

## BARBARY STATES.

## TUNIS.

*Mr. Perry to Mr. Seward.*

No. 58.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Tunis, December 7, 1864.*

SIR: I have had occasion in one of my despatches to speak of the support given to the cause of freedom, as opposed to slavery, by the official Arab journals of Tunis. In another despatch I spoke of a formal interview between an American slaveholder and one of the ministers of the Bey of Tunis, in which the former endeavored to impress upon the latter his ideas in regard to the advantages of slavery over free institutions. The Moslem minister of Barbary appreciated the zeal and eloquence of this propagandist of slavery, but having a practical knowledge of this institution, failed to be convinced by the arguments offered in its support.

Though piracy and slavery existed in this regency for centuries, they have disappeared with the advancing light of civilization. The former was abolished in 1816, when three thousand Christian captives (slaves) were released in one day; the latter was abolished in 1845, and on the 23d of January, 1846, Ahmed Bey, then upon the throne, addressed a letter to the resident consuls, in which he employed language to this effect: "We are all fellow-creatures of God, and as such have no right to enslave each other. I have long felt that human slavery is cruel, and have exerted myself for its eradication, and have given orders to my governors and deputies in all my provinces that no human being be henceforth recognized as a slave."

That the actual Bey entertains similar sentiments I have ample proof. During our interview with him, after some expressions on my part in favor of constitutional liberty, he replied: "I desire to extend the liberties of my subjects as fast as they are able to receive them;" and he closed his remarks by saying, as if for a delicate home thrust on me: "I see not how any just discrimination can be made in regard to these liberties on the ground of color or race; the privileges enjoyed should rather depend upon the intelligence and character of the subjects."

I now have the honor to lay before the department a more full, elaborate and authoritative statement of Tunisian sentiment in regard to the great question that agitates our country. It is a letter, already printed and circulated in the Arabic language, from one of the most respected and worthy men in this regency. It explains slavery from a Moslem point of view, quoting from the Koran and its acknowledged expounders, and showing from what motives the proclamation for the abolition of slavery was finally issued. In writing this letter, General Heussein, who has travelled extensively in Europe and is an accurate observer, had distinctly before him here the terrible evils consequent upon centuries of slavery. He saw here labor degraded by having been for so long a time regarded as the special and appropriate business of slaves; the public conscience deadened by familiarity with injustice and wrong; the principles of liberty uprooted, and supplanted by those of slavery, and the country impoverished to a fearful extent. With such a sad picture before him, he speaks his honest convictions as a Mussulman and as a man, and in the name of humanity exhorts Americans not to harbor an institution which produces such results.

This letter comes with the highest sanctions of the country, and the appeal which is made at the conclusion, to Americans, is but the utterance of a common

sentiment in this region. General Heussein's negro Bona, who was pounced upon at Paris by a chivalrous southerner, still serves as his confidential companion; and should the general visit America, as he hopes to do at the conclusion of our pro-slavery rebellion, the question is asked whether Bona would be protected in his rights as a gentleman in the grand opera saloons of America, as he was at Paris.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS PERRY.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

*Translation of a letter on Tunisian slavery, addressed to Mr. Amos Perry, consul of the United States of America at Tunis, first printed in the Arabic language and circulated in pamphlet form in the regency of Tunis by General Heussein, president of the municipal council of the city of Tunis and major general.*

DJOURMADA ETHANNIA, 1281 of the Hegira—(November, 1864, A. C.)

SIR: I have been honored with a letter from you in which you state, that coming from a country where liberty and slavery for a long time existed and flourished side by side, and where they are at present involved in a death struggle for supremacy, you find many facts in the history of Tunis calculated to throw light on the legitimate influence of these two antagonistic principles. You ask me to explain Tunisian slavery, and to state what influence it has exerted on our institutions, and whether our people regret its abolition or rejoice thereat. You further wish to know whether our experience is favorable to servile and unpaid labor, or to that which is free and paid, and which the Tunisian government prefers as the basis of its social fabric, freedom or slavery.

1. Here is my reply. And I will first speak of slavery as modified by our laws and of the causes which led to its abolition in this regency.

Our government, like all Mussulman governments, is a theocracy, and its administration is consequently based upon laws which are in their nature both civil and religious. The Mussulman religion tolerates or permits slavery; and this it does because slavery is an institution anterior to the three revealed religions, Mosaic, Christian, and Mohammedan. In the time of Jacob, the Israel of God, the robber was doomed to suffer slavery for one year as a punishment for his crime. Our religion substituted for the year of bondage cutting off the hand at the wrist. But it must be remarked that our religion authorizes slavery only on such conditions and under such laws as are very strict and difficult to be observed. One of these conditions is, never to injure or tyrannize over a slave. Nay, a slave who is ill-treated is declared thereby free. The words of the Prophets are: "Every slave ill-treated is free *ipso facto*." There are in our religious books innumerable precepts enjoining upon masters the exercise of benevolence toward their slaves; and the last words of our Prophet, on whom may the grace of God rest, were these: "I commend to you prayer and your slaves." He used to say also: "The men whom you possess are your brethren; it is God who has subjected them to you. Now he who has one of his brethren under his subjection should let him eat the bread of which he partakes, and should clothe him as he clothes himself, and should not over-work him." Oman Ben Alkatab, the second of the Califs, used to go every day where slaves were employed, and when he found any of them over-tasked, he diminished their tasks; nay, more, he went every Saturday to where beasts of burden were found, and if any of them appeared to him over-loaded, he ordered that their burdens be lightened.

It is a fact that our legislator infused into our laws the spirit of liberty, profiting from the least circumstance to favor personal freedom. Thus, if a master, by chance, let drop a word declaring one limb (for example, the arm) of his slave to be free, the law declares the whole body thereby freed from bondage. One of the eight objects for which expiatory alms are to be employed, as explained in the Koran, is the ransom of slaves. Thus we are bound to employ a part of our contributions for charity in purchasing slaves, with a view to their freedom. To be released from an oath inconsiderately taken, to atone for the crime of homicide and for the non-observance of a fast, and to be exonerated from the *izhar*,\* the freeing of slaves is the prescribed means. Now, if the freeing of slaves had not been regarded by our lawgiver as a meritorious act, he would not have devoted to it the expiatory offerings otherwise given to the poor. Another proof of the liberal tendency of our laws is the recompense offered

\* The *izhar* is the state into which a husband falls by the hasty utterance of a word, which, according to the Moslem law, makes it a sin for him longer to live with his wife. Thus, for instance, if he says to his wife in a fit of passion, "I shall not touch you any more; if I do may it be as I touch my mother or my sister," he must either divorce his wife, or, to live with her, must atone for that inconsiderate expression. By comparing his wife to his mother or his sister he loses his marital rights.

to those who free their slaves. Thus it is written: "If a Mussulman free a Mussulman slave, God shall redeem from the fire of hell as many limbs in the body of the former as there are in the body of the latter."

