

His excellency Said Pasha informs me at the same time that he is in negotiation with Mr. Terrell to reach an understanding as to the status of persons coming within this category.

Be pleased, etc.,

MAVROYENI.

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[Translation of the law concerning Ottoman nationality.—January 19, 1869—6 Cheval, 1285.]

ARTICLE 1. Every person born of Ottoman father and mother, or only of an Ottoman father, is an Ottoman subject.

ART. 2. Every person born on Ottoman territory of foreign parents may, within three years after attaining majority, claim as of right the character of an Ottoman subject.

ART. 3. Every major foreigner who has resided during five consecutive years in the Ottoman Empire may obtain Ottoman nationality by applying, directly or through an intermediary, to the minister of foreign affairs.

ART. 4. The Imperial Government may by extraordinary act confer Ottoman nationality on the foreigner who, without having fulfilled the conditions of the preceding article, should be deemed worthy of this exceptional favor.

ART. 5. The Ottoman subject who has acquired a foreign nationality with the authorization of the Imperial Government is considered and treated as a foreign subject; if, on the contrary, he is naturalized as a foreigner without the previous authorization of the Imperial Government, his naturalization shall be considered as null and of no effect, and he will continue to be considered and treated in all respects as an Ottoman subject.

No Ottoman subject can, in any case, naturalize himself as a foreigner except after having obtained a certificate of authorization issued in virtue of an Imperial *iradé*.

ART. 6. Nevertheless the Imperial Government may declare loss of the character of an Ottoman subject against any Ottoman subject who shall have naturalized himself in a foreign country or who shall have accepted military functions under a foreign government without the authorization of his sovereign.

In this case the loss of the character of an Ottoman subject shall entail, *ipso facto*, the interdiction of the return to the Ottoman Empire of the person who shall have incurred it.

ART. 7. The Ottoman woman who has married a foreigner may, if she become a widow, recover her character of an Ottoman subject by making declaration to that end within the three years following the decease of her husband. This provision is, however, only applicable to her person. Her property shall be subject to the laws and general regulations controlling the same.

ART. 8. The child, even when a minor, of an Ottoman subject who has naturalized himself as a foreigner or who has lost his nationality does not follow the status of his father, and remains an Ottoman subject. The child, even when a minor, of a foreigner who has naturalized himself an Ottoman does not follow the status of his father, and remains a foreigner.

ART. 9. Every person inhabiting the Ottoman territory is reputed an Ottoman subject, and treated as such until his character as a foreigner shall have been regularly proved.

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[Circular addressed to the governors-general of the vilayets of the Empire.—March 26, 1869.]

I have personally transmitted to you the law of Ottoman nationality, promulgated on the 6th Cheval, 1285 (January 19, 1869). While this law, in its context, can not give rise to divergent interpretations, I deem it important to define to you the spirit which inspired its most important provisions.

I need not, in the first place, say to you that this law, like any other law, has no retroactive effect; all who have already been admitted to Ottoman nationality, and all native Ottoman subjects who have, either by virtue of treaties or by virtue of special arrangements concluded between the Sublime Porte and the foreign missions accredited to it, been recognized by the Imperial Government as having acquired a foreign nationality, remain, as heretofore, either Ottoman or foreign subjects.

The provisions set forth in articles 1, 2, 3, and 4 are plain enough to make any comment unnecessary. I shall merely remind you that since the "personal" law of each individual—that is, the law of the country of his origin—is that which determines the time of his majority, and since that law varies according to countries, the majority being reached in some countries at 25 years and above, and below that age in