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ИМПЕРАТОРСКАГО

РУССКАГО ИСТОРИЧЕСКАГО

ОБЩЕСТВА

Учительский Институт
БИБЛИОТЕКА
Инд. №

ТОМЪ СТО Сорокъ восьмой

ПЕТРОГРАДЪ

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Сборникъ
Историческаго
Общества

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Общества.

Типографія М. А. Александрова (Надеждинская, 43).

ДИПЛОМАТИЧЕСКАЯ ПЕРЕПИСКА

АНГЛИЙСКИХЪ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЕЙ

ПРИ ДВОРѢ

ИМПЕРАТРИЦЫ ЕЛИСАВЕТЫ ПЕТРОВНЫ.

XV.

1750 — 1753.

Петроградъ, дозволено военной цензурой, 4 апрѣля 1916 г.

Настоящій томъ Сборника Общества составляетъ XV часть изданія копій съ дипломатической переписки великобританскихъ представителей при русскомъ дворѣ. Матеріаль для этого изданія былъ извлеченъ изъ лондонскаго государственнаго архива при участіи члена-корреспондента генераль-лейтенанта Н. С. Ермолова и заключался въ томахъ лондонскаго архива (Public Record Office. Russia.) за №№ 61—66 (по новой нумераціи 52—57) за четыре года, 1750—1753. Въ теченіе всего этого времени въ Петербургѣ находился посланникомъ полковникъ Гай Дикенсъ, прибывшій въ Россію въ 1749 г. изъ Стокгольма, гдѣ онъ состоялъ въ той же должности. Его назначеніе въ Петербургъ произошло по выбору самого канцлера графа А. П. Бестужева-Рюмина, просившаго за него какъ въ виду того, что Дикенсъ зналъ нѣмецкій языкъ, на которомъ канцлеръ легче объяснялся, чѣмъ на французскомъ, такъ и потому, что былъ знакомъ со шведскимъ и прусскимъ дворами.

О Дикенсѣ не имѣется никакихъ біографическихъ свѣдѣній. Пріѣхалъ онъ въ Петербургъ уже немолодымъ; черезъ шесть лѣтъ послѣ своего пріѣзда, а именно въ 1755 г., онъ просилъ о своемъ увольненіи, чувствуя себя слишкомъ старымъ, чтобы нести всѣ обязанности, сопряженныя съ его должностью. Онъ совѣтовалъ королю назначить посланникомъ къ русскому двору человека въ полной силѣ и въ цвѣтѣ лѣтъ, такъ какъ, по обычаямъ, господствовавшимъ при русскомъ дворѣ, посланнику слѣдовало быть непременно на всѣхъ куртагахъ, балахъ, маскарадахъ, театраль-ныхъ или оперныхъ представленіяхъ и вообще на какихъ бы то ни было публичныхъ празднествахъ. И дѣйствительно, англійское правительство вняло совѣту Дикенса, назначивъ въ томъ же 1755 году посломъ къ Петербургскому двору сэра Чарльза Ганбюри Уилльямса, коему было 46 лѣтъ отъ роду, человека состоятельнаго и придворнаго, сразу освоившагося въ новой обстановкѣ. Гай Дикенсъ, напротивъ, не привыкъ къ свѣтской жизни и не обладалъ средствами. Ему

нельзя отказать въ наблюдательности; онъ былъ остороженъ и исполнителенъ, но у него не доставало дипломатическаго навыка, каковое обстоятельство вызывало въ нѣкоторыхъ случаяхъ недовольство короля Георга II или его министра, Томаса Пельгама, герцога Ньюкастльскаго, статсъ-секретаря по южнымъ дѣламъ, съ которымъ Дикенсъ велъ политическую переписку. Къ императрицѣ Елисаветѣ Петровнѣ посланникъ относится сочувственно, хотя и порицаетъ ея образъ правленія и равнодушіе къ государственнымъ дѣламъ. «Великій канцлеръ питаетъ такое же отвращеніе къ труду и занятіямъ, — пишетъ Дикенсъ, — какъ его государыня. Если бы онъ желалъ послѣдовать моему совѣту, ему надлежало бы, вмѣсто того, чтобы писать доклады и валяться въ постели до 12 час. дня, быть уже въ 10 час. утра въ покояхъ стараго фаворита (графа Алексѣя Григорьевича Разумовскаго), въ которыхъ императрица часто бывала. Тамъ ему представилась бы возможность ускорить ея рѣшенія по производившимся дѣламъ. Часто по цѣлымъ мѣсяцамъ она не находитъ минуты времени, чтобы ими заняться». Дикенсъ отмѣчаетъ нескрываемую императрицею непріязнь къ прусскому королю Фридриху II и расположеніе къ англійскому Георгу II, которому она старалась угождать; такъ, напр., она, только изъ уваженія къ его ходатайству, простила графу Захару Чернышеву его поединокъ съ полковникомъ Леонтьевымъ, кончившійся смертью послѣдняго. Въ донесеніяхъ Дикенса Елисавета Петровна рисуется намъ женщиной рѣшительной и отважной: она сама распоряжается тушеніемъ пожара, истребившаго на ея глазахъ двѣ трети Зимняго дворца въ Москвѣ. Но вмѣстѣ съ тѣмъ приходится удивляться тому, что она на слѣдующій день послѣ пожара пріѣхала изъ Покровскаго на комедію, которая разыгрывалась въ театрѣ рядомъ со сгорѣвшимъ дворцомъ. Странными кажутся ея причуды; такъ, она не выносила саксонскаго посланника Функа изъ-за его косоглазія и, въ виду этой уродливости, требовала его отозванія. Она съ нетерпѣніемъ ожидала пріѣзда графа Михаила Бестужева изъ Дрездена, чтобы видѣть его вторую жену; ее интересовала женщина, не убоявшаяся выйти замужъ за Бестужева при жизни его первой жены, сосланной въ Сибирь. Когда же Елисавета Петровна узнала, что графиня Бестужева не собиралась пріѣхать, государыня сильно разгнѣвалась и, по придворнымъ толкамъ, Михаилу Бестужеву могла грозить участь его первой жены. Извѣстна вражда, существовавшая между обоими

братьями Бестужевыми. Императрица намѣревалась поручить графу Михаилу Петровичу управление дворомъ великаго князя Петра Ѳеодоровича, но графъ, женившійся на иностранкѣ, вовсе не желалъ выѣзжать изъ Дрездена, гдѣ онъ состоялъ посланникомъ. Его братъ, канцлеръ, съ своей стороны, опасался для себя его пріѣзда, такъ какъ онъ былъ въ дружескихъ отношеніяхъ съ вице-канцлеромъ графомъ Воронцовымъ.

Графу Алексію Петровичу приходилось быть очень осторожнымъ, чтобъ не потерпѣть отъ козней враговъ и не возбудить недовѣріе государыни. Но, какъ замѣчаетъ посланникъ Дикенсъ, Бестужевъ былъ самъ себѣ врагъ и давалъ поводъ своимъ недоброжелателямъ распространять худую молву про него. Онъ любилъ роскошь, любилъ строиться и велъ большую игру, такъ что былъ кругомъ въ долгу. Для удовлетворенія своихъ потребностей онъ не останавливался передъ растратой денегъ, принадлежавшихъ казнѣ. Это безнравственное дѣяніе повлекло за собою еще болѣе чувствительное нарушеніе, съ его стороны, обязанностей, связанныхъ съ его служебнымъ положеніемъ: Бестужевъ нашелъ возможнымъ обратиться къ представителямъ Англіи, Австріи и Саксоніи при русскомъ дворѣ съ просьбой его выручить въ виду того, что иначе его враги, оба брата Шуваловыхъ и генераль-прокуроръ князь Трубецкой, могли воспользоваться его критическимъ положеніемъ для того, чтобы погубить его въ глазахъ императрицы, а его паденіе оказало бы большое вліяніе на ходъ вѣдшихъ событій и на группировку державъ, въ чемъ были заинтересованы союзники Россіи—Австрія, Англія и Саксонія. Бестужевъ не считалъ для себя предосудительнымъ обращаться за помощью къ государямъ союзныхъ государствъ. По словамъ Дикенса, канцлеръ въ половинѣ октября 1752 г. просилъ своего друга, саксонскаго посланника Функа, передать австрійскому послу Бретлаку и англійскому посланнику, что отъѣздъ государыни въ Москву ставилъ его въ самое затруднительное положеніе, такъ какъ онъ, независимо отъ того, что онъ съ трудомъ находилъ средства на содержаніе своего дома, растратилъ на свои нужды казенныя деньги двухъ департаментовъ, состоявшихъ подъ его управленіемъ, канцеляріи и почтамта; изъ 15.000 червонцевъ, составлявшихъ секретный фондъ канцеляріи, онъ присвоилъ 12.000, изъ почтовыхъ — 16.000 рублей, а всего, приблизительно, 20.000

червонцевъ. Бестужевъ просилъ посла и посланниковъ предупредить его гибель. Генералъ Бретлакъ, Функъ и Дикенсъ, дѣйствительно, обратились къ своимъ дворамъ; до полученія ими отвѣтовъ Бестужевъ не рѣшался выѣзжать въ Москву, гдѣ императрица уже находилась съ 19 декабря 1752 года. Онъ имѣлъ основанія рассчитывать на то, что союзные государи придутъ ему на помощь. Шестъ лѣтъ тому назадъ король Георгъ II ссудилъ его 6.000 фунт. стерл. подъ залогъ его дома въ С.-Петербурѣ. Но расчеты канцлера не сразу оправдались. Первый отвѣтилъ саксонскій министръ Брюль, предложившій Бестужеву удержать въ его пользу около шести тысячъ фунтовъ стерлинговъ изъ суммы, которую русскій дворъ уже давно былъ долженъ саксонскому. Австрійское правительство извѣстило генерала Бретлака о своемъ согласіи на уплату Бестужеву пожизненной пенсіи въ 10.000 германскихъ флориновъ, но канцлеръ съ негодованіемъ отвергъ это предложеніе, говоря, что онъ на такихъ условіяхъ не намѣренъ продавать себя какой-либо иностранной державѣ. Генералъ Бретлакъ съ нарочнымъ курьеромъ извѣстилъ свой дворъ объ отказѣ канцлера, убождая свое правительство выслать ему отъ 10 до 12.000 червонцевъ, чтобы выручить Бестужева въ случаѣ необходимости пополнить растрату, произведенную имъ. Англійскій король, съ своей стороны, отвѣтилъ, что онъ готовъ снять запрещеніе по залогу дома канцлера, и предоставлялъ Дикенсу обѣщать Бестужеву 2.500 фунт., если русскій дворъ обязуется выставить войска въ случаѣ нападенія Фридриха II на гановерскія владѣнія Георга II, другіе 2.500 фунт., когда русскія войска начнутъ свое выступленіе, и особое вознагражденіе, если субсидія, требуемая Россіею отъ Англіи, будетъ, насколько возможно, уменьшена. Вслѣдствіе ходатайства Функа, саксонскій дворъ выслалъ ему 8.000 рейхсталеровъ для передачи Бестужеву и предоставилъ канцлеру еще 22.000 рейхсталеровъ изъ суммы, должной русскимъ дворомъ. По настоянію австрійскаго посла, его правительство выслало ему 30.000 германскихъ флориновъ, что съ 8.000 рейхсталеровъ, полученными Функомъ, составляло, по расчету Дикенса, сумму, достаточную на пополненіе растраты. Но канцлеръ былъ большой мотъ; получивъ отъ Бретлака 10.000 червонцевъ, онъ, два дня спустя, проигралъ изъ нихъ 1.200. Всѣ свои сношенія съ иностранными представителями по вопросу о своемъ вознагражденіи Бестужевъ, несомнѣнно, держалъ втайнѣ.

Малѣйшая заминка въ переговорахъ приводила Бестужева въ тревогу; по словамъ Дикенса, онъ былъ очень трусливъ и вель дѣла не иначе, какъ путемъ протоколовъ или черезъ подачу памятныхъ записокъ, которыя представлялись государынѣ. Эти формальности казались иностраннымъ дипломатамъ очень обременительными. Въ 1754 г. Дикенсъ писалъ, что канцлеръ никогда не видѣлся съ императрицей; всякая мелочь излагалась въ письменномъ докладѣ, который передавался молодому фавориту Ивану Шувалову; послѣдній подавалъ докладъ въ томъ случаѣ, если, по его мнѣнію, императрица была расположена заняться дѣлами. Всюду наталкивались на мелкія грязныя интриги. Самъ великій канцлеръ жаловался Дикенсу на такіе порядки, которые, въ глазахъ друзей и недруговъ, являлись позорными и оказывали вредъ доброму имени и вліянію императрицы, но канцлеръ не зналъ, какъ пособить горю.

Между тѣмъ политическому положенію Европы угрожалъ король прусскій Фридрихъ II, который искалъ предлога нарушить миръ и воспользоваться случаемъ, чтобы расширить свои владѣнія. Этотъ государь не стѣснялся никакой мѣрой, никакимъ способомъ для причиненія вреда противнику, какъ бы эти дѣйствія ни противорѣчили началамъ нравственности: имъ чеканилась фальшивая монета, выпускались на свободу преступники и т. п. Подобно тому, какъ въ 1740 г. Фридрихъ захватилъ Силезію у Австріи, онъ собирался занять ганноверскія владѣнія короля Георга II или напасть на Саксонію. Онъ искалъ лишь повода къ тому, чтобы затѣять распрю. Къ дрезденскому двору Фридрихъ предъявилъ требованіе объ удовлетвореніи тѣхъ изъ его подданныхъ, которые являлись кредиторами, по государственному долгу, Саксоніи, хотя ихъ претензіи были неосновательны и не вытекали изъ условій дрезденскаго договора. Прусскій король угрожалъ поддержать свое требованіе силою оружія; версальскій дворъ, однако, убѣдилъ его отказаться отъ его домогательствъ, а союзные дворы рѣшили дать ему отпоръ. Въ отношеніи Англіи Фридрихъ удерживалъ извѣстную сумму, которая слѣдовала къ уплатѣ нѣкоторымъ великобританскимъ подданнымъ по Силезіи и которую прусскій король обязался имъ вернуть. Георгъ II вступился за своихъ подданныхъ; съ своей стороны, Фридрихъ II сталъ готовить запасы на границѣ ганноверскихъ владѣній Георга, закупать лошадей и фуражъ и устраивать лагерь на 50.000 чел. войска подъ Берлиномъ.

Эти угрозы заставили англійскаго короля начать переговоры съ русскимъ дворомъ о снаряженіи корпуса въ 60.000 чел., который, находясь въ Лифляндіи, могъ бы вступить въ Пруссію по первому требованію Англій. Степень участія Россіи въ этой войнѣ и вопросъ о субсидіи, уплачиваемой ей Англіею за вспомогательныя войска, составляли предметъ договора, заключеніе котораго было поручено Дикенсу, но договоръ былъ подписанъ, нѣсколько лѣтъ спустя, его преемникомъ Уилльямсомъ.

За это время отношенія съ Швеціей не были прочны; королева приходилась сестрою Фридриха II прусскаго, а самъ король Адольфъ не могъ освободиться отъ вліянія французской партіи, которая была сильна при его дворѣ. Черезъ нее версальскій дворъ пытался завести сношенія съ Петербургомъ, куда присылались подозрительныя личности, Мобрэнъ и аббатъ Миноретъ. Имъ приписывалось порученіе завязать переговоры съ великокняжескимъ дворомъ. О великой княгинѣ Екатеринѣ Алексѣевнѣ Дикенсъ сообщаетъ одни officialныя свѣдѣнія, но уже тогда существовали опасенія за ея вмѣшательство въ политическія дѣла; насчетъ великаго князя Петра Ѳеодоровича онъ приводитъ странное предложеніе, сдѣланное имъ черезъ Дикенса Георгу II, принять на средства короля содержаніе гоштинскихъ войскъ великаго князя.

Англичане черезъ Россію вели торговлю съ Персіею, гдѣ имѣли конторы и пользовались услугами русскихъ для защиты своихъ интересовъ и соотечественниковъ въ этой отдаленной странѣ. Въ Россіи проживало не мало англичанъ, занимавшихся торговлею и построившихъ фабрики, какъ, напр., обойная фабрика Томпсона и Бутлера въ Москвѣ.

Нельзя не упомянуть о бѣдствіяхъ, которыя часто посѣщали Россію и свидѣтельствовали о внутреннемъ неустройствѣ. Пожары очень часто случались даже въ столицахъ, и противъ нихъ не принималось никакихъ мѣръ предосторожности. Дикенсъ пишетъ о громадномъ пожарѣ въ Москвѣ, истребившемъ весною 1752 г. двѣ трети города, около пяти тысячъ построекъ; второй пожаръ, случившійся осенью, уничтожилъ Зимній дворецъ императрицы. На долю Петербурга выпадали наводненія, которыя уносили много жертвъ и причиняли неисчислимые убытки.

С. Горяиновъ.

ОГЛАВЛЕНІЕ.

Переписка англійскаго посланника Гая Дикенса съ герцогомъ Ньюкастельскимъ за время съ 28 января (8 февраля) 1750 г. по 20 (31) декабря 1753 года.

1750.

№		СТР.
1.	Полковникъ Гай Дикенсъ герцогу Ньюкастельскому. 28 января (8 февраля).—Разговоръ его съ графомъ Бестужевымъ о способахъ удаленія датскаго министра Шулина отъ занимаемой имъ должности. Бестужевъ желалъ бы, чтобы король Георгъ II взялъ починъ въ этомъ удаленіи .	1
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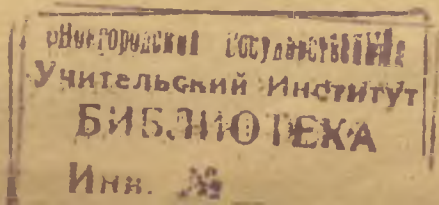
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N^o 1.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 28-th January (8-th February) 1750.

Secret. Mylord. Having finished my separate letter by mentioning m-r Schulin, I must inform your grace in this secret one that I have had a long conversation with the chancellor about this gentleman. His excellency asked me, if I had wrote to your grace what he communicated to me, concerning the methods to be taken for ruining that minister's credit with the king, his master. I told the chancellor, I had; but could not help objecting to him that, in my humble opinion, the attack against that minister would come much more properly from hence, as m-r Schulin had furnished them with several natural pretences to do it: First, the solemn, though false, assurances he had given them, in his danish majesty's name, concerning the engagements he had led his master into with France and Sweden. Secondly, m-r Schulin's villainous attempt to create jealousy and a misunderstanding between our courts by all the lies and inventions, that he communicated to m-r Titley, touching the pretended negotiation between the court of Denmark and this. And, thirdly, the treaty, concluded with the prince successor of Sweden about Holstein.

The chancellor agreed. These were all very good and well-founded complaints; but his excellency still insisted on m-r Titley's breaking the ice (as he culled it) with the grand marshal, m-r Moltke. He would likewise have His Majesty insinuate, that, if m-r Schulin be not removed, he would withdraw his guaranty of Sleswick and that they would, afterwards, combine and give Denmark jealousies about that article, on this side. And this I was desired to write to your grace, as an appendix to the chancellor's pecuniary scheme with the grand marshal, which I promised, I would do; and, as I find, he is entirely bent upon m-r Schulin's ruin, if it can any way be brought about; I shall beg your grace to let me know, as soon as possible, His Majesty's sentiments upon the expedients proposed

by the chancellor, and in case they should not be agreeable to His Majesty if any others can be thought on, that will answer the same end.
R. 22-th February by Kuoni. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 2.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 3-d February o. s. (14-th February) 1750.

Mylord. A little before I dispatched Kuoni, the messenger, on Tuesday last, I received the honor of your grace's letters of the 2-d and 5-th past, o. s. with extracts of your grace's orders to m-r Titley and of his letters to your grace; but, as the said messenger had been already detained too long, I would not let him wait till these letters were decyphered, but ordered him to depart and make all the diligence possible.

Now I know the contents of your grace's letters, I am glad to find that baron Korff had, at last, thought proper to make a confidence to m-r Titley of the orders sent to m-r Panin, concerning the convention. This court would have that of Stockholm come into about the present form of government in Sweden. I hope that my dispatch, by the messenger, will have set this affair in a clear light and convinced your grace that, if this measure was not communicated sooner to His Majesty, it is owing to the negligence and indolence and not the reservedness of this court, who certainly desire nothing more, than to act in every thing with the greatest sincerity and confidence towards His Majesty and the empress-queen. Therefore, lest baron Korff should commit again the like mistake in being cold or reserved to m-r Titley, I shall take care to acquaint him, for the future, with the orders that may, from time to time, be sent to that minister from hence. What surprises me very much is that baron Korff let m-r Titley continue in the notion, that there is another negotiation depending, besides that about the convention, which, as your grace will have seen by my late letters, the chancellor absolutely denies.

A few days ago, I received from m-r Porter a letter of the 19-th December, when things at Constantinople continued to have a favourable aspect, but, yesterday, as I dined with general Bernes in a very large company he whispered to me that he had, the evening before, received letters of a fresher date from Turkey, by the way of Vienna, which had brought him the disagreeable news of the grand vizir's being deposed and another put in his room, who was in the french interest. But this change

will, I hope, have the less bad effect, as I can assure your grace, they are here in as pacifick a disposition, as the King can wish, and desirous and firmly resolved not to take the least step, with regard to the affairs of the north, without His Majesty's advice and concurrence and, if they did so, in the instructions sent m-r Panin about the convention, your grace will have perceived, it was in order to justify, as well as they could, the last ill-judged declaration which they had caused to be made.

A few days ago, arrived here count Lynar, his danish majesty's minister plenipotentiary to this court, and yesterday he had his first audience of the Empress, the great duke and great dutchess. Monsieur de Cheuses, whom count Lynar succeeds, took, at the same time, his audiences of leave. R. 4-th. March P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 3.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 6-th February o. s. (17-th February) 1750.

My lord. General Bernes, whom I have seen since my last, tells me he has received from Vienna his full power to accede to the act of His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746, in which he thinks his court has been a little too hasty and might as well have waited, till they knew His Majesty's sentiments upon the desire of this court to have this affair concluded and signed here, especially, as I find by letters from m-r Keith that they think this demand very ill founded at Vienna, for, as it is at the desire of the Empress that His Majesty has agreed to accede to this treaty, the King might have insisted that the affair might be done at his own court; but the paper your grace received by Kuoni, the messenger, and of which I have sent a copy to m-r Keith, will let His Majesty and the court of Vienna into the views of this court, in making such a demand.

Audiences of the two danish ministers and a wedding, at which the great chancellor assisted yesterday, have prevented my seeing him since my last and having a little talk with his excellency, as I proposed, upon the ferment there seems to be, by m-r Titley's letter to your grace, amongst the leading men at the court of Denmark and the critical situation in which m-r Schulin finds himself at present; and knowing his opinion, how this incident may be improved to the best advantage, but, by a message I had this morning from the chancellor, I expect he will

appoint me to-morrow or next day. In the mean time, I am persuaded he will take occasion, from the above advice, to urge to me the necessity of losing no time in putting in execution his scheme with regard to m-r Schulin, and which is his constant theme, every time we meet.

In reading over m-r Titley's letter to your grace of the 30-th December n. s., I take notice of another reservation of baron Korff's, which I cannot account for, and is, that at the same time, that he communicated to m-r Titley the orders, he had to lay before the court of Denmark a draught of the new memorial, which m-r Panin was to present at Stockholm, why he made a mystery to m-r Titley of the refusal, given by the court of Denmark, to join in the said memorial, which he had received long before then, as your grace will have seen by the copy I have sent you and the answer returned here by m-r Cheuses, the danish minister, by order of his court. Such equivocal proceedings will, I hope, appear very strange to the chancellor and engage him, as I shall insist on, to send the clearest and strongest orders to m-r Korff to hold, for the future, a more frank and open conduct towards His Majesty's minister.

This court has not, as yet, received any advice, from their minister, of the change that has happened at Constantinople, by the deposing of the old vizir and putting in another, but general Bernes tells me that, when he communicated it to them, they seemed to be very much surprised at this unexpected event.

P. S. There will be three mails due from England to-morrow. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 4.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. February 20-th. 1750.

Sir. I acknowledged by Lamb, the messenger, your letter of the 13-th past, since which I have been favoured with those of the 16-th, 20-th and 23-d and have laid them all before the King.