Now, since all these conditions and laws were difficult to be observed when our faith was yet lively and vigorous, how much more difficult must they be in these latter times, when our faith is chilled and our zeal repressed. And the enslavement of negroes, who are so different from the whites in their instincts and character, rendered the observance of these rules still more difficult. In fact, quarrels often occurred here between negroes and their masters, which had no other cause than the natural repugnance and antipathy that exist between the two races; and these quarrels were a source of unhappiness to slaves and of offence to masters, often giving occasion for the latter to violate the laws enacted for the well-being of the former.

Slavery becoming worse with time, at length attracted the attention of the Tunisian government, which finally advised, as a radical remedy for the existing evils, the complete abolition of slavery in the regency; for when a master could no longer treat his slave with the kindness prescribed by our laws, the slave had to be either sold or freed from bondage. The former course was scarcely a remedy; since the slave sold only changed masters, and the evil was likely to be repeated. The latter course was effectual and final, and hence its adoption by our government. The act of emancipation occurred in the month of Moharram, 1262 of the Hegira, (A. C. 1845,) during the reign of Ashmed Bey, of blessed memory. This prince addressed a letter to the religious tribunals on that occasion, in which he says: "It has been proved to us in a manner beyond question that our people are incapable of holding negroes as slaves in accordance with the conditions prescribed by our laws. We have, therefore, deemed it necessary, in order to ameliorate the condition of these unfortunate beings, to abolish slavery altogether. We have been influenced in adopting this measure by some political considerations," &c.

The political considerations here alluded to can be interpreted in different ways; but in my opinion our lamented sovereign had in mind the principles demonstrated by the great political economists of our age, that those countries where free labor exists, to the exclusion of that which is servile and forced, are thereby rendered more prosperous and happy. One of our distinguished writers and religious dignitaries, in a document issued to induce all those under his charge to comply with the requisitions of our late sovereign, employed the following language:

"O, generous souls, hearts full of compassion, your law is on the side of liberty; holding men as slaves is a misfortune and a disgrace; but God, who is the author of our being, can change the order of things, making slaves masters and masters slaves."

2. Another of your inquiries relates to the influence of slavery on our institutions and to the sentiments entertained by our people in regard to its abolition.

Since the holding of men in slavery was found to be neither necessary to supply the common wants of life, nor needful to the well-being of society, such a practice was, in general, abandoned here without pain, if not cheerfully; and now, after nearly twenty years of experience, I am satisfied that this change is not regretted. And why should persons well to do in life, who have at heart the well-being of their fellow-creatures and the improvement of their country, regret liberating their slaves, when they can have in their stead the service of free men? And here the satisfaction of such persons was enhanced by their religious convictions that they would be rewarded before God in the final abode. But if there were persons who at first were disturbed by the abolition of slavery on account of changes introduced in their mode of service, or by reason of their selfishness and avarice leading them to prefer what was present and near to what was future and remote, these persons were at length consoled and satisfied, learning by experience the advantages of free and paid labor over that which is servile and unpaid—advantages which are appreciable alike in the light of reason and of general experience. Those who had employed slaves and could not afford to employ free servants readily returned to the order of nature, which is the best, doing their work with their own hands, so as to have the least possible need of their fellow-creatures. Indeed, when a person gets used to being served by others, he often becomes incapable of performing even the simplest duties of life; for man is more a slave of custom and habit than a follower of instinct. To gratify various wants of his existence, he is obliged to depend somewhat upon those around him; but in proportion as he is thus dependent, it is difficult for him to be gratified, and those things for which he is most dependent on others are most difficult for him to get.

Mankind may be divided in respect to labor into four classes. The first class comprises those who attend to their own business in person, working, and in general putting forth their utmost efforts. They perform the largest amount of labor. The second class comprises those who are out at service and are paid stipulated wages. Not putting forth, in general, their utmost efforts, they perform a smaller amount of labor, and though invaluable to society, are as a whole inferior to the first class. The third class comprises those who work by compulsion and without pay. To this class belong slaves and bondmen. Their inducements to labor being small, their amount of service is also small, and their rank as a producing class is very inferior. The fourth class comprises those who work neither for themselves nor for other people. They are the lazy and idle, whom God hates. Regarding labor as the part of slaves

and slavish people, they would shun the very suspicion of belonging to such a class. Yet these persons, who stand lowest in the scale of the political economist and in the divine order, may not be lost beyond remedy. They may be benefited by seeing those of more intelligence and elevated station performing the offices which they regard with disdain. The idle and lazy need to be urged and encouraged by persons of influence and authority to pursue the path of usefulness. Man is more disposed by nature and the light of reason to love and do good than to approve and do evil. He is prompted to evil by his lower or animal instincts; but as a man, or rather as a reasonable being, he aspires to that which is good, and when he finds a physician skilful in overcoming the infirmities of his nature, he is put in the best moral condition. It is when men are thus treated and helped that general prosperity is secured; mutual assistance is afforded in the various occupations of life; all hands are employed for a common good; the sources of wealth are developed, and the country is enriched. It is thus that those countries are more prosperous where liberty exists to the exclusion of slavery, than where slavery exists to the injury of liberty and labor. The cause of this difference seems to me clear. The amount of labor voluntarily performed by free men is far greater than can be forced from wretched slaves, and is at the same time infinitely more satisfactory and advantageous to society.

