Honorable  
Sir Stratford Canning G.C.B.  
Sir

Consular Agent  
Jaffa

1841

Recd. April 30. 5

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Aspirant de la Marine  
Armede en la Mediterranee  
Boulevard de la Marine  
Paris. J'ai l'honneur de vous  
remercier de votre lettre du 10  
mars.