As I find, by the last of those dispatches, that the chancellor Bescovich had delivered to you his remarks upon the project of His Majesty's act of accession to the treaty of 1746, I am now in daily expectation of the arrival of the messenger, whom you proposed to dispatch to England, and I shall then lose no time in sending you His Majesty's sentiments

upon that paper. In the mean time, as you will have seen by my several letters that His Majesty cannot admit of any alteration in the project of the act of accession, transmitted to you and to m-r Keith on the 17-th of October last (a duplicate of which you will have received by Lamb), His Majesty hopes that you will have been able to bring this important affair to a final conclusion upon the text of your instructions, without waiting for an answer to the paper, delivered to you by m-r Bestuchef.

You will have received, very fully, in my dispatches abovementioned His Majesty's sentiments upon the present situation of affairs and upon the memorial given in by m-r Panin, as well as upon the subject of those delivered here by count Czernichew and, at Vienna, by count Bestuchef. I have wrote, in consequence, to m-r Keith and, as soon as I have an answer from Vienna, the King will direct a final one to be given to count Czernichew's memorial, in which, I do not doubt, but the court of Vienna will concur, and which will be agreeable to what I have mentioned to be His Majesty's sentiments, in my letter apart, by Lamb.

I shall send you, by the next post, an account of a very material discourse which m-r Puyzieulx has had with the earl of Albemarle, relating to m-r Panin's memorial, and, also, particular answers to the several points, mentioned in your late letters. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 5.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. February 23-d. 1750.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I received yesterday, by Kuoni, the messenger, the favor of your letters of the 28-th past, with the several memorials and papers, inclosed in them, all which I have laid before the King; and, though I have but just had time to run them over cursorily, His Majesty has ordered me to take the first opportunity of repeating to you his sentiments upon the two material points, which make the subject of those dispatches: viz-t, His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746 and m-r Panin's memorial and that delivered here by count Czernichew, in consequence thereof.

As to the first, it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should declare to the chancellor Bestuchef, that the King will not admit any alteration

in the draught of the act of accession, transmitted to you in my letter of the 17-th of October last, a duplicate of which I sent you by Lamb, the messenger.

You will have seen, by all my letters to m-r Keith and yourself, that it was never proposed that His Majesty should extend his engagements to the Empress of Russia by his accession, beyond those, contained in the treaties of 1741 and 1742; and, as to the secret articles, no mention was ever made to the King that there were any such articles at the time, that His Majesty's accession to this treaty was first asked in 1746; and, for that reason, as well as from the contents of those articles, the King is determined to take no part in them. The court of Vienna has been so sensible of the force of this argument, that the empress-queen has not only, herself, agreed to the form, proposed for His Majesty's accession and to the declarations, that are to accompany it, but count Uhlfeld did also acquaint m-r Keith that the court of Petersburg would consent to what should be agreed, between His Majesty and the empress-queen, upon this head.

To cut short, therefore, any farther reasoning upon this matter, it is the King's pleasure that you should declare to the chancellor Bestuchef, in plain and express terms, that, to give the two empresses the strongest proof of His Majesty's earnest desire to unite and connect himself, the most intimately, with them, the King had agreed to accede to the treaty of 1746, according to the form transmitted to you, but that His Majesty could not, on any account, consent to any variation from that form; that no mention, or communication, was made to the King of any secret articles, when His Majesty's accession was first desired to the treaty of 1746; that, for that reason, as well as from the subject matter of those articles, His Majesty was determined to take no part in them; and, therefore, had directed you, in case the accession took place, to make the declaration in writing, transmitted to you for that purpose; that, if the Empress of Russia did not think fit to accept His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746 upon these conditions, there was an entire end of that whole transaction.

The chancellor Bestuchef will consider, whether he will reject a measure, founded on such solid principles, because the King will not comply with such absurd and extravagant demands; for nothing, surely, can be more properly said to be so, than the supposition that His Majesty could be induced to stipulate his contingent, in consequence of His Majesty's accession, at 300.000 pounds, and to give a subsidy of 150.000 pounds, per

annum, for the maintenance of an army of 30.000 Russians in Livonia. And you are not to expect any farther directions from the King upon this head, His Majesty having taken his resolution upon it, from which he will not depart.

As to the second point, viz-t what relates to m-r Panin's memorial and that presented here by count Czernichew, I cannot avoid observing that the King was a little surprised that you should have made no other reflection upon that transaction, than that it had not been previously communicated to the King, when you must have known, how very contrary such a step was to His Majesty's sentiments, and, particularly, when you must have seen, by my letter of the 12-th of September last, that His Majesty was of opinion that, if nothing farther could be obtained, the court of Russia should acquiesce in the assurance given by the last declaration, published by the king of Sweden.

You will, however, have been fully apprised of His Majesty's sentiments upon this memorial, by my letter of the 9-th instant by Lamb, and, though the King may not give a formal answer in writing to the court of Russia, till His Majesty can have consulted the empress-queen, according to m-r Richecourt's proposal, yet, that the court of Petersburg may not remain in doubt with regard to the King's opinion upon this point, it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should forthwith declare to the chancellor Bestuchef (and, even, give it in writing, if desired), that the King was extremely sorry for the memorial, presented by m-r Panin, of which His Majesty had not, till within these few days, any authentick notice from the court of Russia, that, considering the present dispositions and what had already passed upon that subject, the King thought no good effect could arise from such a measure; on the contrary, that it might give occasion to disagreeable replies, which might be attended with bad consequences; that, as the King, from the beginning, had always discouraged the court of Russia from taking any step that might endanger the peace and tranquillity of the north and had declared the impossibility of His Majesty's joining therein; His Majesty did now, in consequence thereof, direct you to declare, in form, to the court of Russia, that the refusal, on the part of Sweden, to consent to what is desired in m-r Panin's memorial, cannot be looked upon, as an act of offence or aggression in Sweden, sufficient to authorise the Empress of Russia to proceed to hostilities against that crown, or entitle her to the assistance of her allies, stipulated in their defensive treaties with Russia; and, consequently, that His Majesty cannot admit the *casus foederis* to exist (as seems to be

desired by count Czernichew's memorial), if, on a refusal on the part of Sweden, to comply with what is desired by m-r Panin's memorial, the russian troops should invade any part of the swedish dominions and be opposed, by the Swedes, in such an attempt.

M-r de Mirepoix, the french ambassador, has communicated here copies of m-r Panin's memorial, of a paper unsigned, left by m-r Panin with the swedish ministry, of the answer returned by the king of Sweden and of an answer given to m-r Panin's unsigned paper.

M-r de Puyzieulx has, also, talked, very strongly, to the earl of Albemarle upon this occasion and has given him plainly to understand that, if Sweden is attacked, by Russia upon this pretence, France and Prussia are determined to assist Sweden, to the utmost. Denmark, possibly, may do the same, as the Ottoman Porte, in all probability, will, if the Russians give them such an handle, especially since the late alteration of the ministry there.

Count Bestuchef will see, by all, that you must have said to him, in consequence of my former letters (and, particularly, by that of me 9-th instant, by Lamb) and by the formal declaration, which you are now directed to make, that they can have no assistance from the King. And, by all my letters from m-r Keith and by count Richecourt's discourse here, I have very good reason to believe that the court of Vienna is exactly in the same way of thinking, with His Majesty, upon this subject. And, therefore the King is persuaded that the Empress of Russia will not proceed to execute any threat or menace, which may either be directly expressed or infered from m-r Panin's memorial. And the King is confirmed in this opinion from the declaration, made by the chancellor Bestuchef to the earl of Hyndford (of which his lordship gave an account in his letter to me, of the 11-th of September), that the Empress of Russia's resolution is that since her allies, and particularly the King, disapprove of her taking any schemes to prevent the change of the form of government in Sweden, that might make her appear as the aggressor, she is determined to keep her troops under arms within her own frontier, without committing the least hostility, even though the news of the death of the king of Sweden should prove true and that the successor should actually change the form of government, till she shall have consulted with her allies and taken measures, in conjunction with them, for the security of the peace in the north.

And I must here observe to you that His Majesty thinks that the memorial, presented by m-r Panin, without the knowledge or participation

of the King or the empress-queen, was a step not very consistent with this declaration. And I may also acquaint you that, as His Majesty and the empress-queen thought it, for the publick service and for the honor of the Empress of Russia, that that declaration should be communicated to the court of France, the King has been very much surprised to hear from thence that the court of Russia has denied the having made any such declaration.

You will see an assertion in the swedish answer to m-r Panin's memorial, that the treaty of Nystadt (upon which the court of Russia found their pretensions of interfering, with regard to the form of government in Sweden) does not exist; and this they would prove, not only from the contents of the treaty of Abo, but, also, from the protocol of the conferences of the plenipotentiaries, who made that treaty, whereby they say, it appears, that it was proposed that the seventh article of the treaty of Nystadt should be renewed; but that it was absolutely and finally refused. I beg, you would let me know the truth of this fact and how the state of the case is; though, which ever way it comes out, it can make no alteration in His Majesty's resolution, nor in the declaration that you are directed to make.

Upon the whole, you will in a strong serious manner show the chancellor Bestuchef the great danger, there is, that the Empress of Russia may find herself engaged alone in a war from incidents which are neither of importance enough of themselves to occasion it, nor may even have been thought, by the chancellor, sufficient to have produced it; and therefore the greatest care ought to be taken to prevent it.

I must defer, till another occasion, the sending you any answer to the points, relating to Denmark, Saxony and the Ottoman Porte. I have only the King's commands to acquaint you that, in the present circumstances, His Majesty cannot make any alteration in the refusal, already given to count Flemming, of a subsidy to be granted to the king of Poland.

You will not be surprised that this letter is wrote, in so positive a manner, in answer to the voluminous and unexpected representations of the court of Petersburg. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 6.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 13-th February o. s. (24-th February) 1750.

My lord. Since my last, which was of the 6-th instant o. s., I have not been able to see the chancellor at his own house; every little holiday

being, it seems, a pretence to the ministers here not to listen to any business, some days before or after; they had too good an one not to make use of it on the great-dukes birth day, which was last saturday, on which occasion there was a ball and a great supper at court. By the message I had, however, from his excellency, which I mentioned to your grace in my last, I thought he would have been glad to speak to me on his own account, and to clear up a little point of jealousy, his secretary having told me, by his order, that count Czernichew had wrote to the college of foreign affairs, here, that your grace had put into my hands, for the information of this court, all the papers, relating to the negotiation His Majesty had caused to be set on foot, at the court of Denmark, in order to prevent the alliance his danish majesty has entered into with France, at which, it seems, the chancellor is a little surprised, as I had told him that my orders were to make this communication to the Empress of Russia and him, the chancellor, only, which are the words in your grace's letter of the 15-th August last, to m-r Keith; the chancellor would therefore have me, since your grace has mentioned these affairs to count Czernichew, draw up this communication, in some shape or other, to be laid before the college of foreign affairs, which, when I see his excellency, I shall tell him, I am not at liberty to do, your grace having expressly enjoined m-r Keith to give no copy, nor suffer one to be taken, or any thing to be put in writing from the communication he was directed to make. As your grace will have observed by some cautions I have already given you, at the chancellor's desire, that count Czernichew is not in the chancellor's favour and confidence, I believe the chancellor could wish you would not speak to count Czernichew upon any business, but such as your grace will find he has in command from hence.

If to-morrow's post brings me any letters from your grace, I shall take that pretence to desire, again, the chancellor to appoint me an hour to see him.

Your grace will hardly believe that, though I have often mentioned to the chancellor the orders I had to make to him the abovementioned communication, he has not given me yet an opportunity to do it, but in a very loose and general manner.

The polish resident, who is charged with marshall Saxe's affairs and lay ill at Moscow, arrived here a few days ago and appears at court. I shall, therefore, enquire if general Bernes and monsieur Swartz have received the orders they expected, concerning count Biron, that we may execute them as soon as possible. R. 10-th. March P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 7.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. February 27-th. 1750.

All in cypher. Sir. Having sent you His Majesty's commands, very fully, upon every thing relating to m-r Panin's transactions at Stockholm, and to m-r Czernichew's memorial presented here in consequence of them, I am, now, to return you answers upon some particular points contained in your former letters.

His Majesty observes that the chancellor Bestuchef had absolutely denied, not only the having refused to give any further communication to His Majesty of the negotiation, said to be carrying on between Russia and Denmark, but also the reality of such a negotiation. However that may have been, it is now over, and I am apt to believe that m-r Bestuchef flattered himself with more compliance on the part of m-r Schulin, than he has since found; which, probably, was the reason that m-r Panin's memorial was communicated to Denmark only, before it was delivered. The King is no stranger to m-r Schulin's principles, nor to the unhappy influence he has over the king, his master, as you will have seen by all that I have wrote to you by the King's order. But His Majesty knows too well the inclinations and dispositions of the several persons of credit in the danish court to imagine that it is possible, at present, to engage the grand marshall Moltke to take any part against m-r Schulin, with whom he has been, of late, very intimately connected and by whose means he has been brought entirely into the french system; and, therefore, that thought cannot in the King's opinion produce the effect proposed, neither does His Majesty think that it is at all proper to m-r Titley to begin the attack.

Russia has been long in close connection with Denmark, and that, even since His Majesty's offers were lately refused by his danish majesty. If, therefore, m-r Bestuchef has now found out that wrong representations have been made to the Empress of Russia by m-r Schulin and that, at the same time that he professed keeping up a good correspondence with Russia, he was carrying on quite opposite schemes; it is the business of m-r Bestuchef to direct baron Korff to lay that in a proper manner before the king of Denmark. That will come with weight and may produce a good effect; and m-r Titley will not fail to give baron Korff all possible assistance in the execution of such orders.

M-r Titley is, himself, sufficiently informed of m-r Schulin's proceedings and will be glad of any opportunity to second the russian minister in giving the king of Denmark a proper notion of them. But I very much fear, whether any measure of this kind, however desirable, will be likely to succeed.

As to m-r Bestuchef's desire that His Majesty should have a minister in Sweden, it was, in a great measure, out of regard to the interests of the common cause that His Majesty refused to receive two swedish ministers, that were named to come hither; and the King does not well see, how he can send a minister to Stockholm, till a proper person is named to come from thence to His Majesty's court. You know, there is a person in Sweden who keeps a constant correspondence with me. I cannot say, any great advantage arises from it; however, we hear something, by that means, of what passes; and I wish, he were more regular, than he is in his letters.

His Majesty has a real regard and compassion for senator Akerhielm, who, probably, had some assistance from you, whilst you were at Stockholm. As to the allowing him a yearly pension, I cannot yet say any thing to it. It will be soon seen by the turn that things will take, how far he will stand in need of it and what real advantage will be obtained by it.

I have an account from the earl of Hyndford, by the post that came in yesterday, that he was actually on board the yacht at Helvoetsluys and should sail for England with the first fair wind. As soon as he arrives, I will not fail to speak to him about the presents desired for the russian general and the others mentioned in your letter.

The King observes that a great deal is said in m-r Bestuchef's remarks relating to a contingent to be furnished by His Majesty, as elector; and a great disinclination show'd to give the declaration proposed relating to the King's german dominions.

As that declaration is in itself so just, that the court of Vienna immediately came into it, His Majesty cannot but be a little sensible of the difficulties made by m-r Bestuchef upon it; and the King is persuaded that, upon your farther representations, they will be removed, especially as in case the King takes these engagements, as King, His Majesty must necessarily follow, as elector, and, therefore, if the King's german dominions are attacked, *en haine* of his accession, His Majesty is entitled to the assistance of the contracting powers in that treaty.

Since my last letter, I have seen an extract of the protocol of the

conferences at Abo. It is in two places expressly said that the swedish ministers refused to renew the 7-th article of the treaty of Nystadt, as not being applicable to the circumstances of that time and that the russian plenipotentiaries acquiesced in that refusal. The clearing up of this fact which will be, by no means, agreeable to the court of Russia, is the consequence of m-r Panin's last memorial.

You will have seen, by the earl of Hyndford's letter to me, of the 11-th of September last, that the Empress of Russia expressly promised the King to take no step, without previously communicating it to His Majesty and the empress-queen. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 8.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 17-th February o. s. (28-th February) 1750

My lord. On Wednesday last I had a message from the chancellor, desiring to speak with me, which was, as I expected, about what your grace had said to count Czernichew concerning the communication, I had to make of all that had passed with Denmark to prevent that court's entering into new engagements with France. The chancellor told me that since your grace had mentioned these transactions to count Czernichew, and that the college of foreign affairs here, to whom he had wrote about them, expected a communication of them, he could wish I would draw one up in writing, in which I might leave out what I thought proper, and he pressed this so earnestly upon me, though I read to him the article of your grace's letter to m-r Keith forbidding any written communication to be given, that, I said, I would see what I could do. On my return home, where, having since read all those papers over again, I have wrote to the chancellor that it was impossible for me to comply with his excellency's request without new orders; and that I would write to your grace upon that subject by this post. As I expected, when I went to the chancellor, that he would give me time to make this communication to him, I had brought with me the copy of your grace's letter of the 15-th August to m-r Keith and of all m-r Titley's letters to your grace concerning this negociation, but I had scarce been a quarter of an hour with his excellency, but general Bernes, whom he had likewise appointed, came in; so that I was obliged to refer this again to another opportunity; I have often complained to general Bernes of the difficulty I found to get

the chancellor to allow proper time to explain and lay before him, clearly, several affairs I had in command, but he tells me, there is no help; that it was his case as well as mine, and had been the earl of Hyndford's, who, he doubted not, had informed your grace of it.

During the short time I was with the chancellor, I took, however, an opportunity to talk to him about the ferment there seemed to be amongst the ministers in Denmark, and he told me that he had the same advice, and, as I expected, urged the necessity of putting in execution, as soon as possible, his scheme against m-r Schulin. The chancellor acquainted me, at the same time, that being informed that count Lynar, the here danish minister, was no friend to m-r Schulin, who had opposed his being sent hither, he, the chancellor, asked him, the last time he saw him, if he could not take upon him to write to the king, his master? To which count Lynar had answered shrugging up his shoulders that he might do it, but that things, at present, were upon such a footing at his court, that he did not care to venture upon such a step; whereupon the chancellor said to him, he might write to m-r Schulin and let him know that by the measures he had drawn the king, his master, into, neither our court, nor this, could have any confidence in him; that he thought his danish majesty's true interest lay in quite different engagements from those he had lately contracted with France; but since the latter had been preferred, count Lynar might assure m-r Schulin that if, on the one hand, this court did not mean to run away from that of Denmark, so, on the other, they would not run after it.

The chancellor told me, he had and would send again the strongest orders to baron Korff to act in the most confidential manner with m-r Titley; but he desires m-r Titley may, at the same time, have the like orders with respect to m-r Korff.

I am now, at the chancellor's particular desire, to caution your grace not to talk to count Czernichew upon any business, but just such as you will find he is charged with from hence. I could not help saying to the chancellor, upon this occasion, that it were to be wished there was in England a minister in whom he could put more trust; to which the chancellor answered I was in the right, but he would tell me in confidence that the Empress had as great a dislike to count Czernichew, as he and did not care to have him under her eyes here; therefore, that he must stay where he is, till they could send him to some other court.

Monsieur Goltz, the king of Prussia's envoy extraordinary to this court, who has been this long time in a very deep decay, is recalled;

and he is to be succeeded by monsieur Wahrendorff, the prussian *secrétaire de légation*, who has received his credentials as *ministre chargé d'affaires*. R. 13-th March. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 9.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 20-th February o. s. (March 3-d) 1750.

My lord. The day before yesterday I received the honor of your grace's letter of the 26-th of January, with the copys of m-r Keith's letter to your grace and of your grace's letter to m-r Keith inclosed. I am surprised to the last degree to find by the latter that count Czernichew had not yet communicated to your grace the rescript sent to him, concerning the convention m-r Panin, the russian minister at Stockholm, has orders to propose for removing all jealousies about the supposed intention of changing the present form of government in that kingdom, the chancellor having told me, if I understood him right, that he had transmitted the said rescript to count Czernichew, before he left Moscow. But, let who will be in the fault, your grace must have received it at present by Kuoni, the messenger, together with the chancellor's private thoughts upon the affair of His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746. And, as I may now expect, in a few weeks, His Majesty's orders upon those dispatches, I shall delay till then, mentioning any thing to the chancellor of what your grace is pleased to write to me, in your abovementioned letter, upon the hint he let drop to me in my first interview, concerning an extension of His Majesty's engagements. In the mean time, I must, however, observe to your grace, that though count Uhlfeld told m-r Keith that this court would be satisfied to accept His Majesty's accession, in the manner that should be agreed upon between His Majesty and the empress-queen, yet he must have known something of the attempt they intended to make here to obtain a subsidy, as I have reason to believe. General Bernes was no stranger to it, when he dispatched to Vienna the courier, giving an account of this court's desire to have the act of accession signed here; and I believe, your grace will find that m-r Richecourt will have orders from his court to use his best endeavours to bring our's into the chancellor's way of thinking. (The following lines are nulls).

[7 blank lines].

With regard to the affairs of Denmark, I hope that my dispatches,

by Kuoni, will have set them in a clear light and convinced your grace that there never was any other negotiation between that court and this, than what related to his danish majesty's concurrence to the convention, lately proposed to Sweden and which Denmark has absolutely refused, as your grace will have seen by the answer returned to baron Korff; so that it is not to be wondered, if the chancellor was not clear and open upon a thing he knew nothing of. The court of Sweden has returned no answer yet to the abovementioned convention, nor do they expect here, it will be a favourable one; therefore, when it comes, I will use my endeavours to persuade the chancellor to let this affair rest, as it is; and I hope, he will agree to it.

P. S. I am just now informed that the answer of Sweden to the convention proposed by this court is arrived and consists in a flat refusal.

R. 16-th March. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 10.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. March 6-th. 1750.

In cypher to the end. Sir. I received yesterday the favor of your letters of February the 3-d and 6-th and laid them before the King.

You will have had His Majesty's thoughts upon the chancellor Bestuchef's proposal, relating to m-r Schulin, in my letters of the 23-th and 27-th past. Though the king extremely wishes any method could be found out of preventing the unfortunate influence which he has in his danish majesty's councils, the King thinks that that suggested by m-r Bestuchef can by no means succeed, and His Majesty does not think proper that m-r Titley should be the first mover in it.

I have little to add to what I have lately wrote upon the affairs of the north. The King is very glad to find that you are of opinion that the court of Petersburg is so pacifick; and that the Empress of Russia will take no step with regard to Sweden without previously concerting it with the King. The late appearances do not favour that opinion in either respect. The substance of m-r Panin's memorial and the presenting it without giving His Majesty any notice of it, till it was known all over Europe, neither show any real disposition to peace or a fixed resolution to concert any thing previously with the King. However, I hope that, for the future, it will be otherwise, and that, in consequence of His Ma-

jesty's advice and the declaration you are directed to make in the King's name, the Empress of Russia will determine to avoid all acts of hostility and not to suffer her troops to enter Finland on any account; which must, in the present circumstances, be looked upon as the beginning of an hostility.

There are some loose indications of a disposition in the court of Sweden to come to an accommodation with Russia, by the means of His Majesty and the empress-queen. The King cannot yet make any certain judgement about it. But His Majesty and the empress-queen will neglect no opportunity of doing every thing on their part that may promote and secure the peace of the north. And I hope that m-r Bestuchef will not put that out of their power by any hasty, unadvised step, of which the court of Russia may be the first to repent.

Notwithstanding all that you have sent, relating to His Majesty's accession and the wild proposals of the chancellor Bestuchef, I will still flatter myself that every thing will be concluded upon the foot that was transmitted from hence, as soon as you shall have received your full power. I hope general Bernes has had orders to support the form of accession which his court had so readily and so satisfactorily agreed to.

I am sorry to find, by a letter which I received on Sunday last from m-r Keith, that count Uhlfeld gives a little too much into the chancellor Bestuchef's wild notion of a subsidy from His Majesty for maintaining a body of russian troops in Livonia. M-r Keith will, however, have seen that His Majesty has given an absolute refusal to it, I having sent him copies of all my letters to you.

The court of Vienna seem also to complain a little of the paper given in by you to m r Bestuchef, for which you had no orders; and I must, for the future, warn you against giving any thing in writing without His Majesty's direction, as they always make an ill use of it. If it was right, in this case, to give any thing in writing (which, however, upon the whole I wish you had not done), I am sorry you mentioned count Richecourt's name; for his frank concession to me, in a private conversation, may do him hurt at his own court and at that of Petersburg; and, therefore, I must beg you would, for the future, avoid naming persons, unless where you are particularly directed so to do. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.



№ 11.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 24-th February (7-th March) 1750.