3. It is my belief also that as liberty, unharmed by slavery, exerts an influence favorable to the material prosperity of a country, so it serves to elevate the character and sentiments of the people. There can be no permanent prosperity without justice, and justice results from freedom. If freedom be destroyed tyranny takes its place, disregarding the claims of justice and injuring the best interests of society. There can be no doubt that the prevalence of freedom tends to the elevation of the character of men, by leading them to reflect and reason in regard to general principles and their application in life. Men breathing the spirit of freedom are elevated and ennobled thereby, and are less likely to contract certain bad habits, such as vulgarity of manners, vanity, pride, and the like passions which often predominate in slave masters; for by habitually dealing with slaves these latter persons often become haughty in spirit and imperious and overbearing in manner. Nay, they often learn to regard other men, especially if they are black, as they regard their cattle. Slaves seem to them scarcely elevated above the brute creation.

In illustration of what I have here said, I will state an incident of which I was a witness. During the carnival of 1856, I went to the grand opera at Paris with a young negro. I had been in the saloon but a short time when an American gentleman sprang upon my companion, and, trying to seize him by his clothes, cried out with rage, "What is this negro doing in the saloon where we are? When has a slave ever been permitted to take rank with his masters?" The poor negro, not understanding what the American was saying, was astonished, stupefied at the scene. I immediately approached and said to the American, "Be calm, my friend; we are in Paris, and not at Richmond." Meanwhile, attracted by the noise, one of the guardians of the theatre hastened to the scene and informed the American that French laws give no preference to gentlemen on the ground of color or race, but much honor to character. In fine, the poor negro was delivered from the clutches of the American, not by the clearness of his white cravat and yellow gloves, but by the splendor of truth and the justice of freedom.

4. To return to our subject: The Tunisian government, deeming it needful for the harmony of society that slavery should be abolished, enacted the law of emancipation, regardless of the prophecies of those who maintained that slaves did not wish for their freedom, and that if emancipated they would prefer to return to a state of bondage. The poet says:

"Sore eyes shun the light of day."

"To the sick, pure water often has a bad taste."

But the instances of freedmen repenting that they were not again slaves occurred only immediately after the act of emancipation, when these poor creatures were thrown suddenly upon the world like cattle loosed from their stalls. They were ignorant and quite unprepared for the exigencies of their new life of freedom. But now that they have had experience, we find none of them with the slightest inclination to return to a life of slavery.

But passing by this objection, that falls to the ground of itself, I turn, in conclusion, to address myself to the people of your country.

O, inhabitants of America, ye are like that nation of whom Omar Ben Elaas, the friend of our Prophet, on whom be the grace and blessing of God, said: "They are the most compassionate people in times of war and domestic trouble; the quickest to recover from misfortunes; repulsed, they return to the charge; to the poor, the orphans, and the feeble, they are most charitable; and against the tyranny of kings they are most valiant." Such is the story of your character; and since God has permitted you to enjoy full personal liberty and to manage your civil and political affairs yourselves, while many other people are deprived of such distinguished privileges and blessings, it would not tarnish the lustre of your crown to grant to your slaves, as an act of gratitude for the favors God has bestowed on you, such civil rights as are not denied to the humblest and meanest of your citizens. You are too far advanced in civilization to imitate the example of those who, with bandaged eyes, ever turn in the same circle under the pretext of following in the footsteps of their fathers. Humanity invites you to eradicate from your Constitution all that can give countenance to the principle

of slavery. Pity the slave. God loves the merciful among his worshippers. Be then ye merciful to those upon earth, that He who is in heaven may be merciful to you.

In concluding this letter, Monsieur La Consieur General, permit me to express my profoundest regrets for the war that afflicts and saddens your land, and my tenderest sympathies for the slaves there doomed to suffer.

You will please accept the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

Written with his perishable hand by the poor before the mercy-seat of his God,

GL. HEUSSEIN,

*Major General and President of the Municipal Council of Tunis.*

Mr. AMOS PERRY,  
*Consul of the United States of America at Tunis.*

*Mr. Perry to Mr. Seward.*

[Extract.]

No. 60.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Tunis, December 17, 1864.*

SIR: The Bey of Camp, who is the presumptive heir to the throne of Tunis, set off from the Bardo on the 15th instant with an army of eight thousand men, composed of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. He is to collect taxes from the various tribes in the regency, extending his visit as far as the Gereed, and he is to be gone one year. Such has been the ordinary way of raising a revenue for many years past. Last spring the usual visit of the Bey's revenue agents was prevented by the rebellion.

The report of a battle between the Bey's troops and the rebels, near Kef, reached here yesterday. This difficulty occurred with the tribe that commanded the rebellion, by killing several of the Bey's most important officers.

The French consul made another visit to the Bey on the 10th instant, and as he held out his hand to the Bey the latter kept his hands firm in his side-pockets, as if not seeing the consul's movement. This was probably done as a return for the consul's previous act of disrespect to the Bey. \* \* \* \*

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS PERRY.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

*Mr. Perry to Mr. Seward.*

No. 66.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Tunis, March 18, 1865.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the annual receptions by the Bey on the Little Byram have passed off with unusual harmony and good will.

The Arabs in the interior appear to be completely subdued, and peace exists throughout the regency.

Prince Arthur, third son of Queen Victoria, has visited Tunis this week, and was received and entertained by the Bey in a princely manner.

I am authentically informed that the cabinets of England, Austria, and Italy have expressed to the French cabinet the desire to come to a full understanding in regard to the status of Tunis. The French cabinet has replied in each case that this was an unfavorable time to discuss the Tunisian question.

The new French consul continues to pursue a conciliatory course towards the Tunis government.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS PERRY.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

*Mr. Perry to Mr. Seward.*

[Extract.]

No. 68.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Tunis, April 29, 1865.*

SIR: The news of the downfall of Richmond was brought here from Malta on the 20th instant, by the commander of a Swedish sloop-of-war, and was by him communicated to the Bey. The Bey seized the occasion to congratulate me on this event. The news soon spread, causing much excitement and general satisfaction. Large numbers of natives and foreigners have sought entrance into this consulate, for the first time during my residence here, to felicitate me on this event in our history. The address of Secretary Seward, delivered on the 3d instant, has been printed and circulated in the Arab language.

