XXIII.—MOROCCO.

No. 307.

Mr. Fish to Mr. Mathews.

No. 46.] WASHINGTON, *October* 23, 1872.

SIR: Your dispatch No. 80, of the 7th ultimo, has been received. It is accompanied by a translation of a note addressed to you by the minister for foreign affairs of Morocco, in which that functionary expresses the hope that this government will not extend its protection to one Hamed Ducaly, who it seems has come to this country for the supposed purpose of obtaining the protection of the government with a view to evading obligations in Morocco. You may inform the Moorish minister for foreign affairs that the Constitution and laws of the United States do not screen any foreigner who may resort to this country from debts which he may have contracted at home, but that creditors can prosecute for them here on the same terms as citizens without any hinderance from the Executive Government.

If, however, the purpose of the communication of that government be to request us not to naturalize Mr. Ducaly, it will be impracticable to comply with such a request if he shall fulfill the required conditions. This Government has no discretion in such a matter. The right of any foreigner to be naturalized according to law, cannot be called in question.

It is apprehended, however, that the Moorish government may be mistaken, if it supposes that the effect of the naturalization of the person adverted to, supposing it to have taken place, would be to weaken his liability for his debts in Morocco, even if he should return to that country. He might, in that case, be prosecuted for them in the consular court, and this Government is bound to presume that impartial justice would there be dispensed.

I am, &c.,

HAMILTON FISH.

No. 308.

Mr. Mathews to Mr. Fish.

No. 96.] CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Tangier, January 22, 1873. (Received March 24.)

SIR: I have the honor to inform you of an event unprecedented in Morocco, which took place at Tangier on Friday last—the marriage of a lineal descendant of Mohammed. His Highness Prince Abselam el Hazain, grand sheriff of Wazzan, with an English Christian lady, Miss Emily Keene. The bride rode to the British legation on an Arab horse covered with a scarlet saddle embroidered with gold, presented to her by the bridegroom. The marriage was merely a civil ceremony per-

formed by the British minister, and after this was over, the bride and bridegroom rode back to the Royal Victoria Hotel, where a sumptuous wedding dinner had been prepared, and at which all the diplomatic and consular corps were present. The bridegroom, who appeared to very great advantage in his flowing eastern dress of dark blue, was escorted by a guard of Moorish soldiers to the hotel. At the conclusion of the dinner, the happy couple betook themselves to the country residence of the prince at Mount Washington, three miles distant from Tangier.

The bridegroom is a personage of the greatest importance in Morocco; he is the supreme and hereditary chief of the powerful society of the Mulay Taieb, the most important in the Mohammedan pursuasion, a society, the numerous members of which of both sexes are spread throughout all Mussulman countries, the greater number being found in the Barbary States and Algiers; and I may also mention that this society has ramifications in the East Indies.

The prince is a stout, robust man, of an olive complexion, thirty-nine years of age, who distinguished himself greatly during the war with Spain in 1859–'60. He is very fond of Christians, very charitable, and remarkably intelligent.

The Emperors of Morocco are, for political and private reasons, members by birth of the Mulay Taieb, whose supreme chief invests them with their imperial authority, consecrates them, and has also in certain instances deposed them.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 48, dated the 9th of December last.

I have, &c.,

FELIX A. MATHEWS.

XXIV.—NETHERLANDS.

No. 309.

Mr. Gorham to Mr. Fish.

No. 86.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
The Hague, March 7, 1873. (Received March 27.)

SIR: The Japanese embassadors are now in Holland, making the Hague their headquarters.

The day after their arrival an audience was accorded them by the King, who received them with more than ordinary demonstrations of respect, if judged by the display of royal troops and carriages employed in escorting them to and from the palace. No entertainment has been offered them at the royal residence, however, nor will there be, as His Majesty has since retired to his favorite "Loo," whence he will not come, probably, during their stay. They have been handsomely entertained by Prince Frederic, the minister of foreign affairs, and others, so that thus far they can have felt no lack of civility on the part of their ancient friends.

It is not commonly known that they had any motive in coming apart from their general object in touring through Europe, unless it might have been to notice specially the drainage system of the country, in