My lord. On Thursday last I received the honor of your grace's letters of the 30-th of January and 2-d of February and am glad to see, by the last, that His Majesty had thought proper that the departure of the messenger, who was to bring me a full power authorising me to sign the King's accession to the treaty of 1746, should be delayed, till count Czernichew had received the orders he expected from hence; by which means, I hope, Kuoni, whom I dispatched from hence on the 30-th of last month, will arrive time enough for your grace to accompany the full power you intend to send me with proper orders and instructions upon the dispatches you will receive, by Kuoni, especially as your grace will have seen by all my late letters that no orders will be sent to count Czernichew, concerning this transaction, before His Majesty's sentiments be known upon the alterations, proposed to be made by the great chancellor to the manner and form of His Majesty's accession.

As I met, yesterday, general Bernes at the great chancellor's, where we dined together, I took his excellency aside, and having asked him, if he knew any thing of the Empress of Russia's having consented to accept of His Majesty's accession, in such a manner, as should be agreed between the King and the empress-queen, he protested to me, he never heard of it, so that I find the court of Vienna has not received this advice from their ambassador, nor could he indeed well have wrote it since; as I have already observed to your grace, he must have had some knowledge, before he left Moscow, of the alterations the great chancellor proposed to make to His Majesty's accession. This incident, small as it is, makes me therefore give a little credit to something m-r Schwartz, the dutch envoy, let drop to me, on his return from Moscow, as if he believed this court had been encouraged by that of Vienna to make a demand of subsidies.

The company at the great chancellor's yesterday was too numerous to allow me an opportunity of talking to him about the answer he had received from Sweden, nor do I expect to be able to do it to-day, though we are to dine again together at the vice chancellor's, but I am informed, in general, that in this answer the court of Sweden say that the dignity and independence of the crown will not permit them to come into the

convention proposed by this court, nor have this court any pretence to desire it, as all the conditions of the treaty of Nystadt were annulled by the war, that since happened between the two crowns and which was ended by the peace of Abo, in which several articles indeed of the treaty of Nystadt were inserted and renewed, but not that relating to the present form of government, and, as to the Empress's guaranty of the present succession, she had given it in the treaty of Abo, therefore it was needless to make a new convention about it. R. 20-th March. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 12.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. March 13-th. 1750.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I have received, since my last of the 6-th instant, the favor of your two letters of the 13-th and 17-th of February; both which I have laid before the King.

I have, at present, no particular commands to send you from His Majesty; but I shall take the opportunity of a courier that count Richecourt will dispatch to Vienna, on Friday next, to transmit to m-r Keith a letter upon business of consequence; which he will be directed to forward to you, by the first courier, that shall go, from Vienna, to Petersburg. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 13.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 3-rd March o. s. (14-th March) 1750.

My lord. All the last week was spent here in feasting and diversions; and this, being the first week of lent, was begun, as usual, with praying, fasting and other acts of abstinence, so that, the ministers being invisible to every body, I had nothing to write your grace by the last post and should have had as little worth doing it by this, was it not to inform you that the night before last I received the honor of your grace's several dispatches of the 9-th February by Lamb, the messenger, together with a box containing His Majesty's full power, authorising me to sign the act of His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746.

As I happened to dine yesterday with general Bernes in the country, I delivered to him there a letter the abovementioned messenger had brought for him, and told him at the same time that I had received the full power I expected; so that, as we were now both duly authorised, I hoped no time would be lost in this negotiation, but that we should bring it to a conclusion as soon as possible, especially since it plainly appeared to me by my orders and instructions that His Majesty would not admit of any alteration, either in the project of His Majesty's act of accession, or in either of the two secret declarations which had been approved of by his court. General Bernes very readily agreed to concur with me in any step that should appear the most proper to bring the chancellor to a speedy determination of this negotiation, and I am to go to general Bernes tomorrow, when we are to consult about the letter I am to write to the great chancellor, desiring a conference with him and general Bernes, as likewise about what we shall say to the chancellor, if (as I very much apprehend) he should be for delaying the conclusion of this negotiation, till I had received an answer to my dispatches by Kuoni. But as your grace very justly observes, the best way will be to cut the matter short by leaving the chancellor no manner of hopes that the paper I transmitted at his desire will make the King alter his mind with regard to the method in which His Majesty, from the beginning, proposed to accede to the treaty in question. R. 26-th March. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 14.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 16-th March 1750.

Sir. M-r Klingraff, the prussian minister, some days ago, acquainted me that he had received orders from the king, his master, to make a verbal declaration to me upon the present situation of affairs between Russia, and Sweden, which declaration (to the best of my memory) was to the following effect, viz-t:

«That all the powers of Europe being equally concerned in the preservation of the peace of the north, the king of Prussia would not defer opening himself in confidence to His Majesty upon the disputes between Russia and Sweden; that his prussian majesty had flattered himself (after the assurances lately given to France by the allies of Russia) that the court of Petersburg, being satisfied with what Sweden had done to tran-

quillise them, with regard to the supposed change of the form of government in Sweden, would no longer have the same apprehensions and that the demonstrations, occasioned thereby, would be discontinued. But that the memorial, delivered at Stockholm by m-r Panin in January last, was not only contrary to those assurances, but that it struck at the independence of Sweden by proposing conditions *si humiliantes pour sa souveraineté*, that Sweden could not accept them consistently with their independence and the dignity of their crown; so that his prussian majesty could not but applaud the answer, returned by the court of Sweden to m-r Panin, and flattered himself that all the allies of Russia (and particularly His Majesty) would employ their good offices and insist, in the strongest manner, with the court of Petersburg to induce them to be satisfied with the said answer and to drop an affair the consequences of which might easily plunge the north in troubles and confusion, as his prussian majesty could not avoid fulfilling the engagements he had contracted with Sweden by the treaty of 1747 in case (contrary to expectation) Sweden should be attacked by Russia».

I told m-r Klingraff that I would immediately give an account to His Majesty of what he had said to me and acquaint him, as soon as possible, with the Kings sentiments thereupon; which I have accordingly done by reading to m-r Klingraff inclosed paper, as the substance of the answer which His Majesty had directed me to return to the verbal declaration he had made to me in the name of the king, his master.

Cypher. You will communicate this letter and the paper inclosed to the chancellor Bestuchef, who, I am persuaded, will be entirely satisfied with the answer returned to m-r Klingraff, in which m-r Bestuchef will see a continuance of the King's constant regard and attention to his allies, and that His Majesty is not disposed to show upon this occasion any extraordinary complaisance to the king of Prussia; but that the King is determined to execute his defensive engagements to his allies, in case they are attack'd.

I acquainted you, by my last, that I should have His Majesty's orders to write to you by a courier that count Richecourt will dispatch, this night to Vienna.

P. S. I am to acknowledge your letter of the 20-th past. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

Réponse lue à m-r de Klingraff le 14 Mars 1750.

Le Roi m'a ordonné de vous dire, en réponse à la communication que vous m'avez faite hier, que les sentiments pacifiques de Sa Majesté

sont bien connus par tout, et particulièrement en France; qu'il est notoire que Sa Majesté n'a eu nulle information du dernier mémoire de m-r Panin, que bien longtemps après qu'il l'eut présenté; qu'au reste Sa Majesté s'en tient à ses premières déclarations, savoir qu'elle ne prendra part dans aucune guerre ou brouillerie, où contre toute attente ses alliés seront les agresseurs, mais qu'elle ne manquera pas de remplir religieusement ses engagements défensifs envers eux, en cas qu'ils soient attaqués. Copy sent to m-r Keith the 16-th. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 15.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 16-th March 1750.

Most secret. Sir. I have receiv'd the favor of your letter of the and laid it before the King.

I am, in the greatest confidence, to acquaint you that His Majesty has received certain intelligence from Paris that m-r Scheffer, brother to the swedish minister at the french court, has been very lately dispatched from thence to Stockholm, to procure the most authentick informations of the state of their forces, the sentiments of the swedish ministers, as to the manner of employing them, and what assistance the court of Stockholm will ask of France and Prussia.

A plan being made upon this foot, m-r Scheffer is to proceed with it to Berlin and there to communicate it to the king of Prussia and to endeavour to get his prussian majesty to explain himself, in what manner he intends to assist Sweden and what he expects from France, in order to enable him to perform his engagements to Sweden and to pursue his own interests, without running too great a risk. With this m-r Scheffer is to return to Paris, upon which the court of France will declare, what conduct they will hold; and it will be proposed to Denmark to enter into this concert with Sweden, France and Prussia.

His Majesty has also been informed that the French are not without their suspicions, that the king of Prussia's design may be to draw them in to go farther lengths, than they intend; and, therefore, they will be very positive in making the king of Prussia explain himself first. There are, also, other advices that his prussian majesty intends soon to publish a very strong declaration against Russia, in case the Czarina should attack Sweden.

At the same time, that His Majesty, as a sincere friend and ally, has determined to communicate these intelligences to the chancellor Bestuchef (which you will do in a proper manner), it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should, very strongly, inforce your former instances to prevent the Empress of Russia from beginning any act of hostility against Sweden, which the entering swedish Finland, with russian troops (though disguised under any colour or pretence), would certainly be, and that you should repeat the declaration, mentioned in my letter of the 23-d past, that, in such case, the King cannot assist the Czarina, or admit that to be *casus fœderis*.

The appearances, that there were some days ago, that the court of France has encouraged the swedish ministers underhand to apply to the King and the empress-queen, to employ their good offices with the court of Russia to prevent things from coming to extremities, and that some farther assurances might be given to the courts of London and Vienna, relating to the maintenance of the present form of government in Sweden; these appearances, I say, rather seem to abate, by the last letters from Paris, the french ministers talking of nothing, but that the court of Petersburg should content themselves with the declarations, already made.

I am surprised that chancellor Bestuchef should be alarmed with what count Czernichew has wrote about the danish negotiation with France, and should think that it was necessary for you to give any thing in writing, relating to it. It is His Majesty's express order that you should give nothing in writing; and you may acquaint m-r Bestuchef that I should not have talked so freely to count Czernichew upon this subject, if that minister had not told me expressly that, on all points of secrecy and confidence, he wrote only to the Empress, his mistress, and the chancellor Bestuchef; and I am not certain that he named the Empress. However, I shall, for the future, be as much upon my guard, as I can; but you will observe to m-r Bestuchef that count Czernichew's remaining here, upon that foot, will be of very little use. Most secret, by count Richecourt's courier to Vienna. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 16.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 6-th March o. s. (17-th March) 1750.

My lord. Yesterday morning, as I had agreed, the day before, with general Bernes, I wrote a short letter to the great chancellor, acquaint-

ting him that a messenger being arrived from England, as he had seen, by the letters I sent him, on Friday last, from count Czernichew, I begged his excellency would appoint me the day and hour when I could have a conference with him and general Bernes, in order to communicate to his excellency the orders and instructions I had received, by the said messenger, concerning His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746 and to the other matters of importance; in answer to which the chancellor sent me word, this morning, by his secretary that he had spent all the last week in his devotions and that the Empress having begun this week with her's, which obliged him to a very close attendance on Her Imperial Majesty, it would not be possible for him to see me till next week, when he would not fail to let me know the day and hour. The same message has been sent to general Bernes, so that I have nothing else to do, but to wait the great chancellor's leisure.

By the time I shall redispach Lamb, the messenger, to your grace, I hope to have collected all the informations that may enable me to send by him the accounts, His Majesty expects of the present situation of this court, the characters and credit of the ministers and of every thing else that can give His Majesty a clear insight into their dispositions etc. (The three following lines are nulls).

In the mean time, I may be bold to affirm to your grace that their chief and favourite object, at present, is a close union with the house of Austria and the maritime powers. I only wish that they may not, by weighing so scrupulously, as they do, the reciprocal advantages which will accrue to the respective partys by such an union, throw a little too many into their own scale. R. 31-st March. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 17.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 10-th March o. s. (21-st March) 1750.

My lord. Since my last I have heard, indirectly, that the great chancellor designed to call general Bernes and me on Monday or Tuesday next to the conference I desired of him in consequence of the orders. I had received by Lamb, the messenger, and, as I think I see pretty plainly that he will be for delaying matters, till I have an answer to my dispatches of the 30-th January, by Kuoni. I have to obviate all excuse or pretences got ready copies of the several papers to be left with him,

concerning His Majesty's accession, as also a translation of part of your grace's letters to m-r Keith and me of the 17-th of October last, containing the reason that induce His Majesty to take this measure; which, I find, is the only effectual way of doing business here; for what is said by word of mouth goes in at one ear and out at the other.

General Bernes has promised to join with me, in the strongest representations, to prevent any more time being spent in concluding this negotiation, though I must not let your grace be unacquainted that, two days ago, the dutch envoy repeated to me again that these delays were owing to the court of Vienna, who, to please and flatter this court, had encouraged them to ask for subsidies; the truth of which your grace will easily find out, by the manner in which count Richecourt will speak to you, after he has received his orders upon the papers the great chancellor delivered to general Bernes and me.

Not long since, arrived here the court of Vienna's answer to the rescript, sent to the russian ambassador there, concerning the convention, proposed by this court to that of Sweden, with which they are not at all pleased and have desired another, which may be less prolix and proper to be laid before the college of foreign affairs, which this is not, as it refers to some secret promemorias, of which the Empress and the great chancellor only have any knowledge. This distinction between what is and what is not to be communicated to the college of foreign affairs, is the occasion of perpetual blunders and mistakes, and will continue to do so, if the chancellor does not get the Empress to explain herself clearly with regard to the affairs, she thinks proper to leave to his sole direction and those which shall be discussed and treated in the college, for want of which the chancellor is obliged to have recourse to a thousand little intrigues, which confound and perplex things very much. The court of Saxony's answer to the convention, proposed to Sweden, is likewise arrived, and with which this court is very well pleased; for it is said in it that, if contrary to expectation, the court of Sweden refused to come into this convention, proposed to them in so friendly a manner, his polish majesty would be ready, in that case, to enter into a new and farther concert of measures with the Empress of Russia; which answer, if it does not acknowledge, does not, they say, deny the *casus fœderis*. But notwithstanding all the rescripts, sent to London and Vienna about this point, I may continue to assure your grace that they are here in very quiet and pacifick dispositions and determined, I believe, to let all disputes with Sweden rest upon the last answer, returned by that court. Not long since I told

them, in a jocosè manner, that I did not see, what harm an alteration in the present form of government would do them, for had it not been for Charles the twelfth's wild expedition, they would not have been masters of the fine provinces they are now in possession of. That I could assure them, there were a great many more Charles the twelfths in that country, and, if the projected change of government should happen, would be for a new war with Russia, in which case the *casus fœderis* would not only exist, but they would have a fair chance to get the remainder of Finland; to which the chancellor, smiling, answered he verily believed I was in the right.

Though I doubt not but your grace will have received it from some other quarter, yet I herewith transmit to you a copy of the answer returned by Sweden to the new convention, proposed to them by this court.

A few days ago baron Goltz, the prussian envoy, left this place. On his return home, he took his leave in writing, as his ill state of health did not permit him to stay till after easter, before which time he was given to understand, he could not have an audience. R. 3-d April. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

Réponse de la part du roi au promemoria présenté par m-r de Panin, envoyé extraordinaire et ministre plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie.

Sa majesté ayant fait faire ci-devant par son ministère à m-r de Panin, envoyé extraordinaire et ministre plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie, une déclaration également propre à prouver son amitié envers Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie et combien elle s'intéressait pour sa part au maintien de la tranquillité, elle n'a pu voir qu'avec regret que la dite déclaration n'ait point paru satisfaisante à Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie pour calmer les appréhensions qu'on lui aura fait naître au sujet de quelques troubles, dont le nord dût être menacé. Sa Majesté ne peut cependant que s'y rapporter encore et ne saurait s'en départir, sans déroger à la gloire et à la dignité de la couronne.

Sa majesté ne peut donc regarder que comme incompatible avec ce principe une nouvelle convention, par laquelle d'un côté la Suède dût s'engager à ne rien innover dans la forme de son gouvernement, et de l'autre Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie non seulement en garantirait la perpétuité comme en vertu de quelque obligation qui dût résulter du 7-e article du traité de Nystadt, mais se chargerait en même temps d'une

garantie de la succession établie en faveur de son altesse royale le prince successeur et ses descendants.

Sa majesté n'a pu s'empêcher d'observer que l'un et l'autre de ces points portent sensiblement sur l'arrangement intérieur d'une couronne indépendante, lequel ne peut être censé de la compétence d'aucune puissance étrangère. Sa majesté ne saurait même accorder que le 7-e article du traité de Nystadt en fournisse un droit particulier à Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie, mais quand il en serait autrement, sa majesté ne peut le regarder que comme entièrement aboli par un traité postérieur, qui ne l'a pas fait revivre ni en a constaté d'aucune façon la validité. Sa majesté croirait même ne pas différer dans ce point avec Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie, puisqu'elle a jugé qu'il fût besoin d'une convention nouvelle pour lui rendre son authenticité. Sa majesté déclare au reste encore que les constitutions de la Suède, les engagements solennellement contractés et les sermons de chaque particulier ont pleinement de quoi faire envisager comme vaine toute crainte que la forme du gouvernement pût être exposée à aucune atteinte illégale, et doivent en même temps rassurer Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie sur une prochaine interruption de la tranquillité du nord. Mais si contre toute attente il pourrait en arriver autrement, ce serait le cas, où la Suède croirait pouvoir se reposer (s'il en était besoin) sur l'assistance de ses alliés et de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie en particulier, après une réquisition préalable et formelle de la part de la Suède. C'est cette réquisition, qui pourrait seule autoriser l'entrée de ses troupes et sans celle-là sa majesté ne saurait envisager autrement, qu'elle l'a déjà fait connaître le cas, où Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie leur ferait passer les frontières du royaume, savoir, comme une infraction où la Suède n'aurait à consulter que son indépendance et les lois d'une juste défense.

A l'égard de ce qui devrait faire le second objet de la convention proposée, sa majesté déclare qu'elle voit avec plaisir l'intérêt que Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie témoigne de prendre au maintien de la succession qui se trouve heureusement établie. Elle ne hasarde même rien en déclarant que son altesse royale le prince successeur en conservera le souvenir et le prouvera par tous les moyens possibles, mais sa majesté ne croit pas devoir craindre la circonstance, où ce sentiment de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie pût être mis à l'épreuve, qui ferait l'objet de la convention. L'amour des sujets que son altesse royale gouvernera un jour et l'hommage volontaire qu'ils lui ont rendu d'avance, sont des garants trop sûrs de leur zèle, pour qu'il ne soit même injurieux de les mettre en

doute. Il ne le serait pas moins aux voisins de la Suède de soupçonner, qu'ils puissent jamais enfreindre jusqu'à ce point les traités et ce que le droit de tous les peuples a de plus sacré.

Si cependant de part ou d'autre il pouvait jamais y avoir à craindre pour cette succession, ce serait attaquer la Suède par un endroit trop sensible et qui intéresse trop essentiellement le droit de tous les souverains, pour que sa majesté doive douter de l'empressement qu'aurait Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie en ce cas de remplir ses engagements, dès qu'elle en serait requise indépendamment de toute autre convention.

Sa majesté n'estimerait aucun lien de trop qui tendrait à l'affirmissement de la bonne intelligence entre les deux cours, si à l'égard des objets y proposés il était en soi-même possible et s'il en était besoin; mais sa majesté ne révoquant aucunement en doute la sincérité des assurances que Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie vient de lui faire donner de son amitié et de l'autre côté sa majesté et la couronne de Suède ne respirant que le désir d'un bon voisinage, rien n'empêche plus que, de part et d'autre, on ne puisse se reposer sur la foi des traités déjà conclus et prouver aux yeux de l'Europe le peu de réalité des soupçons qui se sont répandus sur les intentions respectives des deux cours et qui font également du tort aux sentiments de l'une et de l'autre. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 18.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 23-d March 1750.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I received late on Tuesday night the favor of your letter of the 24-th past and laid it before the King.

It is very immaterial, how far the court of Vienna was authorised to answer for the consent of the Empress of Russia to the form of accession, proposed by the King. His Majesty has acquainted both empresses that he cannot depart from that form, and indeed it is pretty extraordinary that all the difficulties should be made by the court of Russia, which was the first to propose and afterwards earnestly pressed His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746.

One would rather imagine from such a behaviour that his accession had been originally thought of and earnestly requested by the King; the contrary of which you must know to be true. The chancellor Bestuchef

will consider, whether, because the King cannot consent to all his extravagant demands, he will obstruct and measure, which must be thought so advantageous for the preservation of that system, upon which the freedom and independance of the powers of Europe may depend.

It is so material to have the earliest information of the impression, which the swedish answer to m-r Panin's memorial has made, that I cannot but be a little surprised that the post should go away without your having been able to get some information about it. Our accounts from all parts (viz-t France, Sweden, Denmark and Prussia) show, how salutary and indeed necessary His Majesty's advice is for the court of Petersburg not to take any hostile step or enter swedish Finland with their troops, on account of what has passed at Stockholm, and particularly of their refusal to consent to the convention, proposed by m-r Panin.

The court of Vienna is certainly in the same way of thinking upon this subject with the King, as to the non-existence of the *casus fœderis*, and the absolute necessity of not proceeding to any *voies de fait*. And it cannot be expected that the empress-queen will or can give any assistance, if the court of Petersburg should be the first to begin disturbances in the north.

Baron Sohlenthal has received orders to make a declaration here that the king of Denmark is for accepting the assurances already given by Sweden, and previously to communicate his instructions to the french and prussian ministers here.

Whatever the answers given by the chancellor Bestuchef to the several points, upon which you are directed to acquaint him with His Majesty's sentiments, may be, whether favourable or otherwise, it is the King's pleasure that you should transmit them hither, as you receive them, that His Majesty may be the better able to judge of the real intentions of the court of Russia. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 60.

№ 19.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 13-th March o. s. (24-th March) 1750.

My lord. I have not yet been able to obtain the conference I desired of the chancellor, but I begin to hope, from a message I received from him yesterday, that, in a very few days, whether the answer to my dispatch by Kuoni comes or not, that we shall seriously set about the

business of His Majesty's accession and bring it to a speedy conclusion and, as immediately after, I shall redispach Lamb, the messenger, I will reserve, for that opportunity, all I have to say upon the situation of affairs at this court. R. 8-th April. P. R. O. 1750. № 61.

№ 20.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg 17-th March o. s. (28-th March) 1750.

My lord. On Wednesday morning last I had a message from the great chancellor, letting me know that he expected to see me at his house about twelve o'clock at noon and that general Bernes would also be there. When I came and that we were all settled, I acquainted his excellency, as I had already done by letter and by one of his secretaries, with my having received a full power from the King, authorizing me, as the Empress had desired, to conclude and sign here an act of accession on the part of the King to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses; but in the very form and words of the project I had already communicated to him, to which His Majesty would, on no account, consent any alteration should be made; that I had therefore brought with me all the papers relating to this important affair and hoped, as His Majesty expected, that we should bring it to an immediate conclusion. The chancellor answered that the Empress was to go, that day, to Czarko Sielo and that he and the vice-chancellor had orders to attend on Her Imperial Majesty there two days after, and as he should not be back till Sunday evening, we could not open the conferences before the beginning of next week. The chancellor let drop at the same time something about the time, when Kuoni left this place and that I might now soon expect an answer to the dispatches I had sent by him. I cut this matter short according to His Majesty's commands and told the chancellor, he was not to hope His Majesty would consent to any alteration in the project that had been sent to me, therefore it was only losing time to wait for an answer to his paper of remarks; for, having, before he delivered it to me, hinted to my court what I thought would be the purport of it, from what he had said to me in some preceding conversations, your grace had, in plain and express terms, wrote to me that His Majesty would hear of no such extension to his engagements, so that it was now his excellency's business to consider, if we should proceed to the completion of this salutary work or let it fall. The chan-

cellor, smiling, said, he did not intend any more time should be lost in this negotiation, and that I might depend upon it. General Bernes and I should be called to a conference with him and the vice-chancellor on Monday or Tuesday next, when they would receive and lay before the Empress all the papers I should deliver to them concerning this affair.