The army of the Bey, commanded by the presumptive successor to the throne of Tunis, which left here last autumn to make a tour of the regency, has this week returned to the capital, enriched, it is said, with some millions in gold, and loaded with the products of the country, taken from the various tribes. While the Bey's treasury will be replenished by this act, his future resources will be diminished and the industry of the country discouraged. Such predatory excursions seem to be regarded as the legitimate exercise of governmental authority. It is an accepted maxim here that the masses can be controlled only by keeping them poor.

The visit of the Emperor Napoleon in Algeria seems to cause some discussion about the affairs of Tunis. No good understanding has yet been reached among the high powers of Europe in regard to the political status of this regency.

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Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS PERRY.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

P. S.—The Bey has to-day reviewed his troops, and given a gold medal to each of his superior officers and a silver medal to his subordinate officers and privates. The effect of this presentation is said to be excellent. The zeal and fidelity of officers and soldiers are kindled anew, and the moral and physical condition of the troops is represented to be unusually good.

The prevalence of a strange and cruel rumor, of whose truth or falsity I have no knowledge, may illustrate the excitability of the Tunisian populace in regard to American affairs. "Peace proclaimed in America and President Lincoln assassinated at Richmond." These have been the words bandied through the city from noon to night. Great numbers have flocked to the door of this consulate to ascertain the truth or falsity of this report, and the dragomans were instructed to say that the consul has received no reliable information relative to the matter in question. The names of President Lincoln and Minister Seward have, by recent events, become almost as well known to the populace of Tunis as those of the Bey Mohammed and his minister Sidi Mustafa.

*Mr. Perry to Mr. Hunter.*

No. 70.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Tunis, May 13, 1865.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, on the 11th instant, of the two circulars of the 17th of April, 1865—one circular giving a statement relative to the assassination of our lamented President and the attempted assassination

of our honorable Secretary of State, and the other circular naming the insignia of mourning to be adopted by those subject to the orders of the department.

All the national vessels in this harbor had their flags at half mast three days, commencing on the 8th instant, in honor of our lamented President, and within an hour after receiving your circular (on the 11th instant) circulars to the same effect as yours were in the hands of all my colleagues, and the flags of all the nations here represented were hung in mourning. Last week each of my colleagues did himself and our nation the honor to call upon me with expressions of sorrow for our deceased President and wounded statesman, of indignation against the perpetrators of those crimes, and of congratulation upon our glorious victories and our prospects of peace.

I deem it inadvisable to trouble you with detailed accounts of the interest and sympathy awakened in this place by the recent events in our country. The Bey's minister has replied to my circular with touching expressions of horror and sympathy. My colleagues have, most of them, written me long and interesting letters. A delegation from the Italian Masonic Lodge of this city waited upon me yesterday with an address, a copy of which I herewith enclose.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS PERRY.

Hon. WILLIAM HUNTER,  
*Acting Secretary of State.*

(For enclosure see Appendix, separate volume.)

*Mr. Perry to Mr. Hunter.*

No. 71.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Tunis, June 17, 1865.*

SIR: I have the honor to report a state of general tranquillity and good order in this regency. The domestic difficulties which were so serious last year seem to be fully overcome; and though the cause of jealousy and misunderstanding between several European governments that have a special interest here are not removed, there are fewer indications of irritation and bitterness now than usual.

A recent exchange of courtesies between the Bey and several European sovereigns has served to divert attention from the disagreeable scenes of last year. The Bey has recently sent missions to Paris, Stockholm, and Copenhagen, and decorations and presents have been exchanged between him and these several cabinets. The Bey sent a delegation to felicitate Napoleon III, at Bona, week before last; and there again a lot of decorations were exchanged, and reports were brought back of most cordial relations.

The Bey's portrait for our government is now completed, and other presents for the President and Secretary of State are spoken of as in a state of preparation. Though a mission to America is not yet formally announced, it is spoken of as a settled plan of the government, and I am waiting an announcement of the time and details. Our government is to be felicitated by the Bey on the abolition of slavery and on the establishment of peace, and the Bey's minister has requested me to inform him when the peace is restored in Texas as it is in the other States. I know the idea here is that whenever the mission takes place the American consul should accompany it. The mission may set out within a few weeks, or it may be deferred for some months. But to avoid embarrassing the Bey's well-intended efforts, I beg leave to suggest that if the mission be approved by the department, a conditional leave of absence be granted me at once, together with the authority to leave some suitable person charged with the duties of this office during my absence. I have specially in view for this charge the consul general of Sweden.

I may say that a deep interest is here manifested for the life, health, and long service of our experienced "prime minister," Secretary Seward, and of our new President. The war and the recent tragic scenes have served but to command additional respect for our government and heighten the interest in our country.

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The Bey is, I believe, sincerely interested for the abolition of slavery and for the establishment of peace in America, but in his expressions of interest he evidently avoids any expression that might prove distasteful to his neighbors.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS PERRY.

Hon WILLIAM HUNTER,

*Acting Secretary of State, Washington, D C.*

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*Mr. Perry to Mr. Hunter*

No. 72.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,

*Tunis, June 24, 1865.*

SIR: The Bey has this day formally announced his decision to send an envoy to Washington with his portrait and with his felicitations on the abolition of slavery and the establishment of peace. The Bey expressed the hope that I would deign to accompany his envoy; to which delicate invitation I expressed a willingness to do all in my power to gratify his Highness. I stated that I could go only with the consent of my government. I assured his Highness that my government would do its utmost to gratify him, but that nearly two months would be required to communicate with it. He said his envoy would be ready to leave in three or four weeks, but could not well go without me.

As the telegraph is now complete from here to the continent, by way of Sicily, and as time is important, I suggest that a telegram be sent from Paris as early as possible. The expense of a short despatch does not exceed eight francs. If leave of absence is granted me, I will consider myself authorized to make the best arrangements possible for the discharge of the duties of this office during my absence.

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Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS PERRY.

Hon. WILLIAM HUNTER,

*Acting Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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*Mr. Seward to Mr. Perry.*

No. 14.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

*Washington, July 27, 1865.*

SIR: Your despatch No. 72, of June 24, has been received. In it you announce that his Highness the Bey, having determined to send hither an envoy for the purpose of presenting his portrait and his felicitations to the government of the United States on the abolition of slavery and the restoration of peace, had expressed the desire that you should accompany his envoy. The leave of absence which you ask for that purpose is hereby granted.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

AMOS PERRY, Esq., &c., &c., &c., *Tunis.*



*Mr. Perry to Mr. Seward.*

No. 75.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
Tunis, July 29, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of circular of May 15, together with copies of two proclamations by the President.

