

British Legation
Berne - Dec^r 20th
1859

Excellency,

The unprecedented
state of prosperity enjoyed by
Switzerland at the present
moment, the absence of any
question either at home or abroad
calculated to agitate the public
mind, and the legitimate
influence with which a wise
and energetic policy has
invested the Central Government,
have induced me to consider
the present a favourable

His Excellency

The President & D. F. Council

287

favourable moment to call
 the attention of the High Federal
 Council to the restrictive Laws
 which still exist in some of
 the Cantons, and which bear
 so heavily on that comparatively
 small but peaceable and loyal
 class of Her Majesty's Subjects
 who profess the Jewish Religion.

Your Excellency is aware of
 the anxiety felt by Her Majesty's
 Government at the time of the
 negotiation of the existing Treaty
 between Great Britain and
 Switzerland, that the words
 proposed by them in Article I
 should be retained, which would
 have conferred on the British
 Jew in Switzerland the same
 advantages of free choice of
 residence and the exercise of

of his industry which the
 British Constitution affords to
 the Swiss few in the United
 Kingdom and its Colonies, and
 if the Government of Her Majesty
 were induced to give way, it
 was because they were unwilling
 to delay the signature of a Treaty
 which was to ~~vice~~ still closer
 the bonds of friendly alliance
 between the two Countries; and
 because they confidently
 anticipated that in this Country
 where free Institutions had
 been so extensively developed,
 Laws so harsh in their operation,
 and so much at variance
 with the spirit of the age
 as well as with the legislation
 of neighbouring Cantons, must
 by the force of public opinion