This point being settled, and finding the chancellor did not speak one word to general Bernes, or me, about the answer returned by Sweden to the proposals about the new convention, though copies are handed about here, I told his excellency that, as he did not mention this answer to us, I supposed it was not a satisfactory one; upon which the chancellor, alledging forgetfulness to be the reason of his silence, said, it was true they had received an answer, which, he said, was a civil one, but a flat refusal, and then told us, in general, the contents of it, from whence he inferred that it must now be plain to every body that they had a real design, in Sweden, to change their present form of government. I took this occasion to talk to the chancellor before general Bernes, in the sense and as near as possible, in the very words of your grace's apart letter of the ninth past, by Lamb, declaring to him that the King would not, on any account, admit that this refusal could be looked upon as a *casus foederis*. I likewise observed to him that, in my opinion, this answer of Sweden cleared the point; for, if the seventh article of the treaty of Nystadt had been omitted in that of Abo, they had lost all right to concern themselves in their form of government. The chancellor did not entirely allow of this, pretending the whole treaty of Nystadt was confirmed in that of Abo, in which he is mistaken, for I have now both treaties before me and observe that not only the seventh article of the first is omitted in the cast, but that every article of the treaty of Neustadt, which was judged necessary or allowed to be renewed, is expressly named and recited in that of Abo. To all these arguments the chancellor seemed to yield and said that we might be assured, the Empress would undertake nothing that should make her appear as the aggressor and without consulting her allies, particularly His Majesty and the empress-queen, that he hoped, nevertheless, an answer would be returned to count Czernichew's memorial. I assured the chancellor there would, a such, as would convince the Empress, how much the King had at heart her interests and prosperity. General Bernes joined in every thing I said, and we hope that we left the chancellor fully persuaded of the inconsistency and danger of pursuing any views or projects that may disturb the peace of these parts.

On my return home from the chancellor, I found the honour of

your grace's letters of the 20-th and 23-d of February, the last of which acknowledges the receipt of my dispatch by Kuoni. By what goes before your grace sees the conferences upon the business of His Majesty's accession are to be held in the beginning of the next week with the two chancellors; and the orders contained in your grace's letter of the 23-d past give me room to hope few objections will be made to the concluding of this affair, in the manner and form proposed by His Majesty, except one article, that is, the secret declaration to be given me concerning Hanover. As they are here for His Majesty's acceding to the treaty in question, in quality of elector, as well as King, and though the empress-queen has agreed to this declaration and that general Bernes has orders to sign it; yet, I fear, they will object to me here that the King and the empress-queen, as members of the empire, cannot but be under some mutual and reciprocal engagements, which may remove any objection on the part of the empress-queen; but that it is not the same with this court, who has no engagement with His Majesty, as elector. By your grace's separate letter, of the 7-th of October last, to m-r Keith, he was ordered not to refuse to accede to the treaty, in His Majesty's name, if, contrary to expectation, the empress-queen or the Empress of Russia should not consent to give such a declaration; but, by your grace's letter to me, of the 9-th past o. s., by Lamb, you are pleased to say, His Majesty will admit of no alteration in either of the two secret declarations, as well as the project of his act of allegiance. I shall, your grace may be assured, exert my utmost endeavours to prevail on this court to follow the example of the empress-queen in so reasonable and just a thing as this declaration; but if I do not succeed, I shall be in doubt what to do, though for fear of losing too much time, I believe I may choose to follow the orders sent to m-r Keith, as being clear and explicit, whereas your grace, in your letter of the 19-th past o. s., says to me, a little before you mention the two secret declarations, that you had not yet taken His Majesty's commands upon my letter of the 13-th January, giving an account of what had passed at my first conference with the great chancellor and general Bernes.

I come now to that part of your grace's letter of the 23-d past o. s. relating to m-r Panin's memorial, and that presented in England by count Czernichew, by which I am sorry to see, those two memorials give such great alarms, as if they were the forerunners of troubles and disturbances; of which we have not any the least notion here. This court's principal view in taking this step was, first, as I have already acquainted

your grace, to come off with a little decency and dignity from the ill judged threatening declaration, they had caused to be made in Sweden of taking possession of Finland upon the present King's death; and, secondly, to make it plainly appear, by the refusal they expected would be given to the convention proposed, that they had a real design, in Sweden, to change their form of government, in both which they have succeeded; and general Bernes is fully persuaded, as well as I, that they are far from thinking, here, to commit any hostilities against Sweden; and, if they are so pressing with their allies to have them acknowledge the *casus fæderis*, case of a refusal, on the part of Sweden, it is not that they believe it will exist, not even if the seventh article of the treaty of Nystadt was in force, since it plainly appears that article was chiefly intended to prevent Russia's meddling in their domestick concerns; but because they would not be thought to be in the wrong in what they have advanced and insisted on, a human weakness too common and too well known.

As to no previous notice having been given to His Majesty of this transaction, I am able to account for that, as well as the reserve baron Korff has shown, of late, to m-r Titley; for on speaking one day to the chancellor about the negotiation, His Majesty had set on foot, in Denmark, and telling him that the King, not having thought it necessary to communicate it here, might give him room to believe, as I found he did, that the King came too late with his offers; the chancellor gave me plainly to understand that this was the reason of baron Korff's reserve towards m-r Titley; that every thing ought to be upon a reciprocal footing, otherwise business could not be done; that baron Korff, as I desired, should have positive orders to behave with m-r Titley otherwise; but he expected m-r Titley should have orders to do the same with regard to baron Korff.

General Bernes, as well as I, are very much surprised at the advice, your grace has received from France, that this court denied having made the declaration, the earl of Hyndford gave your grace an account of, in his letter of the 11-th of September; this piece of news must have been forged in France or Prussia; for, as general Bernes observed very properly, the great chancellor repeated to us the same declaration, but in fewer words, on Wednesday last. Things here being, therefore, in such a quiet and peaceable situation, general Bernes thinks, as well as I that we should not put them in an ill humour by dry and abrupt declarations; it will be time enough to come with them, if we see them inclined to change their present way of thinking, which, we are pretty sure, will

not happen; and that all disputes with Sweden will end with the prudent and well judged answer, they have returned to m-r Panin's memorial. These reasons will, I hope, make His Majesty approve of my not giving in the declaration I am ordered to make, till we see some room or necessity for it, especially, since what I said to the chancellor, in the conference I had with him on Wednesday last, is much the same, as what I am ordered to declare, by your grace's last letter of the 23-d of February. R. 9-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 21.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 30-th March. 1750.

All in cypher. Sir. I received, on the 26-th instant, your letter of the 3-d and laid it before the King.

His Majesty is very impatient for an account of what shall have passed between you and the chancellor Bestuchef, since he has received the swedish answer to m-r Panin's memorial and the paper, given by count Jessin, in answer to the unsigned paper, delivered to him by m-r Panin.

As you acknowledge the receipt of my several letters of the 9-th of February by Lamb, the messenger, you was then fully informed of His Majesty's sentiments, with regard to the accession to the treaty of 1746 and m-r Panin's late transactions at Stockholm and the memorials, presented by the russian ministers here and at Vienna thereupon; so that, I hope, your next letter will bring me an account of the resolution of the court of Petersburg upon the whole. You will have seen by my letter of the 23-d past that your voluminous dispatches, by Kuoni, had, by no means, made any alteration in His Majesty's resolution upon either of those heads, but, on the contrary, that you were directed to declare to the chancellor Bestuchef (and even to give it in writing, if desired) that His Majesty could not admit the *casus fœderis* to exist in the several cases mentioned in that letter.

The King is persuaded that, after the Empress of Russia has maturely considered that you have been directed to represent to her in the most friendly manner, Her Imperial Majesty's resolution upon the whole will be agreeable to what has been so earnestly recommended, both by the King and the empress-queen, and to what appears by the earl of Hynd-

ford's letter to me of the 11-th of September last, to have been declared to his lordship in the name of the Empress of Russia by the chancellor Bestuchef.

Having received an answer from m-r Keith to my letters of the 13-th past, wherein I transmitted to him copies of my dispatches to you, by Lamb, and having, also, had a very full communication, from count Richecourt, of the sentiments of his court upon what has passed at Stockholm, I find the empress-queen entirely agrees with the King relating to the conduct to be held by the court of Petersburg; and I send you a copy of a paper, which m-r Marshal, the imperial minister at Paris, has been directed to read to m-r Puyzieulx, though, I doubt not but you will have had a communication of it from general Bernes.

You will see that the substance of this paper is quite agreeable to what I have wrote to you, by the King's order, and to what has been said here by m-r Mirepoix and by the earl of Albemarle at Paris; and consequently (if it is necessary) His Majesty can have no difficulty in ordering my lord Albemarle to hold the same language at Paris, which seems to be desired by the court of Vienna.

I send you, also, an extract of m-r Keith's letter, transmitting this paper, whereby you will see that the court of Vienna desire, that you may be instructed to hold the same language at Petersburg. This last seems a little unnecessary; for the austrian ministers, by the communication that m-r Keith had made to them of the orders sent to you, had before seen that you had, already, been directed to talk, more explicitly and more positively, than is to be inferred from the material parts of that paper which His Majesty, out of friendship to the Empress of Russia, thought himself obliged to do.

There is one particular in that paper which is farther explained in m-r Keith's letter and which has given the King great satisfaction (though it has not yet been mentioned by you), viz-t, that, since the delivery of m-r Panin's memorial (which, I think, was about the 13-th of January), the court of Vienna had received fresh assurances from the Empress of Russia of her having no design to begin any hostilities in the north; and (as is said in m-r Keith's letter) that, though a change of the form of government in Sweden should be attempted, Her Imperial Majesty would take no step without consulting her allies. And the whole tenour of the paper, read by m-r Marshal to m-r Puyzieulx, goes upon a supposition that the court of Petersburg will not begin any hostility on account of the refusal given by Sweden, to consent to the convention proposed by m-r Panin's memorial.

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The chancellor Bestuchef will see from hence that the Empress of Russia's best friends entirely agree in opinion that it would be destruction for Russia, in the present circumstances, to begin any act of hostility against Sweden, which their sending their troops into Swedish Finland (however disguised and under what pretence so ever) must certainly be understood to be.

It is then to be considered, what is the best way for the chancellor Bestuchef to get out of his difficulties after the unadvised step he has taken, without the approbation, or knowledge of His Majesty, or the court of Vienna; for some way of getting out he must find; except he will plunge himself and the Empress, his mistress, into still farther difficulties, from which he may, at last, not be able to extricate himself.

I acquainted you, in my letter of the 6-th instant, that there were some loose indications of a disposition in the court of Stockholm to come to an accomodation with the Empress of Russia by the means of His Majesty and the empress-queen. It is certain that the Swedish ministers did make some overtures, tending that way; but I am sorry to acquaint you that there is reason to think that that disposition has been discouraged by France. And the resolution seems, now, to be taken by France, Sweden, Prussia and (I think) Denmark also, to let things remain, as they are, and to give no farther assurance or satisfaction, relating to the preservation of the present form of government in Sweden. That what is contained in the king of Sweden's late declaration, in his own name and that of the prince successor, though I find mutual guarantees between Russia and Sweden for the preservation of the peace of the north, in general, would not be objected to.

This being, therefore, the state of the case, His Majesty would suggest it to the Empress of Russia's consideration, whether, as the several declarations made by Russia (though conceived in such doubtful terms as might give suspicion of some farther intention, than was particularly expressed in them) were, however, always founded upon a supposition of an attempt to be made to change the form of government in Sweden, previously to any act to be done by the Empress of Russia whether, I say, consistently with these declarations and without doing any thing contrary to her honor, the Empress of Russia might not, in answer to the instances, now made by the King and the empress-queen, declare that her intention never was to begin any act of hostility against Sweden, except there was an attempt actually made to change the form of government in that kingdom; and that, therefore, His Majesty and the empress-

queen might be assured that Her Imperial Majesty had no intention of disturbing the peace of the north, but depended upon the assistance she was entitled to from her allies by their defensive engagements, in case she should be attacked by any power whatever.

This, in reality, is no more, than putting a favorable construction upon the indiscreet memorials that have been presented by m-r Panin and comes fully up to what the King and the empress-queen had before declared to France to be the real intention of the Empress of Russia.

I have acquainted you, in my former letters, that m-r Richecourt had desired that the King would concert, with the empress-queen, the answer to be returned to the late instances made by the court of Russia. I find, by m-r Richecourt, that they are now of opinion that it would be better to avoid the formality of a joint answer in writing; and, therefore, His Majesty thinks that what you are already directed to say (and even, by my letter of the 23-d of February, to give in writing, if desired) is sufficient. And, though I shall be much pressed by m-r Czer-nichew, I shall avoid giving any thing in writing, if possible; and if I do, it will be nothing more, than the declaration you are expressly directed to make by my letter abovementioned.

You will have seen by my letter of the 23-d past that His Majesty has no thoughts of complying with the proposal of giving a subsidy of 150.000 pounds for a body of 30.000 russian troops to be kept in Livonia. The King is always ready to do every thing that in reason can be expected of him to show his regard for the Empress of Russia and to promote the most solid and permanent union between His Majesty and the two empresses; but, in the present circumstances of this country, loaded with the heavy expences of the late necessary war, His Majesty can have no thoughts of bringing upon it the additional burthen of such a subsidy.

Subsidies, though never so small, are, in time of peace, very difficult; but such, as these, now demanded by Russia and for the single object of maintaining an army in Livonia, are impracticable. The King hopes that, when the true state of this case is represented to the chancellor Bestuchef (and it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should do it), he will, himself, see the impossibility of complying with what is desired.

The court of Petersburg will consider the immense sum of money (amounting to near 700.000 pounds) which they have received (if the dutch proportion is paid) for 30.000 men; which did not come within several days march of the army, till the beginning of August and consequently

were never in service, although it was promised, that they should join the army some time in May. This makes it the less reasonable for them to insist upon any new demand of subsidy, or to be displeased that His Majesty cannot grant it.

I shall have the King's orders to write a particular letter to you upon this subject by a courier that count Richecourt will dispatch next week to Vienna. But, in the mean time, His Majesty thought proper that I should say thus much: that the chancellor Bestuchef might neither expect that the King would be brought to yield to what is proposed or think the refusal, on the part of His Majesty, proceeded from any want of regard or affection for the Empress of Russia. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 22.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg, 20-th March o. s. (31-st March) 1750.

My lord. The Empress is gone from Czarko Sielo to an estate some wersts from thence belonging to count Rasumowsky, where that gentleman's name day is to be celebrated and the two chancellor's having attended Her Imperial Majesty thither, neither of them are yet come to town; but I am told m-r Bestuchef is expected this evening.

Your grace will have seen by my last that I had not seen the chancellor Bestuchef, since the receipt of your grace's letter of the 23-d past, but yesterday I had a visit from count Lynar, the new danish minister, by whom I learned that, besides the swedish answer, of which I transmitted to your grace a copy, another paper was delivered, at the same time, to m r Panin, at Stockholm, which is called *une note*, of which the great chancellor has not taken any notice to general Bernes and me. In this note is a circumstance your grace mentions concerning the protocol of their conferences at Abo, by which the court of Sweden say, it appears, that it was proposed that the seventh article of the treaty of Nystadt should be renewed, but that it was absolutely and finally refused, to which count Lynar tells me, this court does not agree and say that they know not what the court of Sweden means by recurring to the protocol of their conferences which can never be alledged as a proof, in any case, unless it was signed by the plenipotentiaires on both sides, but let that be as it will, this seventh article of the treaty of Nystadt

is not renewed in that of Abo; so that this court cannot found any pretext on it of interposing with the form of government in Sweden; and did even this article exist, they would have no right to do it, unless requested by the states of the country to assist them against any attempt made by the king or, in any other manner, to oppress their liberties. In my conversation, count Lynar I found he had been informed by m-r Bernstorff in France of the declaration made by m-r Puyzeulx to the earl of Albemarle upon m-r Panin's memorial, which count Lynar pretends, is conceived not only in strong, but threatening terms and requiring in a dictatorial manner that his majesty should explain his thoughts and intentions on this occasion. Count Lynar spoke to me also of the declaration made here to the earl of Hyndford and which had been communicated to the court of France. Hereupon I asked him if he had any accounts from thence, that this court denied the having made any such declaration. The count, after a little pause, said he would tell me, but hoped, I would not name him as my author: that this court did deny it and had done so to his predecessor, baron Cheuses. When I heard this, my surprise, I must own, was great, and I did not conceal it from count Lynar, nor what the great chancellor had said to me a few days ago; which was to the same purpose, as what he had declared to the earl of Hyndford. Count Lynar answered, this might be reconciled; that what the great chancellor had said to the earl of Hyndford, or might say to me, he meant and intended probably for the information of my court and not for that of France. And, here, knowing, as I do, the influence of the french councils at the court of Denmark, I could not held being under another surprise, to hear the count talk of our complaisance for France; and giving me to understand that they thought here, we carried it a good deal too far, that there was no occasion for such a particular communication to the court of France, if the declaration, made to the earl of Hyndford, that it would have been sufficient to have told the french ministers, in general, that His Majesty was using his best offices to keep every thing quiet here and that he had not any reason to doubt of their meeting with success; and, in the manner count Lynar spoke, it appeared to me, as if they were as much his sentiments, as the great chancellor's. I said that His Majesty had no other view in what he did, but the publick service; and that I thought all the powers of Europe were interested in preventing a flame breaking out in the north; which would soon communicate itself to the rest of Europe. The count agreed to this and said, his orders were also to keep every thing quiet here; which ha-

ving given as occasion to talk of the designs and intentions of this court and of the resolution they would take upon the swedish answer, count Lynar agreed with me that the great chancellor understood too well his own personal interest to involve the Empress, his mistress, in a war without being sure of the assistance of her allies. But, I shall write more fully upon this and other important subjects, by Lamb, the messenger; whom I hope the great chancellor will soon give me an opportunity of redispaching to your grace.

I have just now received a message from the great chancellor to let me know, he was arrived in town and expected to see general Bernes and me at his house, to-morrow at noon, in order to have a conference with him and the vice-chancellor upon the affair of His Majesty's accession. R. 13-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 1.

№ 23.

M-r B. Wolff to duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 20-th March o. s (31-st March) 1750.

My lord. I had the honour to write your grace on the 9-th of December past, but in my foregoing of the 11-th of November I had the pleasure to acquaint your grace of my having prepared a memorial to be forwarded to the russian ministry then in Moscow. In order to desire them that directions might be sent to such persons in Persia (as were then empowered from the imperial russian court here) to be assisting to m-r Richard Willder, the english factor there, in the recovery of a considerable sum of money for effects which the british merchants were robbed off, and accordingly I forwarded the said memorial to Moscow. But as the court was then setting out for this place, I did not receive an immediate answer; however on its return to this place I had several discourses with the russian ministry upon this subject, to which they replied that they were ready to assist the english merchants in the recovery of their demands, but at present they had not any minister in Persia neither did they care to send one there, untill they should receive information that the troubles were at an end; because in the late troubles in Persia, some of their own subjects had been robbed or plundred of upwards of the value of two hundred thousand roubles. However they had lately nominated one m-r Davidoff, who is now in Astracan to be their consul in Persia, and he only waits for the first advices of the troubles being

ended there, upon which he will go over to reside in Persia as imperial consul from this court.

But as the english merchants, as before mentioned, have only one factor in Persia, viz. Richard Willder, and his principals being apprehensive that their affairs may greatly suffer in case of his death or other accidents, therefore they did desire me to procure a passport from hence to Persia for one Peter Martens, whom the merchants intends to join with m-r Willder in case of his mortality or other accidents, which I have accordingly procured and, besides that, an order from this court to the governor of Astracan, that as soon as he shall think fitt after (he may hear) the troubles in Persia are ceased for him to dispatch or send over the Caspian sea.

The forementioned consul Davidoff then to give him instructions in Her Imperial Majesty's name to be assisting with the utmost of his power to the said Willder and Martens, towards recovering of the monies from the Persia government for the amount of goods which they were robbed or plundred off, in the late rebellion; which is all that can be done for the present, but if any thing more should further pass in this affair, I shall not fail to do myself the honour of acquainting your grace therewith. R. 16-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 6.

№ 24.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 24-th March o. s. (4-th April) 1750.

My lord. On Wednesday last according to the appointment given me the day before, I waited on the great chancellor, where I found the vice-chancellor and general Bernes; and after some general discourse (for I was not at liberty to say any thing before the vice-chancellor of the orders I had received by your grace's letter of the 23-d February) I asked their excellencies if they were disposed to hear me read the papers I had brought with me, relating to the resolution His Majesty had taken at the desire of the two empresses to accede to the treaty of 1746, to which they having agreed, we seated ourselves and begun by a promemoria I had drawn up in french containing the reasons which had induced His Majesty to take this measure, the objections the King had to the acceding to the secret articles of the abovementioned treaty and the just ground upon which His Majesty hoped the two empresses would join in a decla-

ration I had to communicate to them for assisting him in case his german dominions should be attacked *en haine* of this accession. I next read to them the projet of His Majesty's act of accession and lastly the two secret declarations concerning the secret articles and His Majesty's german dominions.

After I had done, a great silence ensued and as generally happens, when persons meet who are not friends and in different interests, this conference proved very mute. The great chancellor at last said that they would take care to lay all I had communicated to them before the Empress, and know her pleasure upon it; that as to the secret articles, which His Majesty did not think proper to accede to, he thought that instead of the declaration I had read, a secret article might be added to the same purpose to the act of accession. The vice-chancellor was of another opinion and that there was no occasion either for secret article or declaration, since nothing would appear by His Majesty's act of accession that had any relation to or connexion with the secret articles of the treaty in question. To cut which reasoning short, I told the two chancellors that the empress-queen had agreed to every thing I had the honour to communicate to them both, as to the manner and form of His Majesty's accession, and as I was not at liberty to make any the least alteration, I hoped they would use their endeavours to bring this affair to a speedy conclusion; upon which, after I had tyed up again the papers, I had been reading, I offered to lay them upon the table, but the grand chancellor, standing up, said I should take them back with me and send them to him sealed. This struck me a good deal, as I could not conceive why the great chancellor would not have me leave those papers with him, as is usual at all conferences, but observing however the two chancellors were upon their guard with respect to each other, I did not discover any surprise; and general Bernes taking them his leave, I did the same and came home in order to put a cover over the abovementioned papers and send them to the great chancellor sealed as he desired; but before this could be done, I had a message from him to let me know that he was unwilling to take notice to me before that in the papers I had read to them, I named always the empress-queen before the Empress of Russia, and as these papers were directed to the latter, he desired I would have them copied over again and name the Empress of Russia before the empress-queen, which I have accordingly done and sent them all to the chancellor next morning. The Empress returned to town yesterday evening and, as the two chancellors promised to lose no time in taking Her Impe-

rial Majesty's commands upon this negotiation, I am in hopes we shall be called to a conference next week; and, as I have already hinted to your grace, I believe there will be no very material objection to the concluding of this affair, in the manner His Majesty has proposed, except the declaration with regard to His Majesty's german dominions, by reason of this court's having no engagements with His Majesty as elector, but I do not yet despair of overcoming this difficulty, and with this view I put in my promemoria that the King hoped from Her Imperial Majesty's justice and friendship that, in imitation of the empress-queen, she would consent to her ministers giving me such a declaration.

I received by the last post the honor of your grace's letter of 27-th February, to which I shall defer returning an answer till I send Lamb, which cannot now be long, and before then I shall insist on having a conference of at least one hour with the chancellor, that I may have the clearest explanation with him upon all the points I have in command from His Majesty. But I will let the business of the accession be first settled, for I observe that the talking to them of a great many affairs at once is the only way of having none finished.

I have received the honour of your grace's letter of the 2-d March upon the happy event which has happened under His Majesty of the reduction of the interest of the national debt, which cannot fail of giving as great joy and satisfaction to His Majesty's friends and allies abroad, as to his own faithfull subjects at home, and I am sure this court, in particular, will sincerely share in it. R. 16-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 25.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall 6-th April. 1750.

Very secret. Sir. I acquainted you in my last that I should have the King's orders to write very confidentially to you by a courier, which count Richecourt is dispatching this night to Vienna. As the orders and intelligence to be sent you are contained in my letters to m-r Keith, the King has ordered him to send you extracts of those letters, which he will do by an austrian courier. They are to serve for your direction and to them consequently I must refer you.

His Majesty proposes to set out for his german dominions on Mon-

day the 16-th instant. I shall have the honor to follow the King the Wednesday or Thursday after, and you will direct your letters to Hanover, for the future, according to my last letter. But it is His Majesty's pleasure that the duplicates of all your secret letters should come to me at Hanover to be by me transmitted to England. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 26.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 27-th March o. s. (7-th April) 1750.

My lord. Since my last general Bernes, the imperial ambassador m-r Schwartz, the dutch envoy, and m-r Funck, the saxon chargé d'affaires, have received letters from their respective courts, full of the alarms, which m-r Panin's last memorial, in Sweden, has spread; with orders to join, together with me, in the strongest representations to this court not to give occasion to any troubles in these parts and to make them sensible of the fatal consequences, that would attend any hasty ill-advised measures, on their part, with regard to themselves and the peace of all Europe. All these ministers being in the same way of thinking, as I, that this court has no intention to commit any hostilities against Sweden on account of the answer returned to m-r Panin's memorial or on any other account whatsoever, without previously consulting their allies and acting in a perfect concert with them in every thing. The said ministers will, I doubt not, quiet the apprehensions of their respective courts and let them know (as I have already acquainted your grace) that the great chancellor had not only repeated to general Bernes and me the declaration he had made to the earl of Hyndford, but had done the same to m-r Schwartz, a few days before, he received the abovementioned orders.