The announcement on my part that our country is now on a peace footing, so far as regards its relations to foreign nations, drew forth from the Bey and his minister warm expressions of gratitude.

On the 23d instant Admiral Yelverton, of the British navy, arrived in the harbor with a large iron-clad war-vessel, as a special commissioner from the Queen to invest the Bey with the Order of the Bath. On the 27th instant the ceremony of investiture was performed in the hall of state at the Bardo with great pomp, and in the presence of a numerous assemblage of Tunisians and foreign officials.

To-day a camp, or army of the Bey, has arrived at the Bardo, and its officers and soldiers have received their medals of honor.

The departure of the mission for America is delayed somewhat by the tardy arrival of the English admiral with the Order of the Bath. The plan seems to be for the same envoy to thank the Queen of England for this decoration and then to proceed to America with the portrait for the President. The time for the mission to set off has not been yet definitely named, though it will probably be in the course of two or three weeks from this date.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS PERRY.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

*Mr. Perry to Mr. Seward.*

No. 77.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
Tunis, August 30, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that all the arrangements for the departure of the Bey's envoy, with the portrait for the President, seem to be completed. The chief of this mission is General Otman Hashem, who belongs to one of the most respectable families of Tunis, and has had considerable experience as a diplomatist. He has been the chief personage sent to Madrid and to Constantinople. He is to be accompanied by two aides-de-camp and by an interpreter. One aide-de-camp has the rank of colonel and the other of lieutenant. The general and one aide-de-camp speak only Arabic. The interpreter and one aide-de-camp speak French, Italian, and Arabic.

September 3, 1865.—The mission is thus far on its way to America. The Bey's portrait is a cumbersome article, and has to be sent first to Marseilles, and then by *grand speed* to Havre. We are to pass over Mount Cenis. As soon as I know by what steamer and what day we sail from Havre or Liverpool, I shall write.

The Bey, in his last interview with me, expressed the desire that we should return to Tunis as speedily as possible. On our arrival at New York or Boston we shall have to rest three or four days before proceeding to Washington. If we go by way of Halifax I will telegraph from there; if not, I hope I may find some expression of your wishes at New York. This will be the first time that any member of the Tunisian government has ever crossed the ocean; the visit is purely complimentary and diplomatic; the stay in America will be short. A

pleasant welcome on the part of our government and people will do us no harm. On the contrary, there are diplomatic and commercial considerations, as well as those which pertain to civilization, that seem to me to favor a very cordial reception on our part. The red caps of these Tunisians will attract attention, and they have sufficient dignity and intelligence to command respect. I shall telegraph the department on my arrival.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AMOS PERRY.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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*Mr. Perry to Mr. Seward.*

No. 78.]

PARIS, *September 13, 1865.*

SIR: I have the honor to report our arrival here. We desired to sail as early as the 16th, but are delayed by the difficulties in securing berths. We have finally engaged passage in the *Persia*, which will sail from Liverpool on the 23d instant. I beg to recommend, with the sanction of our minister here, Mr. Bigelow, that the collector of our port at New York, or some other suitable person, be named to receive the Bey's envoy on his arrival at New York, and to conduct him to Washington in the course of three or four days. The envoy may thus receive informal official attention, and be gratified and instructed at the same time. If these Mussulmen ever attain civilization, it seems to me likely to be done through the light of our institutions. Our mode of treating religion may shock some of their prejudices, but it cannot encounter their hostility.

The envoy informs me that he has two letters from the Bey; one is addressed to the President and the other to Mrs. Lincoln, and he is directed to deliver them both in person. I presume the Bey supposed Mrs. Lincoln to be in Washington. The envoy is also instructed to express the gratitude of his sovereign that the life of our distinguished Secretary of State is spared for the service of his country and the world.

Two of the party speak French and Italian, but I am the only one that tries to use the English language.

The portrait was forwarded by express and expenses paid as far as Havre, and I have requested our consul there to forward it by a Cunard steamer to the care of the collector in New York or Boston. We leave to-morrow for London.

Very respectfully,

AMOS PERRY,  
*United States Consul at Tunis.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State.*

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*Mr. Perry to Mr. Seward.*

No. 79.]

STEAMER *PERSIA*, NEAR NEW YORK HARBOR,  
*Evening of October 3, 1865.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival on our coast of the Tunisian embassy, accompanied by his aide-de-camp, secretary and servant. Enclosed are literal translations of three letters that are in the hands of General Hashem. They are copied subject to the influence of the turbulent waves. Letter No. 1 was first brought to my knowledge on the ocean. Tunisian appreciation of our country and its rulers, though expressed in flowery language, may be regarded as a reflection of European sentiments.

Our plan is to rest in New York two or three days, and then proceed to Washington. The portrait is on board the ship. It will afford me pleasure to receive instructions from the department as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,

AMOS PERRY.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, Washington.*

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No. 1.

[Literal translation from the Arabic.]

Praise to the only God: To the excellency of him who has given distinction to the ministry, who has at the same time ordered and directed its affairs; to the excellency of him who is the glory of eminent ministers; whose renown is universal, and whose character and services are above all praise—Monsieur William H. Seward, minister of state and of foreign affairs of the United States of America: may he always be the head of the ministry and the director of eminent men. Rendering due honor to the distinguished office and to the high character of your excellency, we make known to you that his Highness, our august sovereign, ceases not to entertain for your government an abiding and ever-increasing friendship and regard, the cause of which is, your admirable conduct and your noble policy. His Highness has received the news of the re-establishment of peace and tranquillity in your great country. This news has afforded him unmeasured satisfaction; and sincere friendship makes him share with you the pleasure consequent upon this happy result and great event.

To this end, then, his Highness sends to your government the honorable, the beloved, the elect General Otman Hashem, to express to the President his sincere felicitations, and also to express to the President the heartfelt grief which his Highness experienced at the death of the lamented President, Abraham Lincoln, which sad event wounded all our hearts. We pray God that this may be the end of trials and misfortunes to your beloved country. His Highness also sends with his ambassador his portrait, to serve as a souvenir of his friendship, as stated in his letter.