The orders, which general Bernes has received, were brought to him by a courier, and amongst other inclosures he has had sent him, the copy of a letter from count Tessin to count Bark, the swedish minister at Vienna, which general Bernes communicated to me yesterday; and, in reading it over, we observed that the court of Sweden expects that this should disarm and seems to insist on it, in such terms, as, we are afraid, will provoke here much more, than the answer and note given to m-r Panin. Sweden and her allies would, we believe, cry out very much, if Russia should insist on the king of Prussia's disarming, though his domi-

nions are not enough to contain the army, he has on foot. This cannot, therefore, fail to be highly resented here; but we remain in the firm persuasion that no provocation whatever will induce this court to do any thing without the advice and concurrence of the allies, as they have been told in very plain and strong terms at least by me; that, if they do, His Majesty will not acknowledge the *casus foederis*; and consequently that they are not to depend upon his assistance. General Bernes tells me that, in his letters, they talk to him of another declaration, which m-r Panin should have made in Sweden, besides the memorial he gave in, relating to the convention. If he has, the great chancellor never mentioned any thing of it to general Bernes and me; but we are apt to believe, there is some mistake in this and occasioned by the double answer returned to m-r Panin; therefore, though your grace will, probably, have received it yet; for fear you should not, I here inclose the copy of *une note*, which the court of Sweden gave m-r Panin at the same time they delivered to him an answer to his memorial relating to the convention proposed.

Since the receipt of the above mentioned orders general Bernes has not been able to see the great chancellor, who was in bed, when the general sent to him, yesterday at noon. And as the Empress lay in bed most part of the day on Saturday, which was the day after her return to town, I am very much afraid that none of the papers I have delivered, relating to His Majesty's accession, have yet been laid before Her Imperial Majesty. When I complain of these delays to general Bernes, he tells me, he can't help me; I could wish, therefore, the earl of Hyndford would suggest to your grace, what methods and expedients he used on such occasions to accelerate a little dispatch of business and if it would be proper for me, in my character, to put the same in practice.

They have received here the copy of a memorial presented by the french ambassador at Constantinople, desiring the Ottoman Porte to use her good offices with this to engage them to withdraw their troops from the frontiers of Finland, which, they say here, the grand vizir refused to do. R. 8-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

Note délivrée à m-r de Panin le 26-e Janvier 1750.

Le roi, qui ne désire que le rétablissement d'une confiance entière, n'a point trouvé à propos de faire relever dans sa réponse certains endroits du promémoria, qui auraient cependant paru en être successibles.

Mais nous devons vous faire connaître, monsieur, à l'égard de l'édit cité dans la déclaration précédente du roi, que l'intention de sa majesté n'a point été, qu'il dût être envisagé comme une réponse à ce qui fut déclaré alors de la part de votre cour, puisqu'il n'était pas même de ceux que la dignité et l'indépendance de la couronne eussent permis de faire amener par un mouvement de complaisance pour quelque puissance étrangère. On convient d'ailleurs qu'il avait précédé la déclaration de votre cour, mais cette circonstance n'empêchait pas qu'elle n'y eût pu trouver de quoi calmer ses appréhensions au sujet des troubles, et c'était là l'objet de la citation. On accorde aussi qu'il n'avait émané que relativement aux sujets du roi; mais il pourrait également être cité, comme le serait, par exemple, une ordonnance de commerce ou d'impôts propre à tranquilliser votre cour ou telle autre qui eût fait porter des plaintes, faute de savoir les arrangements qui eussent été pris.

En second lieu, l'on ne voit, en quoi peut être fondée l'opinion, dont le ministère de Russie paraît être prévenu, d'un prétendu plan tout formé pour introduire la souveraineté, si ce n'est sur un bruit malicieusement répandu, mais monstrueux en soi, comme quoi quelques membres du comité secret eussent dressé un pareil plan et en eussent confié l'exécution au sénat. Pour peu qu'on connaisse nos constitutions et la manière dont les choses doivent être traitées ici pour avoir l'authenticité requise, on ne saurait se laisser induire en erreur par des inventions aussi extravagantes et aussi inexcusables.

Vous verrez d'ailleurs, monsieur, par la réponse du roi, combien peu l'article 7^e du traité de Nystadt favorise le droit que votre cour en veut tirer. On en sera chez vous encore plus convaincu, si l'on se donne la peine de recourir aux actes des conférences de la dernière paix. On y trouvera qu'à la vérité vos commissaires ont fait des instances pour y faire insérer cet article, comme on en était convenu à l'égard de plusieurs autres, qui par là ont reacquis leur ancienne vigueur, mais qu'on était parvenu à leur en faire sentir l'incongruité et qu'ils s'en sont désistés.

Pour ce qui est de la déclaration contenue dans votre promémoria de l'entrée des troupes russiennes en Finlande, nous ne devons pas vous cacher, monsieur, que le roi ne saurait la concilier avec les assurances que les alliés de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie ont été chargés de faire ici et en France, comme quoi elle n'inquiéterait la Suède, ni à présent, ni après la mort de sa majesté.

Au reste, comme vous paraissez nous annoncer, monsieur, que c'était ici une dernière démarche de votre cour, relativement à cet objet, nous

devons aussi vous déclarer que quelque disposé que soit le roi de se prêter aux désirs de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie, sa majesté verrait à regret là-dessus des instances ultérieures, puisque la réponse qui vient d'être donnée à l'égard de la convention proposée est la seule que sa majesté puisse accorder avec sa dignité, l'indépendance de la couronne et la liberté et les droits des états du royaume. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 27.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 31-st March o. s. (11-th April) 1750.

My lord. Finding a whole week was passed, since the conference I had with the two chancellors upon the affair of the accession, and that I heard nothing from them, I wrote a short letter to the great chancellor the day before yesterday, desiring I might speak with him any time before the departure of this post. In answer to which he sent me his secretary, yesterday morning, to tell me, he would be glad to see me between 12 and 1 o'clock. When I came I pretended, the chief subject of my errand was the alarm m-r Panin's transactions in Sweden had spread over all Europe. The chancellor, without giving me leave to proceed, said, he had heard it and was surprised, how we could so easily give credit to the lyes and forgeries of France or Sweden; that there was not one word of truth in what they asserted of the declaration which they pretended m-r Panin had given in separately from the promemoria relating to the convention proposed, and that he had caused all the papers relating to m-r Panin's negotiations in Sweden to be examined and that no footsteps could be found by any such declaration, either verbal, or written; therefore that this was a meer fiction of France or Sweden and most likely of the latter, in order to engage the former to increase or pay them more regularly their subsidys; that, as he had told and assured me before, they had no intention to commence any hostilities against Sweden and not even, if the case existed of an alteration in the present form of government, without the advice and concert of their allies; but that it was not consistent with the Empress, his mistress's, dignity to make such a declaration in form, just for the sake of quieting the apprehensions of France and Prussia, to whom she had no reason to show so much complaisance and yet less to disarm or to withdraw her troops from the frontiers of Finland. And here the chancellor observed to me that, if they had not

proceeded in Sweden to the execution of the projected scheme of altering their present form of government, it was entirely owing to the countenance this court had held for these two years past; which convinced him, the continuation of such measures was the only security they could have for the future, or, at least, till the king of Sweden's death; when, upon the meeting of an extraordinary diet, their real intentions would more clearly appear. This is the substance of what the chancellor said not only to me upon the affairs of Sweden, but likewise to general Bernes, m-r Swartz and m-r Funck, the saxon chargé des affaires. He went even farther with these three gentlemen, than with me; telling them that he would not have them believe, he could be so mad as to think of advising his mistress to give occasion to any troubles on this side, in the present conjuncture of affairs. I must not conceal from your grace that I found him very much out of humor at the too great opinion, as he called it, which we had for France, a power, who, we know, meant only to deceive us letting drop something, as if it was unkind with regard to them; and, I believe, count Czernichew will have orders to make some representations to your grace upon this subject. As I perceived, the chancellor grew warm, I turned the conversation to the negotiation about His Majesty's accession, asking him, how it stood? and if I could flatter myself with the hopes of seeing this affair brought soon to a conclusion? The chancellor told me, he had not yet taken the empress's final orders upon it; but spoke to me, immediately after, as if he had, he having been three hours almost with the Empress the day before. For without making any the least objection and acquiescing in every thing, I said of the expediency of this measure, and that, to strengthen and consolidate it effectually, other powers, and particularly Holland, should be immediately invited to accede to it: the chancellor asked me, as if it was a thing settled, and agreed, how many instruments, I thought, we were to sign? I answered, I knew of no more, than three: the act of accession, and the two declarations. «No, says he, I want to know, how we shall avoid any dispatches about precedency in the nominations and signing». And then told me that, in his opinion, there should be six instruments: two signed by me, in both which His Majesty should be named first; but in that, I delivered to him, the Empress of Russia should be named before the empress-queen; and in that, I delivered to general Bernes, the empress-queen should be named before the Empress of Russia; but that the same forms should be observed in the two instruments signed by him and the vice-chancellor, and the two signed by general Bernes. And the chancellor

desired me, at the same time, that I would talk of this affair to general Bernes and settle it with him; which I shall accordingly do, this evening or to-morrow morning. The chancellor resuming his good humour, I had some discourse with him upon the affairs of Denmark; but I shall reserve them and other matters for my dispatches by Lamb.

Before I left the chancellor, I told him that to lose no time in putting the finishing hand to this work, I thought, it would be proper, he should order somebody, who understood perfectly well the two languages to examine the translation, your grace had sent me of the treaty of 1746. The chancellor said it was very right; that he had one in his office, who was perfectly master of german and french. He therefore desired me to send him immediately a copy of the said translation which I accordingly did yesterday in the evening.

By what goes before, your grace will see that according to all appearances the long depending negotiation about His Majesty's accession is drawing to a conclusion, and as in the greek church the week before easter is a very austere one for penance and devotion, and the week after, as busy a one in eating and drinking, I hope to make the chancellor sensible of the necessity of having all the instruments ready to be perfected by the latter end of next week at farthest. I received by the last post the honor of your grace's letter of the 6-th instant, by which I am sorry to see that the paper I gave m-r Bestuchef in writing, containing His Majesty's reasons for not acceding to the secret articles of the treaty of 1746, has given room for complaint to the court of Vienna. The mentioning count Richecourt's name appeared to me so much the more necessary, as I thought it would be an effectual means to prevent this court's insisting on a point which the empress-queen's minister had given up, but I will take care, it shall happen no more.

Count Gourofski, marshal Saxe's agent, will immediately, if he has not ready, receive the Empresses orders to leave this empire, as soon as possible, on account of his ill practices and intrigues here.

M-r Funck, the saxon chargé des affaires, tells me general Arnheim, who is expected here next week, has orders and a full power to accede to the treaty of 1746.

As according to all accounts His Majesty will set out for his german dominions towards the latter end of April, I hope your grace will be so kind, before you leave England, as not only to sign my several bills of extraordinarys, particularly that containing the expences of my journey, but also to leave orders that I may be payed some of the quar-

ters due to me, in case I should desire it, otherwise I may find myself under very great strenghts and difficulty here. R. 23-d April. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 28.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. April 13-th. 1750.

Cypher. Sir. His Majesty is extremely pleased with the result of your conference, mentioned in your letter of the 17-th past, as far as it related to the affairs of the north. The King has made the best use of those solemn assurances, given or rather repeated to you by the chancellor Bestuchef, of the Empress of Russia's having no design to undertake any thing or do any offensive act that may disturb the peace of the north. If Her Imperial Majesty does strictly adhere to that declaration and will avoid giving any cause of suspicion of a contrary design, I am not without hopes. But something may offer which may give the chancellor Bestuchef an opportunity of getting out of his difficulties in a better way, than I have of late thought, would be the case; but all depends upon a prudent conduct at present and the avoiding giving any new cause of complaint; and I cannot therefore recommend that too strongly to you.

His Majesty continues his resolution of setting out on Monday next for Hanover and I shall follow in a few days after. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 29.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. April 13-th. 1750.

Separate. In cypher. Sir. I received on the 9 instant the favor of your letters of the 8 instant n. s., by which I find there is great reason to hope that all the difficulties, relating to His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746, will be removed; except those made to the secret declaration for guarantying the King's german dominions, if attacked *en haine* of His Majesty's accession. But the King thinks that that is so reasonable in itself and, indeed, can be attended with so little inconvenience

to Russia, that His Majesty will suppose the chancellor Bestuchef will not continue his objections to it. The empress-queen has already consented to give it and therefore general Bernes must sign the declaration, whether the russian minister do, or not. The chancellor Bestuchef will then consider how and in what cases this guaranty can operate, and he will find that Russia will not, in any degree, be affected by it.

The guaranty proposed, in the first place, will not be general, but is confined to the single case of an attack upon the King's german dominions, in resentment for His Majesty's accession, which is a case that, one cannot well suppose, will happen.

In the next place, the empress-queen does give this guaranty with the knowledge and consent of Russia. The court of Vienna is the power, by it's situation, from whence immediate succour must come to the King; the Empress of Russia must, in that case, equally assist the empress-queen, whether she does or does not give this declaration to His Majesty, and that is the only assistance the King can well have from Russia; so that, in reality, there is little more, than the appearances which make His Majesty desirous of having it; and those appearances would, indeed, be extraordinary, if it should be ultimately denied. This is not a general engagement between the King, as elector and the Empress of Russia; it is only a reasonable provision against what may be (though I hope, very unlikely) the consequence of the measure which the King is taking, at the request of the Empress of Russia and, therefore, the King is persuaded, will not be refused. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 30.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. April 17-th. 1750.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I received, on Friday last, the favor of your letter of the 20-th of last month and laid it before the King.

I shall be very impatient to hear the result of the conference which you were to have with the two chancellors. I cannot but flatter myself that the affair of the accession will go, as His Majesty proposed it. It will be great good news to some certain powers, if the court of Petersburg should, by their insisting upon any of their unreasonable demands, make it impracticable for His Majesty to accede to the treaty of 1746. Count Lynar's discourse does, by no means, agree with the directions,

that all the danish ministers have in foreign courts to join with the ministers of France and Prussia in the language to be held on occasion of m-r Panin's late transactions at Stockholm. M-r Schulin's death may possibly create some alterations in the system of that court. M-r Titley will not fail to make the proper insinuations upon this occasion, but nothing would be so unfortunate, as if this circumstance should make the chancellor less disposed to follow the salutary advice, given him by the King and the empress-queen, for preventing any appearance of hostilities, on the part of Russia; for I must repeat again to you that, if Russia, under any pretence whatsoever, marches their troops into swedish Finland, they must be left to support the war alone; the consequence of which the chancellor Bestuchef will easily see. All the foreign courts are waiting with great impatience for the Empress of Russia's reply to the swedish answer given to m-r Panin. I hope, if they give any, it will be a moderate one and to the purport of that proposed in my letter of the 30-th March, to be given by Russia to His Majesty and the empress-queen. If the reply should be an extravagant one or one that should give any room to suspect that they design still, in Russia, to begin troubles in the north, all my hopes of a tolerable end to these disputes will be, at once, disappointed. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 31.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 7-th April o. s. (18-th April) 1750.

My lord. My last was of the 31-st March. The next day I saw general Bernes and I spoke to him, as the great chancellor had desired about the instruments to be signed in the affair of His Majesty's accession [to] the treaty of 1746, and he was of opinion, as well as the chancellor, that there should be six, but differed as to the manner of signing them; for, as I understood the chancellor, who stands much upon the ceremonies, the two instruments delivered by me should be signed by me alone and exchanged with those signed by him and the ambassador likewise separately, whereas general Bernes thinks that each plenipotentiary should sign his act first and the other two afterwards, in the same order, as the nominations are made in the respective instruments. But these things can be easily settled and adjusted, when we can get the chancellor to fix a day for finishing this work.

Last Sunday being court day, general Bernes, who as ambassador is the only foreign minister, who has that permission, during lent, went thither with an intention to speak to the chancellor and press him to bring this negotiation to a conclusion; but he put him off for a couple of days, which falling upon Tuesday, I was every hour in expectation of being sent for and to be able to acquaint your grace by that evenings post with what we should have agreed upon with the chancellor; but no message coming and not knowing what to write I did not give your grace the trouble of a letter; since that time, having seen general Bernes, we agreed to send early yesterday morning to desire to speak to the chancellor, but I have had no answer yet to my letter and likewise general Bernes has had no better success, as I should certainly have heard from him if he had; so that I find, we are not to expect to bring this tedious affair to an end, till after the easter holidays.

General Bernes tells me that when he spoke to the chancellor at court, he did not perceive any more, than I, that any the least objection remained to the conclusion of this work; on the contrary, that the chancellor talked to him of nothing else, but of settling with the vice-chancellor the several instruments to be signed.

I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letters of the 13th and 16th March, in the last of which you are pleased to give me an account of the verbal declaration made to your grace by m-r Klingraff, the prussian minister, upon the present situation of the affairs between Russia and Sweden, and to send me a paper containing the substance of the answer which His Majesty had directed your grace to return to this declaration.

When I wrote to the chancellor desiring to see him, I acquainted him that I had advices of consequence to communicate to him by order of His Majesty, hoping it would excite his curiosity; but I find myself disappointed.

After writing what goes before, I had a message from the chancellor, desiring to speak to me at half an hour past 5, and as I came from him, but a little before the hour the letters are to go to the post house, all I have time to say to your grace at present concerning the conference I had with him, is that, as I conjectured above, the affair of His Majesty's accession cannot be brought to a conclusion, till after the easter holidays; but then I am promised to meet with no farther delays.

Count Gourofsky, a Pole, who acted here as agent for marshal Saxe in the affairs of Courland, received orders on Saturday evening last to

leave this capital in twenty-four hours and to be out of the empire in twelve days at farthest, and accordingly he set out on his journey the next day under the care and guard of an under officer. R. 30-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 32.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg, 10-th April o. s. (21-st April) 1750.

My lord. Your grace will have seen, by my last, that I had been with the great chancellor, a little before I sent my letter to the post; I shall now have the honour to acquaint you that our conversation began upon m-r Klingraff's declaration to your grace and the answer you had returned to it, by the King's order; both which I read to the chancellor, who was extremely pleased with the latter and said he would not fail to make a report of it to the Empress. He repeated also what he had said before to general Bernes and me, that the alarms France and Prussia had given us about their designs against Sweden were groundless; but, says he, smiling, you are not to expect the Empress will return an answer to all the declarations and representations that you and your brethren have made to us, lately, on this occasion.

I put the chancellor next upon the business of the accession and he told me, he had laid every thing before the Empress and acquainted her that the court of Vienna had agreed to accept the King's accession upon the foot proposed, that he would now have the several instruments drawn up, in the manner they were to be signed, on their part, after which he would lay them again before the Empress and get her to sign an order to him and the vice-chancellor for perfecting the same; but that, this being holy week and the next (after such an austere lent) generally taken up in recreations, it would be difficult for him to make the Empress attend to any business before Monday the 23-d instant, but he would then seriously fall to work and take care to bring this negotiation to a final conclusion.

The chancellor with pleasure in his countenance talked to me, afterwards, of the trick he had served count Gourofsky, marshal Saxe's agent, saying, he believed this event would pique the courts of Versailles and Berlin. The chancellor let me also into all the artifice and intrigue, used by this court, to bring his views to bear (of which I reserve to send

your grace a particular account by Lamb), which being now defeated, it was time, the chancellor said, we should think of reinstating count Biron and that this should be the next business he would go upon after that of the accession was finished.

The chancellor has received letters from Constantinople, as I have from His Majesty's ambassador there, of the 28-th February with the agreeable news that the Porte, so far from finding fault with the convention proposed to Sweden, had approved of it and declared so to the swedish minister; and, by letters of a fresher date, which general Bernes has received by the way of Vienna, we have received another agreeable piece of news, which is that the new kaytraw had been deposed, the divan looking upon him, as too intriguing and turbulent a man. R. 4/15-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 33.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 14-th April o. s. (25-th April) 1750.

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 23-d past o. s. The conduct of this court, in the affair of His Majesty's accession, after having so earnestly required it themselves, must, to be sure, appear very strange and singular, but I am persuaded they had no ill meaning in it and were determined, from the beginning, to conclude matters upon the foot His Majesty proposed, in case the chancellor's endeavors to put two or three hundred thousand roubles a year into his mistress's pocket did not succeed. Yesterday the chancellor sent to me, by one of his secretaries, the french translation I had left with him of the treaty of 1746, together with another translation the chancellor had caused to be made, which, for the greatest part, is word for word the same as that I received from your grace, only, here and there, a few words added or retrenched to make the diction the clearer and keep up more exactly to the sense of the original, with which general Bernes and I will compare it, to-morrow, and then I will immediately fall about drawing up the two instruments I am to sign, and desire general Bernes to do the same, on his part, by which means this affair may, at any time, be dispatched at the shortest warning, and I have reason to believe the chancellor will not delay it any longer, than the week after next. Your grace will have seen, by several of my letters, lately, the

assurances, given by the chancellor to the foreign ministers here, of the Empress's having no design to commit any hostilities against Sweden, or to undertake any thing that can occasion troubles and disturbances in the north, without the advice and concurrence of her allies. As to your grace's surprise at my not being able to get some information before the departure of the post of the 24-th February of the impression which the swedish answer to m-r Panin's memorial had made; first, neither I or any of the foreign ministers had seen the great chancellor since the arrival of the said answer, and when we did and spoke to him about it, we found it made no impression at all, as they were prepared for it. In short, we all think here that the best way is not to mention this affair any more to the chancellor, as he must be a little out of countenance, when he reflects on the noise he has made about it with so little right and foundation on his side.

The day before yesterday, I received the honour of your grace's most secret letter of the 16-th March, which, by your letter of the 13-th, I found I was to expect by the way of Vienna. It came by an estafette, as a courier had unluckily set out the day before m-r Keith received it. As we are now in the middle of the easter holydays I shall not be able to make any use of the important advices your grace is pleased to send me, till Wednesday or Thursday next, when I shall desire an audience of the great chancellor and discourse him, fully, upon the contents of that dispatch. The french court's thinking so early of a plan of operations and without waiting to know the thoughts and intentions of this court upon the answer to m-r's Panin's memorial will make them believe here that the false alarms, spread about Europe, of the hostile design of Russia was done with a view to give France and Prussia a pretence to commence new troubles and disturbances; and I now recollect that, one day, the great chancellor let drop something or other to me to that purpose.

General Arnheim, the king of Poland's envoy extraordinary to this court, arrived here a few days ago. R. 8/19-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 34.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 21-st April o. s. (2-d May) 1750.

My lord. I had nothing worth giving your grace the trouble of a letter by the last post and I have not time to say much by this, as it

is the great dutchess's birth day and that we cannot avoid being at court both noon and evening.

I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 30-th past, with the copy of a paper which m-r Marshal, the imperial minister at Paris, has been directed to read to m-r Puyzieulx; of which, as your grace is pleased to observe, I have already had a communication from general Bernes and I hope that what all the foreign ministers here have wrote to their respective courts will have quieted the alarms which m-r Panin's memorial, and in particular an *unsigned paper* he is supposed to have delivered in Sweden, had given and that the powers, who have truly at heart the preservation of the peace and tranquillity of Europe, will be persuaded from the strong assurances the ministers of this court have given and daily repeat to us that they have not the least thought and intention here of being the aggressors and giving occasion to any troubles and disturbances in the north and as to the abovementioned *unsigned paper*, from which the hostile designs of this court are chiefly inferred, we are positively assured, after a very diligent search made of all m-r Panin's letters and papers since the memorial sent to him about the convention, that no such *unsigned paper* exists or was ever delivered by m-r Panin. We must therefore give credit to these declarations, till the contrary be proved to us, and what appears a little singular is that notwithstanding all the noise made about this paper, not one foreign minister here has a copy of it, nor are we here less surprized how the paper given by count Tessin, called «une note», can be supposed to be an answer to this imaginary paper, since it refers entirely to the memorial and was given in that manner, separate, by way of management and regard, and to remove all suspicion at the court of Sweden's having a design to provoke, as appears by the very first paragraph, viz-t: «le roi qui ne désire que le rétablissement d'une confiance entière n'a point trouvé à propos de faire relever dans sa réponse certains endroits du *pro memoria* qui auraient cependant paru en être susceptibles». This courtresents therefore highly the reports spread about this paper, which they call a forgery and done with some ill design.