His Highness looks with confidence to your excellency to arrange for an agreeable reception of his envoy, General Hashem, by his excellency the President.

We take this occasion, also, to inform your excellency that we have found in the conduct of him who is distinguished among his colleagues, Mr. Amos Perry, consul of your government at this court, the best disposition to maintain and strengthen the bonds of friendship which unite our two governments. His courtesy and honorable bearing merits and receives the approbation and the best compliments of his Highness, our august sovereign. We make this statement to bear our testimony to a worthy representative, and to show that your choice falls only on meritorious men.

Written by the poor before his God.

MUSTAPHA,

*Major General, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of his Highness the Bey of Tunis.*

Tunis, the 7th Rabi el tami, 1282—A. C., August 29, 1865.

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No. 2.

[Literal translation from the Arabic.]

Praise to the only God: To the excellency of the eminent personage whose merits are celebrated and whose renown is universal like the light of the sun which cannot be hidden from the day; to the excellency of him who is the glory of great men—the cream of men of distinction—and whose virtues are above all praise, to our friend Andrew Johnson, President of the United States of America, may he always be exalted, and may his days be ever prospered.

Having rendered due honor to the elevated rank and to the eminent character of your excellency, we inform you that we have heard the agreeable news of the fruitful victory gained by your government, and of the consequent re-establishment of peace and tranquillity in your great country. This news has rejoiced us beyond measure, and has awakened our warmest sentiments of gratitude by reason of the great and sincere friendship which unites our two governments—which friendship has been bequeathed to us as a heritage by our ancestors to become stronger and stronger forever.

We were the more cheered by this news by having shared in the grief of the American people in the loss which they experienced in the death of their late President, Mr. Abraham

Lincoln, a loss which we keenly felt. This grief would have remained unalterably fixed in our hearts, but for the news of the re-establishment of tranquillity in your country, which news comes to moderate and assuage our affliction.

We desire to present to your excellency, and to your people, our best compliments, with expressions of condolence in your affliction and sorrow, and with expressions of felicitation in your prosperity and joy. We despatch our envoy, the honorable, the beloved, the elect, our son, General Otman Hashem, to be the interpreter of our sentiments in the presence of your excellency and in your country. We send at the same time with him our portrait, to be a souvenir of our friendship.

May God preserve your excellency, and perpetuate the happiness and prosperity of yourself and of your illustrious nation.

Written by him who has for your excellency the highest consideration, the slave of his God, the Mooshr Mohammed Essadek, Bashaw Bey, possessor of the Kingdom of Tunis.

The 7th Rabi el tami, 1282, A. C., August 29, 1865.

[LOCUS SIGILLI.]

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No. 3.

[Literal translation from the Arabic.]

Praise to the only God: To the lady for whom we pray God that he would save her from trial and affliction, and protect her from dangers and sorrows both by day and by night; to her who is distinguished among ladies of distinction, the cream of elevated personages, and whose virtues are above all praise—to Madam Abraham Lincoln—may God shield her from every ill.

Acknowledging the honor due to your elevated character and position, we desire to express to you the pain inflicted on our heart by the sad death of your beloved husband. How cruel this fate, and how deep the wound inflicted by this terrible event! All hearts are put in mourning. The news of this catastrophe both plunged us into affliction and overwhelmed us with consternation. It turned our eyes upon the distressed of this earth, and our spirits were troubled.

Against death all effort is vain, and our sole remedy is to resign himself to the decrees of the Great God, and with Him to seek consolation. May the Great God then grant you patience and resignation, increasing your worthiness in proportion to the keenness and depth of your affliction and pain. May He order that this be the last of your trials, and that your days become long years.

Written by him who has for you the highest consideration, the slave of his God, the Moosher Mohammed Essadek, Bashaw Bey, possessor of the Kingdom of Tunis.

Tunis, 7th Rabi el tami, 1282, A. C., August 29, 1865.

[L. S.]

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TANGIERS.

*Mr. Hunter to Mr. McMath.*

No. 14.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, November 7, 1864.

SIR: Your despatches, Nos 23 and 24, the latter dated the 6th ultimo, have been received, and the course pursued by you concerning the subject to which they refer, the erection of the new light-house on Cape Spartel, is approved. Pursuant to the request contained in your No. 23, a full power is herewith enclosed authorizing you to treat upon a footing with the representatives of other foreign powers at Tangiers with regard to the maintenance of the said light, &c. Notice of the time of illumination which had been agreed upon, the 15th ultimo, will be communicated to the Light-house Board, and will also be duly made public.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER,

*Acting Secretary.*

JESSE H. MCMATH, Esq., &c., &c., *Tangiers.*

*Mr. McMath to Mr. Seward.*

[Extract.]

No. 25.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
*Tangier, Morocco, July 8, 1865.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches, Nos. 13 and 14, dated August 25 and November 7, 1864, respectively, the latter containing the full power authorizing me to treat upon a footing with the representatives of other foreign powers here with regard to the maintenance of the Cape Spartel light, &c. Circular letter dated 12th September last has been received. I had expected before this date to be prepared to forward the treaty to the President, but, as I informed you in my despatch No. 23, dated 2d September last, the Moorish minister for foreign affairs was ordered near his Majesty the Sultan, then at Rabat, and at this date has not returned to this place, although his Majesty left Rabat about six weeks since for Fez, the ancient capital of this country. We are daily expecting the return of the minister, and on his arrival no time will be lost in completing and forwarding the treaty. I cannot presume, however, that it will be forwarded in time for the President to submit it for ratification to the present, nor, perhaps, the extra session of the Senate that will probably be convened on or about the 4th of March next. I have been informally advised that ten powers will unite in maintaining the light, &c. The maximum sum fixed for the maintenance thereof is fifteen thousand francs per annum, fifteen hundred francs to each power, equal to \$285. May I suggest that an appropriation be asked from the present Congress for that amount. By the regulations of the light-house council the cost of maintenance on the 15th of August last, two months previous to the illumination on the 15th of October last. For the present the expense is paid by the Sultan, but it is understood that the treaty powers will reimburse at the earliest moment after the completion of the treaty.