As I happened, yesterday, to dine with the great chancellor, at baron Wolfe's, he took an opportunity, though there was a very large company, to take me aside and tell me that he had received, the day before, an estafette with letters from baron Korff giving him an account of m-r Schulin's death, and, on this occasion, the chancellor desired, I would not fail to represent to your grace, in his name, the absolute necessity of leaving

nothing untried to gain his successor, whoever he may be, that orders should, accordingly, be sent from hence to baron Korff, and that he hoped, your grace would take care, m-r Titley should receive the like. I took this opportunity to talk to the chancellor about your grace's most secret letter of the 16-th March desiring him to appoint me a day and hour, to discourse him upon the contents of that dispatch and other matters. But he told me, it could not be before next week, when, says he, *nous finirons et arrangerons tout*. R. 8/19 May. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 35.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Bedford.

St. Petersburg. 24-th April o. s. (5-th May) 1750.

My lord. Having received the King's commands to direct my letters to Hanover, and at the same time to send duplicates of them to your grace during His Majesty's absence, I have the honour to transmit to you those of my two last dispatches to the duke of Newcastle, which I shall continue regularly to do. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 62.

№ 36.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 24-th April o. s. (5-th May) 1750.

My lord. As I have seen the chancellor Bestuchef in publick company only since the receipt of your grace's letter of the 30-th past, I cannot, yet, return a particular answer to the contents of that dispatch. And, before I do discourse the chancellor upon them, I shall sake the advice of general Bernes about the manner in which it will be most proper to do it; for, as things appear, we shall rather do harm, than good, in dwelling too much upon the disputes with Sweden. And as I have already hinted to your grace, it is best not to talk to them any more about them after the strong and repeated assurances, given us, that they will not attempt any thing against Sweden (even though the form of government there should be changed), without the advice and concurrence of their allies. The last memorial presented by m-r Panin was judged necessary and proper here (as I have already acquainted your grace) to get out,

with decency, of the rash and ill judged step, which preceded it, of the declaration, whereby they threaten to enter into swedish Finland, upon the king's death. They think that the answer returned by Sweden to this memorial has answered the end proposed, as all Europe must be persuaded by Sweden's refusing to come into the convention proposed, that there is a design of making an alteration in the form of government. If we, therefore, give them room to suspect that we think their honour requires something more, we shall put them upon new projects of memorials or declarations; which are best to be avoided and to let the matter rest where it does, as they are inclined to do. The great chancellor never sees general Bernes and me, but he repeats the pacifick declarations, he has made to us, only adding, that this was to quiet and satisfy their allies and them only; for they had no reason to give France and Prussia an account of their intentions and designs; but that we are not to expect that they will be persuaded to give us any formal or authentick declaration of this nature.

General Bernes received, a few days ago, from Vienna the answer to the rescript, sent to the Russian ambassador there upon the memorial presented by m-r Panin, with the alterations this court desired; with which they are now very well satisfied; and, as I doubt not, but this answer has been communicated to your grace. His Majesty's answer to count Czernichew's memorial may be formed upon it; for something in writing, I find, they do expect, and the shorter it is, the better; so it be couched in obliging and friendly terms.

They have made here a new regulation with regard to foreign ministers; by which residents and ministers with no character (as a *chargé des affaires*) shall not be admitted to an audience of the Empress, but present their credentials to the great chancellor. This regulation was communicated, yesterday, to m-r Warendorff, the new prussian minister, which cannot but pique very much the court of Berlin. This court has two views, in this step: first, not to give m-r Warendorff an opportunity of presenting the declaration, which they know he is charged with from his master in relation to the affairs of Sweden; and secondly, to show a little resentment on account of the slights and neglects, put upon their minister at Berlin.

When I consider, how greatly the Empress is provoked against that court, I am much more afraid of troubles beginning on that side, than with Sweden; for, from their chicaneries and rude proceedings towards each other, we may see them come to blows, when it will be least thought

of or expected. To-morrow is a great day here, being the anniversary of the Empress's coronation; which will be celebrated with great pomp at court; and as this is the non plus ultra of the great chancellor's excuses and delays, I hope, by the next post, to be able to acquaint your grace that we have made some progress in the affair of the accession.

General Arnheim had this day his first audience of the Empress, in which he presented his credentials as minister plenipotentiary from the king of Poland. R. 11/22 May. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 37.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 28-th April o. s. (9-th May) 1750.

My lord. The feasting since easter being ended on Wednesday last by the celebration of the anniversary of the Empress's coronation, I wrote yesterday morning to the great chancellor, desiring him to appoint me an hour, when I could speak to him; which he immediately did and fixed at five o'clock in the afternoon. When I came, I began by talking to him about the contents of your grace's most secret letter of the 16-th March; which I had, in general, mentioned to him at court and at some publick dinners, where we met together. The chancellor after hearing very attentively all the particulars of the intelligence your grace had received concerning the subject of m-r Scheffer's journey from Paris to Stockholm, told me, they had received much the same; that, according to their last advices, m-r Scheffer was already returned to Berlin from Stockholm and probably was, by this time, come back to Paris with the swedish and prussian plan of operations; that he would, however, let the Empress know what I had communicated to him, who would, he was sure, be very thankfully and pleased with this instance of His Majesty's friendship. The chancellor thinks, as I conjectured he would, that m-r Scheffer's errand must have had something else in view, more than just guarding against the ill designs of this court. Breaking off abruptly here, the chancellor asked me, if we did not intend to return an answer to m-r Czernichew's memorial upon the convention proposed to Sweden; that this silence, on the part of our court, had an ill effect, the Empress, who had a good deal of penetration, taking it, as a neglect and indifference shown to her; that he could therefore wish this answer was no longer delayed; that he did not desire, we should acknowledge the *casus foederis*, but, as the

court of Vienna's and Dresden's answers are, it should be something friendly and cordial; that of Dresden, I found, pleased him the most, as it is said therein that, in case of any alteration in the present form of government in Sweden, the court of Saxony would concert with this what farther measures were to be taken. The chancellor spoke to me, next, about count Czernichew, without giving me time to acquaint him, as I intended, with what your grace has wrote to me upon that gentleman's subject, in your abovementioned letter of the 16-th. «This count, said he, has the Empress's orders to attend the King, your master, to Hanover, but we must try to get a minister at your court, in whom I can place an entire confidence». I hereupon told him that it was what I had orders from your grace to observe to him and of what little use count Czernichew would be in England upon the footing he now was there. The chancellor replied that I should write to your grace to send me His Majesty's orders to represent here, that, considering the close union and friendship, which subsists between the two courts, it were to be wished, there was in England a minister in whom the Empress placed a greater confidence, than it appeared, she did in count Czernichew; and he desires His Majesty will give me leave to communicate these orders, when I receive them in a short letter to him, the chancellor. In the mean time he said, he would be thinking of some other court, where he could send him. From hence, the chancellor fell upon the affairs of Denmark, inquiring, if I had wrote to your grace concerning the orders he had desired should be sent m-r Titley to act in concert with baron Korff in every thing and without any reservation. I told him, I had and that I did not doubt, but your grace would comply with his request. The chancellor was a going to add something more and seemed out of humour, but a servant coming in to let him know, general Bernes was at the door. He told me, he would take another opportunity to speak to me about these affairs.

When general Bernes was come and seated, we began to talk of the affair of the accession, and I observed to the chancellor that there was a mistake in the translation he had sent to me, of the treaty of 1746, as, likewise, in that I had received from England, which was in the latter part of the fifth article, where, speaking of the manner in which the respective auxiliaries are to be treated, two or three lines are left out and the Empress of Russia is named instead of the empress-queen; to which the chancellor agreed and we are to draw up new copies. Accordingly I then desired to know of the chancellor, when we should come to a conclusion; that this negotiation had been long depending and as it was not

natural for my court to think these delays were owing to this court, after their having so often requested of the King to come into this measure, I had reason to fear they would be imputed to some neglect of mine. The chancellor upon this, turning towards the ambassador, asked him with a smile, if he did not believe the earl of Hyndford would take off all blame from me; that his lordship knew and experienced how things were conducted here and how difficult it was to fix the Empress and get her to set to business, which I know to be true; but, if prudence had permitted, I could have answered that her good chancellor came to it, as unwillingly as she, to proceed. I asked the chancellor, if any thing more remained to be settled and if he would not fix a day for the signing and exchanging the several instruments of the acts of accession. General Bernes urged the same, but the chancellor could not yet appoint the day; he told us, every thing should be done in the form and manner in which His Majesty had proposed, but that he found still a little difficulty in the Empress about the declaration to be made in relation to Hanover; however he gave us to understand that it would be got over and in a very few days, therefore desired we would only arm ourselves with a little more patience. R. 15/26 May. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 38.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 1-st May o. s. (12-th May) 1750.

My lord. Since my last I have talked with general Bernes upon the subject matter of your grace's letter of the 30-th March, suggesting some expedients to get the chancellor Bestuchew out of the difficulties he is supposed to have brought himself into by the unadvised steps, he has taken with respect to Sweden and I also acquainted him with what I had wrote to your grace, in answer thereto, in my letter of the 24-th past. His excellency told me that he had wrote much to the same purpose to his court and would continue to advice them to leave off making any further representations here upon an affair which this court thinks is over and adjusted by the repeated assurances given us of the Empress of Russia's having no intention of disturbing the peace of the north. The swedish minister here has, to my certain knowledge, wrote to his court that their alarms were groundless and that he did not perceive here the least design or intention of attacking Sweden, unless they changed the present form

of government and, even then, this court had assured the ministers of the allies here that they would not undertake any thing, without their advice and concurrence. If, therefore, Sweden and her allies are not satisfied with these intelligences, they must have something in view they are not willing should be known. The last court day, as I happened to sit next to the vice-chancellor, he talked to me about the affair of His Majesty's accession and, as I said that, as soon as that was done, no time should be lost in desiring Holland to come likewise into that treaty; he gave me to understand that they would be glad to know here first if they should run no hazard of meeting with a refusal, which they would not be willing to expose themselves to; of which, by the advice of general Bernes, I have given notice to m-r Schwartz, the dutch minister. The great chancellor gives general Bernes and me hopes that our negotiation will certainly be brought to a conclusion some time next week. A few days ago count Rasomousky, the president of the academy of sciences, was declared hetman of Ukraine. R. 18/29 May. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 39.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 5-th May o. s. (16-th May) 1750.

My lord. The last post brought me the honour of your grace's letter of the 13-th and also your separate one of the 14-th April, and I am glad to find, by the first, that the King was pleased with the accounts, I transmitted to your grace in my letter of the 17-th March relating to the affairs of the north and of the solemn assurances, given and repeated to me of the Empress of Russia's having no design to undertake any thing that may disturb the peace of the north, and your grace may be assured Her Imperial Majesty continues in the same resolution and will not depart from it without the advice and concurrence of her allies, let what will happen.

As to the affairs of His Majesty's accession your grace will have seen by my last letters that there remained a few difficulties with regard to the declaration about His Majesty's german dominions; but that the great chancellor told general Bernes and me that he hoped to remove them in a few days. The Empress goes, next Tuesday, to Czarko Sielo, where she will stay some time; and 'tis here the chancellor hopes to find more leisure and better opportunity to fix her to business and bring things that are

depending to a conclusion. When I consider the trifling reasons and excuses with which the chancellor has and continues to delay the business of the accession, I cannot help suspecting that he has not told me the true obstacles, for that about the declaration relating to Hanover, he makes so slight of himself, that I scarce look upon it, as any at all. Therefore, since I am sit down to write this letter, it comes into my head that the chief and only reason of all these tedious delays is His Majesty's not having yet returned an answer to count Czernichew's memorial, concerning the convention this court had proposed to Sweden; which silence the chancellor told me, as I acquainted your grace in my letter of the 28-th past, the Empress took, as a neglect and indifference shown to her. This is only, my lord, a conjecture of mine, the chancellor never having hinted any thing like it to general Bernes or me; but I am afraid, I am not mistaken; and, before next post, I will talk about it to general Bernes. In the mean time, I could wish your grace would think of returning some answer or other to count Czernichew's memorial, whether the want of it be a hinderance or not to the dispatch of the affair here. The negotiation relating to the accession has, to be sure, been conducted with a very ill grace, on this side; and I should have told them so, but I was afraid that they would have answered that it was as unfriendly, on ours, to take so little notice of the memorial presented in the name of the Empress.

I have received the honour of your grace's letter of the 12-th April, inclosing a petition of the principal merchants trading to Persia through Russia to the king, concerning their agents here m-rs Mirop and Thompson; and I shall in pursuance of His Majesty's commands make proper application that the said Mirop and Thompson may obtain the necessary licences to return to England, though I foresee there will be great opposition from some of the merchants here concerned in the same trade, for there is a great disunion amongst these gentlemen.

A pretty extraordinary scheme has been formed in Sweden and in which some of our british merchants there are concerned, which is to buy up and monopolize all the iron in Russia, in order to keep up the high price of that of Sweden in England, and in consequence thereof, large commissions have been given to the factors of this place, both from Sweden and England, but this having been timely discovered, an effectual stop will be put to it, and care will be taken that as little of this iron, as possible, may fall in the hands of the merchants concerned in this scheme, and it would be very proper orders should be given to our custom house officers to have a watchfull eye upon what iron is imported from hence

majesty's letter (now near two months in his possession) in favour of the duke de Biron; and lastly, the audience which count Lynar, the danish minister, has asked seven or eight weeks ago to present his letters of revocation and take leave of this court. R. 21-st August (1-st September). P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 70.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 11-th August o. s. (22-d August) 1750.

My lord. The last letter I had the honor to write to your grace was of the 4-th instant. After it was sealed and just as I was sending it to the post, I heard the Empress came to town, that morning; since when general Bernes and I have been every day in expectation of a message from the chancellor requesting us, according to his promise, to come and put an end to the affair of the accession; but, hitherto, we have heard nothing from him and know, as little, what his mistress and he are doing, as if they were at Japan. I will, however, still hope, after the strong assurances given us by the chancellor, that this affair will be dispatched, before the Empress returns to Petershoff, which some say will be the 15-th, others the 20-th. Their way and manner of proceeding here with respect to every thing that has the name of business, is so extraordinary and shocking, that I am surprised they are not ashamed of it and do not reflect on the effects it must have on those powers, whose friendship and alliance their own interest, as they acknowledge themselves, requires they should cultivate. But we are so entirely given up to our pleasures, that we are deaf to all remonstrances and declare publicly, that we will not be interrupted in the pursuit of them.

I fear likewise, our friend's interest begins a little to decline. At least this is certain, that there is not one person about the Empress, who is not his declared enemy, except the favourite, and he loses ground visibly. R. 9-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 71.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 14-th August o. s. (25-th August) 1750.

My lord. I received, by the last post, the honor of your grace's letter of the 9-th instant n. s. with a copy of m-r Porter's letter of the 22-d

of June; the contents of which I shall communicate to the chancellor Bessuchef according to your grace's commands, as soon as he will give me an opportunity. But, when that will be, I am not able to say, for he avoids seeing or speaking to any of us, as much as possible.

Sir Charles Hanbury Williams was pleased to inform me, before he set out for Warsaw, of the arrival of a minister from the chan of Tartary; and this court, I know, have the same accounts from m-r Gross. But we are ignorant of their thoughts upon this extraordinary mission, the chancellor being of late, as I hinted above, invisible every where, but in public, to the foreign ministers. In general, I hear, they look upon it, as an intrigue of France and her allies in order to give some alarms to this court; but it must be something more serious, than this, that can raise in them real ones.

The particulars, I have to send to your grace are of such a personal nature, that, though I believe my cypher is sure, yet I am unwilling to trust them to the post. Therefore, I was determined, before I received your grace's abovementioned letter, to redispach Lamb, in case the affair of the accession be not concluded, before the Empress leaves town; which she proposes to do in a very few days. I should only be glad, if possible, to know before then, what the great chancellor has fixed and settled with count Lynar; which, he must be sensible, is proper your grace should be informed of, before count Lynar's arrival at Copenhagen.

As I was at court the evening before last, the great chancellor, who could not avoid seeing me, thought proper to come up to me and make his usual apologies for the tedious delays in the affair of the accession, assuring me again, in the strongest manner, that it should, now, be soon concluded. He likewise told me that count Czernichew had orders to speak to your grace about this negotiation in such a manner, as would make you entirely easy.

The same evening I was at court, general Aruheim, the saxon minister, complained to me very much of the delays he met with in the audience, he had desired to deliver the king of Poland's letter concerning the duke of Biron and seemed to doubt, whether he should obtain it, before the Empress returned to Petershoff. Count Lynar is in the same case with regard to his audience of leave; which, indeed, is a little cruel; for, if he cannot get away from hence in a fortnight at farthest, he will be obliged to travel in the very worst season of the year.

General Bernes, the imperial ambassador, m-r Schwartz, the dutch envoy, and I have, at the earnest desire of the great chancellor, signed a

pro memoria to strengthen and support the king of Poland's intercession in favour of the duke of Biron. It is so innocent a piece, that it could give no offence to any power of Europe, was it inserted in all the gazettes; yet, I shall defer sending it to your grace, till I redispach Lamb, as we are not sure, whether the chancellor will make any use of it. R. 31-st August (11-th September). P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 72.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 21-st August o. s. (1-st September) 1750.

My lord. Your grace will have received no letters from me by the last post and I am sorry to acquaint you by this, that Her Imperial Majesty went to Czarsko Sielo, two days ago, without signing the orders laying before her for concluding the affair of the accession. She could not be prevailed upon likewise, during the fourteen days she stayed here in town, to give either general Arnheim or count Lynar the audiences they have been so long soliciting for.

Since the Empress's departure, I have not seen the great chancellor and I doubt not, but he will now avoid, more than ever, giving me an opportunity of speaking to him, as he will be ashamed to own to me the true reason of this last disappointment after the strong assurances he gave me, when the empress was at Petershoff. I hope, I may be mistaken, as it would be of the greatest prejudice to the common cause, but I am very much afraid, as I have already hinted to your grace, that our friend's enemies are gaining ground upon him in his mistress's favour. On Thursday last, the empress supped with the new hetman of Ukraine, at which entertainment, which was very magnificent, our friend did not assist, none, but the vice-chancellor and all his declared enemies being invited.

As I believe, I may now lose sight, for some time of the affair of the accession, I shall be thinking of dispatching Lamb, the messenger, to your grace with a full account of the present situation of affairs at this court; but, to get a passport, will, I am afraid, be difficult or be attended with delays, as the great chancellor may, perhaps, imagine, I take this step out of a presumption, that nothing more is to be done in the negotiation depending; which he would not have me think but still depend on his credit and assurances, that it will be brought to a happy conclusion. I propose, therefore, to desire a conference with him upon the affairs of

Denmark, and, when he has let me into all his transactions with count Lynar, I will try to make him sensible of the necessity of His Majesty's being informed of them, as soon as possible, in the surest and most expeditious way. R. 7-th (18-th) September. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 73.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 28-th August o. s. (8-th September) 1750.

My lord. Since my last which was of the 21-st, I have been advised by some of our friends not to desire to see the great chancellor, till the Empress returns to town, which will be to-morrow, in order to celebrate the feast of St. Alexander-Neufski, and they say she proposes also to keep her name's day here, which is to-morrow sennight, the 5-th of September; by which time the great chancellor hopes to be able to obtain an audience of a few minutes of her for the dispatch of business. But if the present fine weather continues, I believe the chancellor will find himself again mistaken, and that it will be impossible to fix Her Imperial Majesty, whose aversion to business increases daily. Count Lynar, the danish minister, seeing no probability of obtaining soon his audience of leave, has no other thoughts at present, than to prepare himself for a winter journey.

By the great chancellor's order, I have had a communication of a secret rescript, lately sent to count Czernichew at Hanover, upon the King's having threatened the court of Saxony that if they did not pay the interest and one hundred thousand dollars of the money they owe His Majesty as elector, he would cause possession to be taken of the lands assigned for the security. In the manner I was spoke to about this affair I found it was expected I should write to your grace about it, but I gave them to understand that I was an entire stranger to that transaction. R. 15-th (26-th) September. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 74.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 4-th September o. s. (15-th September) 1750.

My lord. T'is a pain to me when the post day comes, as I am at a loss to write to your grace except it be the same thing over again,

namely that they continue here to be in the most profound lethargy with respect to all foreign affairs and seem resolved that nothing shall rouse them out of it.

On Wednesday last the 29-th past, the Empress came to town, as she was expected; since when there has been almost every day balls, plays or concerts of music at court, but no business of any kind done; to-morrow being Her Imperial Majesty's name's day, it will be kept with great pomp and magnificence, after which she will probably go to some of her country houses and spend there the remainder of the fine season.

General Bernes, the imperial ambassador, received a few days ago a courier from his court with orders to communicate to this, as a friend and ally, the steps that are taking by our royal master for bringing about an election of a king of the Romans in favour of the archduke Joseph; but the great chancellor being indisposed, general Bernes has not had an opportunity yet to execute these orders. He hoped however that the chancellor would send for him as this day, and as I hinted to the general that I should be glad he would let something drop about the accession, he told me he thought the dignity of both our courts were concerned in taking no farther notice of this affair, till they began to speak of it here themselves. One question only, he said, it was proper he should put to the chancellor, which was if he should not write to Vienna that general Bretlack, his successor, may be provided with a full power, before he sets out; as this negotiation would not probably be brought to a conclusion before his, general Bernes's, departure from hence.

Neither general Arnheim nor count Lynar have yet been admitted to an audience, and as the latter seems now quite easy about the matter, choosing, as every body else would do in his case, not to begin his journey before the frost is set in, it makes some foreign ministers here suspect that there is a secret negotiation on foot between the court of Denmark and this. If there be, it can only concern some trifling affairs, as the making a cartel with the great duke, as duke of Holstein, for the giving up of deserters; for as to Sweden, which is thought to be the principal object of this negotiation, count Lynar has often told me, in a confidential manner, that the king of Denmark would certainly never enter into any measures with this court relating to the affairs of that country, unless the King, our master, concured therein. R. 21-st September (2-d October). P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 75.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 8-th September o. s. (19-th September) 1750.

My lord. In my last I acquainted your grace with the orders general Bernes had received from his court by a courier, and that he was in hopes of executing them that day. But he has not yet been able to obtain an audience of the great chancellor, who is still indisposed; and, we believe now really so by some domestic uneasinesses he has met with; but in the beginning his indisposition was only feigned to have a pretence not to accept of the hetman of Ukraine's invitation to a second great entertainment he gave a few days ago to the great duke and dutchess, at which the great chancellor thought it did not become him to assist, since he had not been asked to that which was given to the Empress; which incidents, if they do not absolutely denote a declining interest, have at least very much the appearance of it; and I find some of the chancellor's warmest friends begin to be in pain about him; but we must suspend our judgment a little longer, as he has shown on several occasions that he has great and unexpected resources in him.

The Empress proposed leaving town this day and will be rambling from one country house to another, as long as the weather will permit; and as the chancellor has not seen her, since she came to town this last time, we are prepared that he will give that and his indisposition for a reason of none of the affairs depending having been dispatched.

This is all I shall trouble your grace with by this post as I am unwilling to hasard any conjectures, till I see a little clearer into the turn affairs will take here. R. 25-th September (6-th October). P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 76.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 15-th September o. s. (26-th September) 1750.

My lord. My letter of the 8-th instant, which was my last, will have informed your grace that the Empress proposed leaving town that day; but after I had sealed up my letter, notice was given me that there would be a french comedy at court that evening; and the next Sunday

there was a masquerade-ball and supper, which lasted till three o'clock next morning. Thus, the persons about that princess set her on pursuing a round of pleasures in order to engross her to themselves and increase her natural aversion to business. Her Imperial Majesty is now at Petershoff since Tuesday last; and I have heard of no less than six country houses where partys of pleasure are marked out for her, so that, unless the bad weather drives her to town, we may not perhaps see her this month or six weeks.

I hear general Bernes had a conference with the great chancellor the day before yesterday; but not having been able to meet him since then, I know not what passed at it; but I guess the said general was told, as I have been at the chancellor's desire, that the Empress has promised to sit about business on her return to town. In this manner are we put off here from week to week, from month to month; and I wish I may not soon say from year to year without seeing an end put to any thing either of great or little consequence.

A few days ago, we had here letters from Astracan of the 25-th August with an account that by letters which came there from Rhest to several Armenians dated the 3-d July, there was advice that in the month of May last there had been a great plunder made at Ispahan, in which the natives as well as the foreigners had lost all they had. These advices add that there were two schahs in Persia, the one Ismael who resides in Ispahan, the other Sharug who resides in Mesched; both which had named their respective governors to go and take possession of the province of Gilan; that neither was yet arrived there, but as both had an army under their command, it was not doubted but a battle would ensue whenever they met. R. 2-d (13-th) October. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 77.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 18-th September o. s. (29-th September) 1750.