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I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect and esteem, your most obedient servant,

JESSE H. McMATH.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State.*

*Mr. McMath to Mr. Hunter.*

No. 26.]

CONSULATE OF THE U. S. OF AMERICA  
FOR THE EMPIRE OF MOROCCO,  
*Tangier, May 4, 1865.*

SIR: The lamentable news of the assassination of his excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, reached this consulate by telegraph, *via* Madrid, on the 28th ultimo. This intelligence has produced the most intense feeling of sorrow in the minds of all our populations, native and foreign. The event is so astounding that it is with difficulty I can bring myself to realize its occurrence, or estimate its consequences. The blow is sudden, horrible, and irretrievable. Never has a murder been committed more momentous in its bearing upon the time. A nation mourns the inestimable loss of one of the greatest and purest statesmen that ever lived. He dies surrounded with the brightest halo of glory that has ever crowned the labor of a statesman, and his work will survive him, and the greatest victory of liberty and humanity will not have been won in vain. I am, as yet, without details which can give me

the slightest idea of the cause of so grave an event. However, it seems difficult to suppose that a crime committed on the President had not been dictated by a political motive; and I may say this crime is not only odious but useless, for Providence will not fail to raise up worthy successors of him who has fallen a martyr to liberty, humanity, and constitutional government. To my bleeding and grief-stricken country I offer my sincere sympathy and condolence.

This consulate has gone into mourning for thirty days.

Immediately upon the receipt of this distressing news I informed my colleagues that, as a mark of respect to the illustrious and unfortunate deceased, President Lincoln, the flag of the United States would be displayed at half mast for a period of three days at this consulate, and stated that on this mournful occasion I would be pleased to see my flag accompanied with those of their respective nations. To this each of my colleagues assented; and at the same time expressed their sincere sympathy and condolence for the great national loss sustained in the untimely death of his excellency President Lincoln. I have also communicated this sad intelligence to my vice-consuls on the coast, and have requested them to display their flags at half mast for three days, and request their colleagues to accompany it with those of their respective nations.

The melancholy news of the attempted assassination of the honorable Secretary of State, and his son, the Assistant Secretary, reached me one day later than the former. Since then I have been advised by the latest news from London that there is a probability that both may recover from the wounds inflicted upon them. I sincerely hope and pray to Almighty God that both may be speedily restored to our common country, and to each my sincere sympathy is offered.

In profound grief for the events which have taken place, I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JESSE H. McMATH..

Hon. WILLIAM HUNTER,

*Acting Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

*Mr. McMATH to Mr. Hunter.*

No. 27.]

CONSULATE OF THE U. S. OF AMERICA  
\*  
FOR THE EMPIRE OF MOROCCO,  
*Tangier, May 15, 1865.*

SIR: An incident has occurred at Tetuan which has caused a great sensation in this country. The facts which have come to my knowledge are as follows:

It appears that, according to an ancient custom, an old Moorish soldier acted as guard in the Jewish quarter and was paid out of the Jewish communal fund. This post had not been filled for four months, owing to the illness of the present guard. Some weeks previous to the 3d ultimo the Bashaw sent a message to the Jewish representative committee, claiming the guard's salary. The committee, in their turn, requested the Bashaw to relieve them of the expense, as the services of so old a man could well be dispensed with, seeing that the post had not been filled for four months. Moreover, owing to the late dearth consequent on a severe winter, the funds of the community were already in arrear, and they were not able to afford this charge. The Bashaw said nothing until the 3d of April, when he summoned to his presence the committee, composed of twelve persons. He told them he had received peremptory orders from the Sultan to place five soldiers as guards in the Jewish quarter instead of the one they formerly had, and to put in irons and send to the presence of the Sultan, at Meccanez, those members of the committee who were Moorish subjects, while those who were under foreign protection were to be banished from the country for the alleged crime of having rebelled against the Sultan's authority in refusing

to keep the old Moorish guard. The vice-consuls were sent for to decide which of the members were under their protection, and they selected eight. The remaining four were immediately put in irons previous to being sent to Meccanez. Whereupon the vice-consuls energetically protested against banishing any persons under their protection, and appealed against the imprisonment of the four Jews. After expostulations with the Bashaw, the vice-consuls obtained from him the promise that he would postpone sending the persons to Meccanez for three days, that they might write to their chiefs in this city and obtain a reply. On the affair becoming known at this place no time was lost in drawing up a collective note, signed by all the foreign representatives, and addressed to M. Bargash, minister for foreign affairs, protesting, in the name of justice, against the arbitrary and tyrannical measure adopted. This note had due weight with the Moorish minister, who answered that he would order the Bashaw of Tetuan not to send the Jews to Meccanez, promising, also, to release them from their irons. Three days having, however, elapsed without any of these promises being carried into effect, the British minister, Spanish minister, the consul general of Portugal, and myself, not to be misled by promises, again took steps with the Moorish minister, which resulted in the removal of the chains from the prisoners and their transfer from their dungeons to more comfortable quarters; and hopes were entertained that as soon as the Sultan was made acquainted with the attitude of the foreign representatives his Majesty would order the men to be put at liberty. But before the return of the courier from Meccanez, the Bashaw again transferred the four Jews to their former dungeons. Thereupon each of the foreign representatives, except the minister for France, on the 28th ultimo addressed a note to the Moorish minister, demanding, in the name of justice and humanity, that the four persons be at once set at liberty; that if the four were guilty of any crime their colleagues must be equally guilty, and that steps had been taken by the vice-consuls at Tetuan to bring the eight persons, foreign-protected, before a proper tribunal for trial; that after a careful examination of all the facts and circumstances in the case, they had been adjudged not guilty of any offence, and therefore, as no further or stronger proof could be adduced against the four Moorish subjects who were imprisoned in irons on a similar charge, justice and humanity alike demanded that they at once be set at liberty; and I am glad to say this demand was at once complied with, and the four persons are now at liberty.

One of the eight Jews was American-protected—being the clerk of our commercial agent at that place—one Austrian and six Spanish-protected. The latter were brought to trial before the Spanish consul at Tetuan. My agent was ordered to be present, as well as the vice-consuls, and after a careful and impartial investigation the Spanish protégés were pronounced innocent of the violation of any law. My agent reported the evidence and finding of the tribunal, and I ordered him to take no steps against our protégé. The proceeding on the part of the Moors had its origin in a fanatical hatred for the Jews, and I am of the opinion, from many circumstances connected with this transaction, that the order for their arrest and imprisonment emanated from the Moorish minister, and that the Sultan knew nothing of it until the arrest was made and reported to his Majesty, who at once sent his order to the minister here to release the Jews. The Sultan is well disposed towards this part of his subjects, but his officers, wishing to show their authority, frequently manufacture the most unfounded accusations against them, and impose upon the Sultan by representations that have no foundation in fact.

I trust my action in this affair will meet the approval of the department.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JESSE H. McMATH.

Hon. WILLIAM HUNTER,

*Acting Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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*Copy of the note to Mr. Bargash, referred to in the previous despatch.*

TANGIER, April 3, 1865.

The collective opinion of the representatives of foreign powers in Morocco upon the measure adopted by the Bashaw of Tetuan against certain respectable Israelites of that city, counsels, and views, communicated on this subject to Sedi Mohammed Bargash :

From the official reports of the vice-consuls at Tetuan, it appears that the Bashaw of that city has arrested some members of the Israelite community, with the exception of those who are foreign-protected. They have been charged with irons, and are to be carried to Mecanez. This severe measure has no other motive than that these Israelites have refused some months since to accept and pay, according to usage, a caid for the Israelite quarter of that city. Moreover, the Bashaw threatened the members foreign-protected of that community to expel them from the empire. We protest energetically against this last measure, which is contrary to existing treaties.

The undersigned desire to make known to his Majesty the Sultan the cruel manner with which his sovereign order has been executed. If all the accused are culpable, the undersigned are disposed to do justice concerning the complaint against the members foreign-protected; but as to the other members who are in irons, the undersigned consider it an act of unqualified cruelty to leave them in this dreadful situation until they be sentenced upon a cause in which these Israelites should all be equally bound. In consequence the undersigned demand, in the first place, that the persons incarcerated be freed from the irons until the Sultan shall be able to take into consideration the cause of their offence, and make known what shall be their condition in order not to incur this misfortune. The undersigned, persuaded that the Sultan, in his justice and wisdom, desires to preserve friendly relations with Christian powers, consider it their duty to inform his Cherifian Majesty of the acts of cruelty which have been perpetrated in his name. All are desirous not to see the authority of the Sultan set at naught; and they cannot help to inform him of certain energetic observations, that, undoubtedly, by the exaggerated zeal of his agents, a general cry of indignation from without may occur by a neglect of humanity, which is completely in opposition to the character for justice and generosity of his Majesty Sedi Mohammed.

E. DELUIN,

*Consul General for Belgium.*

F. MERRY Y COLON,

*Minister for Spain.*

JESSE H. McMATH,

*Consul General for the United States.*

AYMEE D'AGUIRE,

*Minister for France.*

J. H. DRUMMOND HAY,

*Minister for Great Britain.*

A. VERDINOIS,

*Consul General for Italy.*

JOSÉ CALASCO,

*Consul General for Portugal.*

G. D'EHRENHOFF,

*Consul General for Sweden and Norway.*

*Mr. McMath to Mr. Bargash.*

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FOR THE EMPIRE OF MOROCCO,

*Tangier, April 28, 1865.*

SIR: The undersigned, prompted no less by the feelings of humanity than by a sense of justice for unoffending Moorish subjects, is constrained to call the attention of the minister for foreign affairs to the very grave conduct of his Majesty's authorities with reference to the cruel treatment of the four aged and respectable Israelites again confined in a loathsome prison in Tetuan. The circumstances of the arrest and imprisonment of those persons are already well known to your excellency. It will also be borne in mind that the charge preferred against them was also made against eight other Israelites, equally respected, the latter being foreign-protected. I am officially advised by the vice-consul of the United States at Tetuan, who was ordered to be present and report the result of the inquiry of guilt against the Israelites Spanish-protected, and who were impartially tried before the Spanish tribunal at that place, that there was no evidence tending to criminate said Spanish protégés, and therefore they were dismissed. This, then, leads me to the conclusion that the four Israelites now imprisoned are innocent of any offence against his Majesty's authority, and their con-



tinued imprisonment upon unfounded charges will prove, if persisted in, highly scandalous to the Moorish government, and provoke the indignation of the friends of humanity throughout Europe and America. Therefore, I demand that said Israelites be at once set at liberty.

I avail of the occasion to assure your excellency of my high consideration and regard.

JESSE H. McMATH.

His Excellency SEDI MOHAMMED BARGASH,  
His Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

*Mr. McMATH to Mr. Seward.*

[Extract.]

No. 31.]

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FOR THE EMPIRE OF MOROCCO,  
*Tangier, October 7, 1865.*

SIR: \* \* \* \* \*

I presume the United States consul at Gibraltar has advised you of the appearance of Asiatic cholera at that place. It appeared there in July, but did not assume an epidemic form until about the 25th of August; and during September the mortality reached thirty per day, in a population of twenty-five thousand, civil and military. It is now declining gradually. I am glad to state up to this time it has not appeared either in this city or on our coast; and as the rainy season has commenced, it is not probable it will visit our coast this year. On the 25th of August our board of health, (composed exclusively of the diplomatic corps,) by a vote of four for and three against, cut the communication with Gibraltar, and thus prevented the English government supplying the garrison with bullocks from this empire. By reason of this measure, her Britannic Majesty's minister withdrew for the time from the board, and reported its proceedings and the vote of each member to his government. The French minister being one of the four, a few days since I was informed confidentially, by her Britannic Majesty's minister, that Earl Russell addressed himself to the French government, and asked that instructions might be given to the French minister to co-operate with her Britannic Majesty's minister, and on questions touching supplies for Gibraltar vote with the latter. To-day the board opened communication with the garrison, and established a quarantine of observation of six days on all vessels arriving from that port. On this measure the minister for France voted with the English minister. In consequence of the adoption of this liberal regulation, the Spanish chargé d'affaires *ad interim* withdrew from the board.

It affords me pleasure to inform you that our relations with his Majesty the Sultan continue to be of the most friendly and satisfactory nature.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JESSE H. McMATH.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
*Secretary of State, Washington.*