Duplicate. My lord. Late yesterday evening I had a message from the great chancellor count Bestuchef to let me know that a courier would be dispatched to-morrow morning to count Czernichew, the russian minister at Hanover, and that I might write to your grace by that opportunity, which I accordingly make use of and herewith transmit to your

grace two pieces which I mentioned to you in some of my former dispatches.

The one intitled *reflections* was presented by count Lynar, the danish minister, on his arrival here in order to engage this court to accept of his danish majesty's mediation for accomodating their differences and disputes with Sweden.

The other intitled *contre reflections* is the great chancellor's remarks upon the above mentioned paper by which, as your grace will see, all count Lynar's offers and proposals were rejected with smart reproaches upon the late transactions of the court of Denmark with France and Sweden.

The secretary whom the great chancellor sent to me told me, likewise by his order, that if I had not heard anything from him concerning the affair of the accession, his indisposition and the Empress's going out of town, before he was able to see her, were the occasion of it, but that on her return a finishing hand would certainly be put to that affair. I am as thoroughly persuaded of the great chancellor's hearty desire and inclination to promote the closest union and friendship between the two courts, as I am of your grace's, of which I have the strongest proofs. I likewise believe that the Empress is in the same way of thinking and that this negotiation will certainly be brought to a happy conclusion and in the very manner proposed by His Majesty, but as to the time the ministers here cannot take it amiss, if after the tedious delays I have met with, I am cautious how I affirm anything about it from myself.

Having taken notice to your grace some time ago of a paper which general Bernes, m-r Swart and I signed here to accelerate if possible, the release of duke Biron, I now send a copy of it to your grace hoping it will meet with His Majesty's approbation, as no powers, who have only pacific views, can possibly take any offence at it.

The principal and only thing which this courier is charged with, as I am told, is a new cypher for count Czernichew, they having some suspicions here that a neighbouring prince may have found out his old one. R. 26-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 62.

Réflexions présentées par le comte de Lynar à la cour de St.-Petersbourg.

Le maintien de la forme présente du gouvernement en Suède doit sans contredit être regardé comme un des principaux appuis du repos dans le nord.

Car tandis que les états ont le plus de part au gouvernement, les divisions intestines, qui alors en sont inséparables, rendent la Suède, comme par le passé, impuissante, jetée en elle-même et peu redoutable à ses voisins.

Au lieu que, le roi étant souverain, les forces du royaume en augmentent, autant que les voisins perdent de leur côté de l'influence qu'ils avaient dans les affaires de Suède, ne pouvant plus être avertis à temps d'une prochaine rupture, comme ils pouvaient l'être par les délibérations des états et par d'autres dispositions préalables selon la forme établie du gouvernement, un roi souverain tenant toujours ses desseins plus secrets et les exécutant avec plus de promptitude.

Sur ce pied-là on ne saurait assez louer les sages précautions de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies en ce que pour prévenir le danger d'un changement de la dite forme de gouvernement, elle a pris des mesures capables de faire échouer un si pernicieux projet et qu'elle s'occupe avec tant de gloire à écarter tout ce qui pourrait à l'avenir troubler le repos du nord.

C'est à cette fin que sa dite Majesté Impériale a principalement employé trois moyens les plus propres en effet et les plus dignes de sa prudence consommée.

En premier lieu Sa Majesté Impériale s'est mise en état de faire agir à toute heure des forces considérables sur les frontières et de les opposer aux entreprises ennemies.

Cette prévoyance a déjà produit l'effet que l'on en devait attendre; elle a tellement épouventé ceux d'entre les Suédois qui méditaient le changement en question qu'ils ont jugé à propos d'abandonner leur dessein.

En second lieu l'Impératrice ayant considéré le roi de Danemark comme son allié naturel à l'égard de la Suède, les intérêts de leurs dites majestés étant les mêmes en cette rencontre, Sa Majesté Impériale non contente d'avoir donné l'ouverture de ses vues au roi a voulu concerter avec lui les moyens propres pour obvier au danger commun, démarche qui n'a point été infructueuse, puisque le roi tant par ses dispositions militaires en Norwège que par une sérieuse déclaration faite à Stockholm a fort déconcerté les malintentionnés, outre qu'il a donné à connaître publiquement et en particulier à la France que loin de perdre de vue ses intérêts naturels il ferait en cette rencontre cause commune avec Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies, et quoique la situation des affaires ne parût pas encore exiger une convention particulière sur les moyens d'agir que l'on emploierait de part et d'autre, le roi a néanmoins déclaré nettement qu'il ferait tout son possible pour le maintien du repos

dans le nord et qu'il ne s'éloignerait jamais des intentions de l'Impératrice à cet égard. En troisième lieu Sa Majesté Impériale n'a pas manqué d'avertir les Suédois mêmes d'être sur leur garde et de se désister de toute entreprise injuste et dangereuse.

L'effet de sa première déclaration fut l'acte publié par le prince successeur, en conséquence duquel acte les Suédois ne peuvent favoriser la souveraineté à moins que de passer pour parjures et pour traîtres à la patrie.

Or Sa Majesté Impériale ayant, après la première réponse de la part de la Suède, demandé une assurance plus précise lui déclarant en même temps qu'après le décès du roi de Suède, où selon toute apparence éclateraient les desseins dangereux, elle ferait passer son armée en Finlande pour maintenir, en qualité d'amie et en vertu de la garantie stipulée par le traité, la liberté de la nation suédoise, la dite déclaration fut suivie d'une protestation solennelle de la cour de Suède qu'on n'avait point de mauvais desseins et que l'on s'en rapportait à l'acte susmentionné avec cette clause imprévue que l'entrée des troupes russiennes en Finlande sans réquisition préalable serait regardée par la Suède comme une rupture.

L'Impératrice naturellement portée à la paix, attentive à se conformer sur cet article aux sentiments de ses alliés, auxquels elle avait fait part de ses vues, songea d'abord à un expédient capable de la tirer d'inquiétude et de prévenir par un accommodement convenable toute sorte de més-intelligences.

Dans cette vue Sa Majesté Impériale, après avoir montré que l'acte public regardant simplement la nation suédoise ne s'adressait point aux puissances étrangères, proposait à la cour de Suède une convention, par laquelle on affirmerait la présente forme du gouvernement de Suède et l'on réglerait la garantie de l'Impératrice touchant la succession du prince royal.

Cette proposition partant d'un désir très louable de la paix et appuyée comme telle par l'empereur des Romains, par le roi de Danemark et par d'autres princes alliés n'a pourtant pas été acceptée de la Suède sous prétexte qu'il était préjudiciable à son indépendance de promettre à une puissance étrangère que le royaume de Suède serait toujours gouverné d'une façon et jamais autrement, en conséquence de quoi elle a dans sa dernière réponse entièrement décliné la convention proposée.

Sa Majesté Impériale voit sans doute avec déplaisir que ses intentions pacifiques ont si peu touché la cour de Suède et qu'elle a refusé les moyens qu'on lui fournissait d'écarter cette pierre d'achoppement.

D'autant plus que cette couronne révoque en doute dans sa dernière

réponse la validité du traité de Nystadt et qu'elle s'efforce de renverser tout d'un coup le principe que jusque-là personne n'avait contesté des représentations du côté de la Russie.

Cette démarche ayant paru à plusieurs puissances capable de détourner Sa Majesté Impériale de ses vues pacifiques que jusqu'ici on avait remarquées en toutes ses glorieuses actions, quelques-unes de ces puissances qui s'intéressent au repos commun de l'Europe ont pris à tâche de résoudre ce nouveau différend par des représentations convenables auprès de l'Impératrice.

En effet la modération et la grandeur d'âme de Sa Majesté Impériale sont trop connues pour que l'on puisse s'imaginer qu'elle veuille se porter à des extrémités, tandis qu'il reste encore quelque voie d'accommodement et que l'on n'est pas dans la nécessité de se procurer le repos à l'avenir aux dépens de celui dont on jouit à présent. La Suède elle-même a laissé cette voie ouverte, puisque non seulement dans sa réponse à la cour de Vienne elle a témoigné sa disposition à entrer dans des négociations ultérieures, mais aussi assuré depuis peu le ministre de Saxe qu'elle serait prête d'écouter toutes les représentations sur les moyens propres à tranquilliser Sa Majesté Impériale.

Les soins que se donne à cette occasion la France font voir de même, combien elle souhaite la fin de ces contestations, et plus les raisons de son désir sont importantes, plus on peut être persuadé que la dite couronne se servira de tout son crédit auprès de la Suède pour la déterminer à sortir de cet embarras par la voie d'un accommodement.

Il ne s'agit donc plus que de savoir si Sa Majesté Impériale ne pourrait donner une preuve nouvelle et convaincante de sa grandeur d'âme et de son amour pour la paix et avancer en même temps ses propres intérêts en se prêtant à une négociation si salutaire.

On convient aisément que Sa Majesté Impériale après avoir contribué à tout ce qui dépendait d'elle au maintien du repos dans le nord, elle en pourrait attendre tranquillement les suites et sans continuer une correspondance infructueuse se mettre en état d'agir avec vigueur suivant les conjonctures.

Mais il n'est pas moins certain qu'une pareille résolution serait sujette à des inconvénients qu'il est à propos de bien considérer.

L'armement sur les frontières exigeant de grosses sommes qui ne peuvent qu'augmenter considérablement, tant que sa majesté le roi de Suède sera en vie, et si les dépenses des Suédois pour l'entretien de leur armée vont fort au delà des dites sommes, celles-ci n'en sont par moins réelles,

de sorte que l'on devrait plutôt profiter du désir que témoigne à cette occasion la Suède d'être délivrée d'un tel fardeau, car il est à présumer qu'elle et ses alliés seront d'autant plus prêts d'accepter des conditions raisonnables.

Après le décès du roi il n'y a point de doute que le prince successeur ne notifie à l'Impératrice son avènement à la couronne, assurant en même temps Sa Majesté Impériale qu'il n'est monté sur le trône qu'avec la ferme résolution de continuer la forme établie du gouvernement et de vivre dans une parfaite amitié avec ses voisins, particulièrement avec la Russie. Si enfin cette assurance se confirmait par l'accomplissement même et par le consentement des états de Suède, assemblés en pleine diète, on ne voit point que Sa Majesté Impériale puisse, suivant son équité généralement reconnue et ses propres déclarations, exiger d'avantage de la nation suédoise.

Il est vrai cependant que de cette manière-là on n'aurait pas encore obtenu, malgré les assurances des Suédois, malgré toutes les peines qu'on aurait prises et toutes les dépenses faites, une sûreté suffisante pour l'avenir.

D'ailleurs le cas du 7-me article de la paix de Nystadt n'existant plus alors et ne pouvant selon toute apparence plus exister à l'avenir, il semblerait hors de propos que Sa Majesté Impériale insistât sur la validité de cet article, à moins que de vouloir donner une nouvelle occasion à des contestations fâcheuses.

Si au contraire Sa Majesté Impériale gardait le silence sur sa prétention nouvellement révoquée en doute par la Suède, on ferait passer ce silence pour un acquiescement de la part de l'Impératrice à l'abolition du dit article.

Or quoi qu'il semble que ni la bienséance, ni la dignité de l'Impératrice ne lui permettent pas d'entrer de nouveau dans des discussions également inutiles et ennuyeuses sur ce sujet, les puissances souveraines ne reconnaissant que Dieu pour leur juge, il est cependant de la gloire et de l'intérêt de Sa Majesté Impériale de ne point assoupir cette affaire ni de la laisser indécise, mais de justifier de la manière la plus convenable sa prétention et de mettre en évidence son droit.

Le moyen le plus propre pour obtenir tout ce que dessus serait de disposer les alliés de la Suède pour qu'ils voulussent garantir, par un acte solennel, que non seulement l'assurance donnée par la Suède de conserver à jamais la forme de gouvernement établie jusqu'ici a été en elle-même très sincère, mais aussi NB que cette assurance sortira son plein effet.

La Suède n'étant pas en cette occasion partie contractante ne s'opposerait pas vraisemblablement à une garantie où son indépendance n'est

nullement intéressée, laquelle garantie lierait pourtant cette puissance et la mettrait hors d'état de rien innover.

Sa Majesté Impériale pourrait non seulement soutenir son droit fondé sur l'article 7-me de la paix de Nystadt, lequel droit la Suède lui conteste à présent, et se le réserver expressément dans son acte d'acceptation de la dite garantie, mais même acquérir de cette manière un nouveau titre pour s'opposer à toute innovation ultérieure au gouvernement de la Suède.

Ce serait là le vrai moyen de faire casser un armement dont l'entretien a tant coûté et toutes les explications désagréables avec la Suède, le droit de Sa Majesté Impériale d'opposer à une nouvelle forme de gouvernement devenant par là plus fort et la sûreté qu'on lui a donnée à cet égard s'affermissant plus que par tous les expédients proposés jusqu'ici.

Les puissances au contraire que l'on a jusqu'à présent soupçonnées avec quelque fondement de favoriser sous main une mutation en Suède, et particulièrement la France, loin d'y pouvoir prendre part, le verraient, en vertu de la dite garantie, dans la nécessité de s'opposer à tout changement de cette nature.

Et s'il est vrai qu'une entreprise aussi dangereuse passe auprès du parti dominant en Suède pour un expédient sûr d'éviter la recherche qu'on pourrait faire un jour de sa conduite, il n'est pas moins certain que les puissances fautrices du même parti s'étant ouvertement déclarées contre cet expédient, les bien intentionnés gagneront aussitôt le dessus et les mal intentionnés se garderont bien de hasarder une entreprise si désespérée.

L'Impératrice sera respectée des vrais patriotes, comme la protectrice de leur liberté, et un bienfait si éclatant ne pourra qu'attirer à Sa Majesté Impériale mille actions de grâces de leur part et lui sera d'autant plus glorieux d'avoir porté la France à faire cette démarche, qu'on a cru, suivant l'opinion commune, qu'elle ne ferait jamais s'efforçant plutôt de rétablir en Suède la souveraineté si conforme à ses intérêts particuliers.

Si l'on objecte qu'une pareille garantie de la part des alliés de la Suède n'est qu'une pure vision qui ne serait jamais réalisée par les dites puissances, il faut néanmoins considérer que l'on remarque dans ces mêmes puissances une disposition si favorable et un désir si ardent de voir la fin des susdites contestations, que pour peu qu'on veuille profiter du moment présent on peut se promettre un heureux succès des propositions relatives à cette garantie.

Du moins méritent-elles bien qu'on fasse une tentative à cet égard, et comme on le fait voir ci-dessus qu'un pareil expédient, en cas qu'il réussisse, sera également utile et glorieux à Sa Majesté Impériale, il en

résulte une seconde question de quelle manière il faudra s'y prendre pour le faire réussir?

Il paraît peu convenable que Sa Majesté Impériale entre elle-même dans cette négociation, ce qui ne pourrait que causer beaucoup de délais et de difficultés, outre qu'il ne serait guère possible, pendant qu'il n'y a actuellement aucune correspondance entre la cour de Russie et de France et que dans celle-ci il ne réside point de ministre de l'autre cour, auquel on pourrait confier la négociation.

C'est pourquoi il semble qu'on doive choisir une puissance pour médiatrice qui soit également en relation avec l'une et l'autre des deux cours, d'autant plus que de différents intérêts ne sont jamais mieux démêlés qu'entre les mains d'un tiers.

A cette fin Sa Majesté Impériale pourrait faire choix préférentiellement à toute autre d'une puissance, dont les intérêts à l'égard du fait principal fussent étroitement liés avec les siens et de laquelle on se trouverait assuré qu'elle agirait avec ardeur, sans rien négliger pour parvenir à un but si salutaire.

Or il n'y a certainement point de puissance qui possède en un plus éminent degré les qualités requises à cet effet, que sa majesté le roi de Danemark, vu qu'il n'est pas seulement, comme on l'a remarqué ci-dessus, *vicinus vicini* et par rapport à la Suède un allié naturel de l'Impératrice, ayant de même un intérêt invariable à faire cause commune avec elle en tout ce qui concerne le repos du nord et la conservation de la forme du gouvernement en Suède, mais que sa majesté royale doit naturellement être bien aise que la Russie soit encore autorisée par plus de titres à s'opposer à l'avenir à une révolution également préjudiciable aux deux couronnes, outre que ce serait un nouveau motif pour le roi de Danemark d'épouser les intérêts de la Russie pour obvier avec elle d'autant plus efficacement à tout ce qui pourrait troubler le repos dans le nord.

Il n'y a aucun doute que le roi de Danemark, aussitôt qu'il sera informé des intentions de l'Impératrice, ne se charge très volontiers du soin de cette négociation, de sorte qu'il dépend uniquement de Sa Majesté Impériale d'approuver un expédient qui en levant les difficultés que les mal intentionnés suscitent appuiera les intérêts de la Russie, obligera sensiblement tous ses alliés, comblera de joie toute l'Europe, couronnera d'un heureux succès les soins employés depuis si long temps pour le bien commun et ajoutera enfin un nouveau lustre à la gloire et à la dignité de Sa Majesté Impériale. P. R. O. Russie. 1750. N^o 62.

Promemoria remis par l'ambassadeur de l'impératrice-reine et les ministres de Sa Majesté Britannique et des Etats Généraux en Russie touchant le duc de Courlande.

St.-Petersbourg, le 4 (15) Août 1750.

En conséquence des ordres qu'il a plu à Sa Majesté l'impératrice-reine de Hongrie et de Bohême, à Sa Majesté le roi de la Grande Bretagne et aux seigneurs Etats Généraux des Provinces Unies de donner aux soussignés leurs ambassadeur et ministres, ils ne peuvent se dispenser de faire connaître:

1) Que les affaires de Courlande et l'état désolé où se trouve ce duché depuis plusieurs années par l'absence du duc légitimement élu et investi par le roi et la république de Pologne tant pour lui, que pour ses héritiers, commencent à devenir de jour en jour plus sérieuses et ont mérité toute l'attention possible.

2) Que vu la part que Sa Majesté l'impératrice-reine, Sa Majesté Britannique et les seigneurs Etats Généraux, comme des véritables et communs amis de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies, comme aussi de sa majesté le roi de Pologne, prennent à tout ce qui peut intéresser leur bien; Sa Majesté l'impératrice-reine, Sa Majesté Britannique et L. L. H. H. P. P. ne peuvent refuser de se prêter à la fin aux instances réitérées que les ministres de sa majesté le roi de Pologne ont faites pour qu'il leur plaise de joindre leurs instances à celles que sa majesté le roi et la république de Pologne ont fait faire depuis tant d'années à la cour de Russie pour obtenir l'élargissement du duc de Courlande, d'autant plus que

3) Sa majesté l'impératrice-reine, Sa Majesté le roi de la Grande Bretagne et les seigneurs Etats Généraux sont persuadés que ce serait là le moyen le plus court et le plus efficace pour prévenir et pour étouffer toute sorte de dissensions en Pologne, sans quoi il est à craindre que des esprits mécontents parviennent un jour non seulement à exciter des troubles dans ce royaume, mais même de les répandre plus loin, ce qui pourrait avoir des suites dangereuses par la participation des puissances jalouses et peu affectionnées à la Russie, ce qui est d'autant plus plausible, qu'il est notoire que

4) Le ministère de la Porte Ottomane a déjà été prévenu par des impressions faites d'une part ou d'autre, comme si la Russie était dans le dessein de s'approprier entièrement le duché de Courlande. C. Bernes. Guy Dickens. Swart. P. R. O. Russie. 1750. N° 62.

№ 78.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 25-th September o. s. (6-th October) 1750.

My lord. Having been confined to my house for some days by a slight indisposition, I had no opportunity before Saturday last of informing myself of what had passed at the last conference, which general Bernes had with the great chancellor, when the said general told me that the chancellor expressed the greatest pleasure and satisfaction at the advices he communicated to him, by order of his court, of the forwardness of the great work, which His Majesty out of his zeal for the good of the empire, had begun in order to get the archduke Joseph elected king of the Romans, and that by the courier which he, general Bernes, had redispached to his court with an account of his having executed the abovementioned orders, a rescript had been sent to m-r Keyserling enjoining him to use the most pressing instances with the king of Poland to engage him to concur in that most important and salutary measure.

In talking about this and other affairs, general Bernes acquainted me that, though the great chancellor had an opportunity of writing by his courier to the russian ambassador at Vienna, yet he chose to dispatch one himself pretending it was about some arrears of accounts depending between the two courts. The general told me also he had heard of two other couriers being sent away, but did not know where; on which occasion he observed that, though the affair of the accession met with such delays, it was plain there were some things which the chancellor did venture to take upon himself: such as the orders dispatched by the abovementioned couriers, which were certainly unknown to the Empress, who was not in town; but something, I think, may be said to this, as there is a great difference between signing so solemn a thing as a treaty and the sending only orders to the russian ministers abroad that are agreeable to the system the Empress has adopted. I asked next the general, if in his conference with the chancellor any mention had been made of the accession; and he told me no, but that he saw no occasion to write to his court to provide his successor full powers, m-r Funk, the saxon chargé des affaires, having assured him, by order of the great chancellor, that this work should certainly be brought to perfection during his embassy. General Bernes being in doubt, as your grace will have observed above, where two of the couriers had been dispatched from hence, I acquainted

him that one of them was gone to Hanover and, as they had told me, charged with nothing but a new cypher for count Czernichew. Since yesterday however, I have some suspicions that count Lynar's affairs may have given occasion to the sending away this courier, as I hear that the nomination of him to succeed the late m-r Schulin meets with great opposition at the court of Denmark, one of the childish reasons alledged against him being the hazard they would run of losing the french subsidies, if that post was filled by a person recommended by this court. If this be, therefore, an article of the dispatches which this courier carries to count Czernichew, I doubt not but His Majesty will be desired to exercise his endeavors, jointly with the Empress, in favour of count Lynar. In the mean time, count Lynar seems to have laid aside the thoughts of returning home, till he sees the issue of the disputes raised there about him.

Yesterday morning the Empress came unexpectedly to town, but she will disappear again in a couple of days.

The great chancellor continues to be very much indisposed, but more, I believe, in mind, than in body on account of his domestic vexations. R. 12-th (23-d) October. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 79.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 2-d October o. s. (13-th October) 1750.

My lord. Some snow and heavy rains having fallen since my last (which was of the 25-th past o. s.), Her Imperial Majesty is not gone out of town again, as it was expected, but proposes to remove to-day or to-morrow from her summer into her winter palace.

This court having been a long time very much piqued at the repeated slights and neglects shown to their minister, m-r Gross, at that of Berlin, a resolution has been taken to recall him in such a manner, as may show a proper resentment on the part of the Empress. Accordingly, orders were sent to m-r Gross, a few days ago, to quit the court of Berlin, as soon as possible, without taking leave of his prussian majesty or any of his ministers; and as soon as they have an account here of m-r Gross's having executed these orders, a declaration will be made to m-r Wahrenдорff, the prussian minister here, acquainting him with the reasons and motives of this proceeding, which m-r Gross is to communicate in confidence to sir Charles Hanbury Williams and the marquis de Puebla, but to nobody else.

I am now to acquaint your grace that the Empress has taken the resolution of going again this year to Moscow, which is, however, kept so secret, that there is not above four or five people who know it. The great chancellor would fain, if possible, prevent this journey, and to this end has had recourse to his usual expedient in such cases of having paragraphs inserted in the foreign news papers, by the help of which he flatters himself to make his mistress lay aside this resolution, but, I believe, he will find himself mistaken. She has been too much and too long indulged even by the chancellor himself, in all her desires to be at present contradicted by any of her ministers.

No longer, than yesterday, I had again the strongest assurances given me by order of the great chancellor that the affair of the accession would soon be finished; yet I hear, at the same time, that general Bernes had now been told he would do well to write to Vienna that his successor may be provided with a full power, lest, contrary to expectation, this negotiation should not be brought to a conclusion before his departure. The day before yesterday at noon, the great chancellor went to court for the 1-st time since his recovery, but in the evening was taken ill again and did not make his appearance there, as usual. I suspect, however, it is some new feint, for the same person, who brought me the abovementioned message from him, added that the chancellor would not have me be uneasy at the reports spread about his illness, for that would do no hurt to my affairs. R. 19-th (30-th) October. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 80.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 9-th October o. s. (20-th October) 1750.

My lord. The chief reason of my troubling your grace with this letter is that I may not be two post days without writing.

Since my last, the great chancellor is perfectly recovered of all his ailments and comes regularly to court; but we do not find as yet the least effect of it, in the dispatch of any of the affairs depending here.

The Empress's journey to Moscow, as I have already acquainted your grace, is fixed for this year; but they talk as if the foreign ministers would not attend Her Imperial Majesty thither, it being her intention to set out by the first sledge way and to return before it is over, in which case the great chancellor and the college of foreign affairs could not avoid, in

our opinion, staying also here; but it is not probable either will happen; it would throw the affairs of this empire in the utmost confusion, if the Empress was so long without her ministers about her, and the jealousies of this court will not permit them to leave the foreign ministers behind, least some of them should be intriguing and caballing during the Empress's and her ministers absence; we, therefore, expect Her Imperial Majesty's intention will be soon notified to us in form, and that we should make the necessary preparations to attend her on this journey, which will as usual last a whole twelve month. R. 2-d (13-th) November. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 81.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Hanover. 14-th (25-th) October 1750.

All in cypher ¹⁾. Sir. I received on the 12-th (23-d) the favor of your letter of the 25-th of September and have regularly laid those which I have received, to that time, before the King; but have had no commands from His Majesty upon them.

The King was glad to hear that the chancellor Bestuchef had showed to general Bernes so much satisfaction at the forwardness of the great work which the King had begun for the election of the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans. If the court of Russia could determine the king of Poland to concur in this great and salutary measure, there is no doubt, but it would be soon brought to perfection; and, therefore, you will omit no opportunity of enforcing to the chancellor the necessity of their insisting in the strongest manner with the king of Poland for that purpose.

Count Czernichew has been gone from hence these ten days, so that I have had no opportunity of learning from him what the courier, that you mention to have been dispatched hither, has brought. The departure of some of the russian couriers may have been occasioned by count Lynar; but I am not quite sure that you have guessed the true reason in supposing it to be that the nomination of count Lynar to succeed the late m-r Schulin meets with great opposition at the court of Denmark.

I have been informed that there has been, for some time, a nego-

¹⁾ To go to Vienna by an austrian courier.

tiation carrying on between the courts of Denmark and Russia for accommodating all the differences with the duke of Holstein, great duke of Russia, relating to Sleswick, etc., and possibly to procure his imperial highness's consent to the agreement lately made, by the intervention of France, between the king of Denmark and the prince successor of Sweden; and I have also heard that the court of Denmark flatter themselves that this agreement is brought very near to a conclusion.

If this is so, it accounts for the dispatch of these couriers and for m-r Lynar's long stay at Petersburg, after he had received his letters of revocation and had been appointed of his danish majesty's council. And if the other had been the reason, in all probability, the chancellor Bestuchef would have mentioned it to you, as well as wrote about it to count Czernichew.

Should this negotiation take place the court of Denmark would be more firmly fixed in the french interest than ever, as it is undoubtedly the effect of french councils and the consequence of the french system; and as the court of Denmark would then think they had less occasion for His Majesty's guaranty of Sleswick, which has always been some hold upon them.

You will, therefore, make the best enquiry you can (but in the most prudent manner) into the truth of these accounts which I have received; and you will show the chancellor Bestuchef the ill consequences of any negotiation between Denmark and Russia carried on, undoubtedly, by the advice and at the instigation of France without His Majesty's knowledge or participation.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that on Friday night a messenger arrived here from Madrid with a treaty signed between His Majesty and the king of Spain for terminating all disputes relating to commerce etc., between the two nations and for securing, and confirming to His Majesty's subjects the rights and privileges they were entitled to by former treaties.

This great work done, particularly at this time, cannot fail of having the best consequences (and even, as to our great object now depending), as it unites more closely His Majesty and the king of Spain and must encourage all the well intentioned powers of Europe and be a disappointment to others. And I may, in confidence, acquaint you that I have reason to think that the court of Berlin, in particular, had flattered themselves that this negotiation would not have succeeded. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 82.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 16-th October o. s. (27-th October) 1750.

My lord. In my last which was of the 9-th instant I acquainted your grace that the great chancellor was perfectly recovered of all his ailments, but since then he is taken ill again and confined to his house.

Though no notice has yet been given to the foreign ministers of the Empress's intentions to go to Moscow this year yet as I find m-r Sw art, the dutch minister, has wrote to his master to know, if he should follow Her Imperial Majesty thither, it is proper I should also desire your grace would be pleased to send me His Majesty's orders on this occasion especially, as I am told that six weeks is the longest warning that will be given us.

According to our last letters from Vienna, general Bretlack must now be on his journey hither, and we impatiently expect his arrival here, hoping he will be able to rouse this court out of their shameful sloth and inaction, which they have indulged for so many mouths, as he is in great favour here and takes the liberty to tell them very freely of their faults.

As to the affair of the accession, I will not mention it any more to your grace, till general Bretlack's arrival, for general Bernes gives me now clearty to understand that he has no hopes of it's being brought to a conclusion during his ambassy. R. 9-th (20-th) November. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 83.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 23-d October o. s. (3-d November) 1750.

My lord. Your grace will have seen by my letter of the 16-th instant, which is my last, that I thought I should not have occasion to mention any more the affair of His Majesty's accession before general Bretlack's arrival. But, on Saturday last, I had an unexpected message from the college of foreign affairs to let me know that all the instruments for bringing that work to perfection were ready on their side, but that there was an article which the Empress could not agree to, which was the secret declaration I had orders to make to the ministers of the two

empresses in relation to the secret articles of the treaty of 1746 at the same time that I signed His Majesty's accession to the said treaty; that this declaration was needless, as these secret articles were entirely separate from the treaty, and were they ever included in it, the King could not be supposed to have taken any part in them, as he acceded hereto upon the foot only of his former engagements, namely with regard to the empress-queen, upon the foot of the treaty of Vienna of 1731; and with regard to the Empress of Russia, upon the foot of the treaty of Petersburg of 1741 and that of Moscow in 1742. To which I answered that the King being of opinion that these secret articles would have a most dangerous effect, if the neutral powers had any notion of them, as I had already told the Empress's ministers in my conferences with them upon this negotiation; His Majesty, in order to prevent any disputes for the future and remove any the least suspicion that he took any share in them, thought the declaration he had ordered me to make absolutely necessary. The secretary, who was charged with this message, told me upon this that Her Imperial Majesty insisted on her ministers not receiving such a declaration, and used many intreaties to prevail on me to give up that point. But I desired him to acquaint the college of foreign affairs that it was in vain for them to think of persuading me to make such a concession; that supposing, as they said, this declaration was a needless and superfluous instrument, I saw less inconvenience in their receiving it, than in my omitting the execution of my orders. Therefore, if this new and unexpected difficulty could not be got over, I desired to be acquainted with it before evening, that I might write for new orders and instructions. The secretary went away with this answer and came back two hours after with compliments from the great chancellor, who desired I would not write for new orders, for that he hoped to prevail with the Empress to let this objection drop. And the next evening, as I was at court, the great chancellor, who is recovered of his late disorders, repeated the same to me, adding that he had no share in the first message I had received and that next Tuesday, which is this day, he was to be with the Empress and would then settle every thing with her, so that we might have nothing else to do, but to sign and put the last and finishing hand to this work.

Having been so often disappointed, as I have, after the most solemn assurances, I will not take upon me to say, how far I may depend upon them. One circumstance only makes me begin to believe this negotiation is drawing to a conclusion, which is that the great chancellor has invited himself to come and celebrate His Majesty's birthday at my house on Tuesday

next, the 30-th instant, with an innuendo, as if he would do his utmost that the accession might be signed on that day. R. 17-th November. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 84.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 27-th October o. s. (7-th November) 1750.

My lord. I did not think I should have had any thing worth giving your grace the trouble of a letter by this post, but I have the pleasure to acquaint your grace that this afternoon I had a message from the great chancellor to let me know that, having been this morning with the Empress, he had settled every thing relating to the King's accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses, and in the very manner proposed by His Majesty; and that I might entirely depend upon the several instruments of the said accession being signed and exchanged at my house on Tuesday next the 30-th instant, which is the anniversary of His Majesty's birthday. As this is, therefore, two formal a notice to leave any more room to doubt of the immediate conclusion of this work, I think I may venture to congratulate your grace upon it. By the next post I hope to be able to say something certain as to the time I shall redispach Lamb, the messenger. R. 19-th November. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 85.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 30-th October o. s. (9-th November) 1750.

My lord. The company who dined with me to-day on occasion of His Majesty's birthday not being yet all gone, I have only time to acquaint your grace, by these few lines, that this day, at noon, I signed the act of His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two Empresses in the very form and manner His Majesty proposed. R. 23-d November. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 86.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 5-th November o. s. (16-th November) 1750.

My lord. On Tuesday last the 30-th October, I had the honour to acquaint your grace that that day, at noon, I had signed the act of His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses. I now have the satisfaction of transmitting to your grace by Lamb, the messenger, all the instruments relating to that affair, as they have been signed and exchanged by the ministers of the three courts.

№ 1. Is the copy of His Majesty's act of accession to the treaty of 1746 together with a copy of the secret declaration relating to the secret articles of the said treaty, signed and delivered by me to his excellency general Bernes, the empress-queen's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary at this court.

№ 2. Is a copy of His Majesty's act of accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses together with a copy of the secret declaration relating to the secret articles of the said treaty, signed and delivered by me to their excellencies count Bestuchef-Rumin, great chancellor, and count Woronzof, vice-chancellor of the Empress of Russia.

№ 3. Is the original act of the empress-queen's acceptance of His Majesty's act of accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses together with the original secret declaration relating to Hanover, signed and delivered to me by his excellency general Bernes, the empress-queen's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary at this court.

№ 4. Is the original act of the Empress of Russia's acceptance of His Majesty's act of accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses together with the original secret declaration relating to Hanover, signed and delivered to me by their excellencies count Bestuchef-Rumin, great chancellor, and count Woronzof, vice-chancellor of the Empress of Russia.

Your grace will take notice in the perusing of these instruments that the treaty of Petersburg of the 3-d April 1741, mentioned in the project your grace sent me of His Majesty's act of accession, is left out and the treaty of Moscow of the 11-th September 1742 only recited, the reason of which is that the treaty of the 3-d April was made in the time of the young Emperor John, whose reign they will not allow here to have a place in their chronicles, besides that they assure me it never was ratified and that the treaty of 1742 contains all that was in the former.

Your grace will likewise observe that the following paragraph is inserted in the inclosed instruments, which did not stand in the project I received from your grace.

La présente accession de Sa Majesté britannique restera dans sa vigueur aussi longtemps que les susdits engagements de Sa Majesté antérieurement contractés avec leurs dites majestés impériales subsisteront.

This paragraph seemed to me entirely needless, for as His Majesty acceded only upon the foot of his former engagements with the two empresses, his accession could not be understood to be of any longer duration, than those engagements, which is seven years longer. However finding they insisted on this paragraph I agreed to it.

When I delivered the secret declaration relating to the secret articles of the treaty of 1746 to the ministers of the two empresses, I not only signed it as your grace will see, but put my seal to it, which last they have omitted to do in the secret declaration delivered to me relating to Hanover, saying it was needless in a declaration. However if it be thought material in England, I doubt not but they will readily do it.

All I have to add is to repeat my congratulations to your grace upon the conclusion of this work and to wish it may be productive of all the good effects His Majesty promises himself from it for the preservation of the publick peace and the real interest of the common cause. R. 28-th November by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

Abstract of the treaty of 1746 between the empress-queen and the Empress of Russia and of His Majesty's accession thereto in 1750.

Art. 1-st. By this treaty it is stipulated that there shall be a firm and lasting peace between the two contracting parties.

2-d. That necessary succours shall be sent reciprocally if either of them be attacked.

3-d. That in base of such attack or disturbance given to the kingdoms or territories of either party, the other shall upon requisition made for that purpose furnish the party attacked with a corpo of 30/m. men, (viz.), 20/m. foot and 10/m. horse. It being however to be understood that the *casus hujus fœderis* shall not oblige the Empress of Russia to assist the empress-queen with the aforesaid troops on account of the present or any future war in Italy, or any which may hereafter break out between the empress-queen and the crown of Spain; as on the other hand it does

not oblige the empress-queen to give the said assistance to the Empress of Russia in case of a persian war. In case however of such attacks on either of the parties, either in Italy or from Persia, the other party is to hold the abovementioned succours in readiness to assist, provided it should become necessary.

4-th. The same as the 6-th article of the treaty of 1742 between Great Britain and Russia *mutatis mutandis*.

5-th. The same as the 7-th article of the said treaty.

6-th. » » » » 8-th » » » » »

7-th. » » » » 9-th » » » » »

8-th. » » » » 10-th » » » » »

9-th. » » » » 11-th » » » » »

10-th. That the commander in chief shall observe an equality in allotting the military duty and service to the troops of both parties. It is moreover agreed that the auxiliaries shall be entitled to all booty taken by them in an enemy's country and to the trophies of war, cannon, etc., and are to be kept, as much as possible, together in one corps.

11-th. But if for reasons of war it should be found advantageous to attack the common enemy from one of the provinces belonging to either party, a consultation to be held by common consent about the carrying such design into execution. If the succours thereby stipulated should be insufficient a larger number to be furnished.

12-th. In case a war should be begun, neither of the contracting parties to make peace without including the other.

13-th. Orders to be sent to their respective ministers residing at foreign courts, to concert together and assist each other in all affairs relating to the mutual interests of each party.

14-th. Neither of the contracting parties to give refuge or protection to each other's rebellious subjects and both of them to assist in quelling any plots that may be discovered against either.

15-th. The king and republic of Poland to be invited to accede thereto, as likewise other powers and particularly the King of Great Britain, as elector.

16-th. But if the republic of Poland should be unwilling to accede, the king of Poland to be invited thereto as elector.

17-th. The treaty to last for 25 years.

18-th. And to be ratified in two months or sooner.

This treaty was afterwards acceded to by His Majesty as principal

contracting party in October 1750 with regard to the court of Russia on the foot of his engagements entered into with them by the treaty of 1742, and with regard to the empress-queen upon the foot of the treaty of 1731 and the accession of the states of 1732, as far as should be consistent with the late definitive treaty of Aix la chapelle. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 62.

№ 87.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 5-th November o. s. (16-th November) 1750.

Secret. My lord. I shall make the subject of this secret letter whatever may more or less require to come under that head.

First to answer His Majesty's expectation, signified to me in your grace's letter of the 9-th February last, of having from me by the return of this messenger «a full account of the present situation of this court, the character and credit of the ministers, the disposition of the Empress of Russia with regard to the political system of Europe and the means they have of supporting any part that they may be inclined to act therein». I shall communicate to your grace such observations and informations as I have been able to make and collect since my arrival here upon these points, though I should have thought that the earl of Hyndford, who is so lately returned from this court, had given His Majesty full satisfaction with regard to these or any other enquiries.

The Empress's dispositions cannot be more favourable, than they are with regard to the closest union with the maritime powers and the house of Austria or any other powers who are inclined to oppose the views and designs of France, Prussia and Sweden, against whom she is greatly provoked. But unfortunately that princess gives herself up so entirely to her pleasures, that I am afraid we shall not reap all the advantages we might naturally expect from these dispositions and our alliances with her; unless our friend the great chancellor is more active and diligent, than he has shown himself to be, since I have been here in laying hold of those moments which she will spare from her diversions for the dispatch of business; though I must, at the same time, say it is not a very easy matter to do especially when any new object has inflamed her imagination, which happens very often. Since her return from Moscow, one of her camer-jungkers *Schuvaf* was for a while in the highest favour and credit;

she bought a house for him here in town, and all the last summer he was lodged in the apartments which belonged before to the great duke and dutchess; but this young man, upon trial, not being found (as we suppose) to answer expectation, is now upon the same foot as he was before and taken no farther notice of, than the functions of his post require. To him succeeds an italian singer, who arrived here a few months ago, but no *castrato*, as your grace will easily believe. How far this affair was carried we cannot tell, but whilst it lasted the Empress showed publicly by her behaviour at court the liking she had taken to him. Now they talk of others, and as upon all such new engagements she is continually rambling from one place to another, it is with the utmost difficulty any of her ministers can bring her to read any paper, much less to sign them, however pressing the dispatch of them may be. And as to the great chancellor (who is certainly most sincerely our friend and can find his security only in continuing so), he has likewise his failings, which not only prevent his being as assiduous about the Empress, as he should be, but give his enemies (who are many) a great many advantages over him. I have several times seen him come to court, when he was fitter to go to bed; of which the Empress is made to take notice by his enemies, though it is hardly possible I should think, but she must do it of herself, and this ill habit is the reason why he puts off so frequently the foreign ministers, though they have orders to execute. For, after having spent the greatest part of the night in gaming and drinking, his head is not clear enough, when he rises to talk of business nor to go regularly to court in the morning, as all the other ministers do and particularly his rival, the vice-chancellor, who never fails. And now I name the vice-chancellor; your grace must be long acquainted that he is not only in the prussian interest, but a pensioner of that court. He gave me all the opposition he could, in the secret declarations I insisted on with regard to Hanover and the secret articles of the treaty of 1746. For all that I cannot help observing to your grace that, was he at the head of affairs, as he certainly will be, whenever the great chancellor dies or should happen to be removed, I think it will be no difficult matter to bring him over to the system this court is now pursuing; for he is no obstinate man and must be persuaded within himself, it is agreeable to the true interest of this court to guard in the most effectual manner against Prussia and Sweden, who would prove most dangerous enemies to this crown, in case it should be engaged in a war with Turkey. There are many here who wish means could be found of reconciling the great chancellor and him, but the former will not hear of it.

This being the situation of affairs at this court, the grand point we ought to have in view, and general Bernes writes the same to his court, is now the affair of His Majesty's accession is over, how to put things here upon such a foot, as that we may depend upon a more quick dispatch of any transactions that may be found necessary in consequence of the new engagement the three courts have entered into and this can only be done by making the great chancellor sensible how much his own preservation depends on his being more active and diligent. For could he be prevailed upon to come to this resolution and adhere steadily to it, he would soon remove all the obstacles which his mistress's humour or his enemys throw in his way and render this court of the greatest use and service to the common cause, and as to the means they have of supporting any part that they may be inclined to take therein, their present countenance and situation show what they are able to do from their frontiers, for between Liebau in Courland and Frederichsham in Finland they have at least one hundred and forty thousand men, and whatever opinion people may have of the king of Prussia's power, 'tis not he, Denmark and Sweden combined together, who could hinder this court from taking and keeping possession of swedish Finland, if the Turks remain quiet, nor of making powerfull diversions in Prussia and even Pomerania. But should it be required of this court to send a great body of troop over and above the stipulated succours at any great distance from their own country, they could not then indeed support the expence of it without subsidies, for money is scarce with them, but men they have enough to spare.

Two days after His Majesty's accession was signed, the great chancellor sent for m-r Schwart, the dutch envoy, to talk with him about that of his republic, and this messenger carries orders to count Golowkin, the russian minister, to concert with the minister of the empress-queen at the Hague the manner and form of the invitation to be made in the name of the two empresses. The great chancellor told m-r Schwart on this occasion that he believed his republic would do well to accede on the foot of His Majesty's treaty of 1742 or that of the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, with this court, and that as in the treaty with Saxony the stipulated succours on this side should be twelve thousand men, and that on the part of the republic only eight thousand. The chancellor added that whenever the casus foederis existed of Her Imperial Majesty's being obliged to furnish the abovementioned succours, he would advise the maritime powers to take each twelve thousand men more into their pay, as this would make together so respectable a body, as to be able to take

the shortest way to whatever place the service of the said powers required, which he said would probably be through the king of Prussia's dominions, and in that case they would act here with regard to his prussian majesty as he did with regard to the king of Poland in his march to Bohemia ask the passage of those troops, when they were in the heart of his country. Orders have likewise been sent by general Bernes's courier who passes through Dresden to m-r Keyserling to press that court to send hither without any farther delay full powers to general Arnheim and m-r Funck in order to conclude the affair of their accession, and I doubt not but these instances will be renewed both at Dresden and the Hague, if it be necessary, for they seem here at present very desirous of seeing a full and speedy completion of this work according to the plan His Majesty has sketcht out.

P. S. Just as I was going to make up my packets, I received the inclosed paper in german from the great chancellor and must leave it to be translated in England. But I may not detain the messenger any longer, who has already been detained too long waiting for the great chancellors dispatches. R. 28-th November. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

N o t e.

Bei Gelegenheit derjenige Conferenzen, die der in London befindliche Russisch-Kaiserliche Minister Graf Czernischew im verwichenen Jahre mit dem dortigen Minister über die Accession Ihrer Majestät des Königs von Grossbritannien zu dem zwischen beiden Kaiserlichen Höfen Anno 1746 errichteten defensiv Alliantz Tractat gehabt, hat der Grossbritannische Minister dem Grafen Czernischew zu erkennen gegeben, dass es auch nöthig wäre die Herrn General-Staaten ebenmässig zum Beitritt obgedachten Alliantz-defensiv-Tractats einzuladen indem man in London versichert wäre, dass Ihre Hochmögenden zu obgedachter Accession von selbst inclinirten, und so bald Ihnen der Antrag darüber gemacht werden möchte dem Tractat beizutreten nicht anstehen würden. Dem Grafen Czernichew wurde mittelst eines Rescripts vom 2-ten December a. p. darauf anbefehlen dem Grossbritannische Minister zu erkennen zu geben, dass Ihre Kaiserl. Majestät von allen Reussen die Einladung Ihre Hochmögenden zu genehmigen geruheten so balde nur Ihre Majestät der König von Grossbritannien gedachtem Tractat zum voraus beigetreten sein würden. Da nun dieses letztere durch die neulich geschlossener Accessions Acte bewerkstelliget worden, so ist an den Russisch-Kaiserlichen Oberhof-Marschall und Ambassadeur Grafen von Bestu-

chef-Rumin, Excellenz in Wien, wie auch an offtgedachten Grafen von Czernischew nach gemäss obangeführten rescribiret worden, damit einjeder an seinem Orte die nöthige Vorstellungen wegen Einladung der Herrn General-Staaten mache und ohne Zeit-Verlust für die in Haag befindliche Röm. Kaiser und Grossbritannische ministres die Instructions bewürcke, damit sie nach erhaltener Versicherung von der Neigung und Bereitwilligkeit Ihre Hochmögenden offtgedachten Alliantz-defensiv-Tractat beitreten zu wollen, zusamt des Russisch-Kaiserlichen in Haag vorfiehenden Ambassadeur Grafen von Golowkin Excellenz, an welchen ebenfalls in dieser Materie rescribiret worden die General-Staaten im Nahmen der höchsten interessirten Höfen zum offterwehetem Beitritt förmlich einladen und gemeinschaftlich unter einander zu Werke gehen und conferiren. Ubrigens wird die Art und Weise auf welchem Fuss Ihre Hochmögenden diese Accession zu bewirckstelligen vermeinen dem eigenem Gutbefinden der Herrn General-Staaten überlassen um dieser Wegen selbst ein Project entwerffen und selbiges denen höchsten interessirten Höfen mittheilen zu können. Hierin bestehen die Essentialia der an die obgedachte Russ.-Kaiserl. Ministres nach Wien, London und dem Haag ergangenen Rescripten und lebet man der Hoffnung der Königliche Grossbritannische Envoyé extraordinaire und gevollmachtigte Ministre von Guy Dickens werden kennen Anstand nehmen die baldige Beförderung dieser Angelegenheit bei seinem Hofe durch dienlich findende Vorstellungen zu unterstützen.

In colonel Guy Dickens's secret letter of 5-th November 1750.
P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

N o t e.

Translation. Upon occasion of the conferences which the russian imperial minister in London count Czernichew had with the ministry there, last year, about the accession of His Majesty the King of Great Britain to the treaty of defensive alliance concluded between the two imperial courts in the year 1746, the british ministry gave count Czernichew to understand that it was necessary to invite the States General also to accede to the said treaty of defensive alliance, they being assured in London that their high mightinesses were, of themselves, inclined to the said accession and would come into it without difficulty, as soon as it should be proposed to them. Count Czernichew was thereupon ordered by a rescript of the 2-d of December last to signify to the british ministry that Her Imperial Majesty was pleased to approve of inviting the States General,

as soon as His Britannick Majesty should have previously acceded to the said treaty. As the latter has now taken place by the act of accession that has just been signed, Her Imperial Majesty's grand-marshal and ambassador at Vienna count Bestuchef-Rumin and the said count Czernichew have been ordered agreeably to what is said above, to make the necessary representations at the respective courts with regard to the invitation of their high mightinesses and to procure, without loss of time, instructions to the imperial and britannick ministers at the Hague to the end that, pursuant to the abovementioned assurances of their high mightinesses inclination and readiness to accede to the treaty aforesaid, the said ministers may join with the ambassador count Golowkin, to whom the like orders have been sent in inviting the States General formally in the name of the high parties concerned to the said accession and act in concert with each other upon that occasion. As to the rest, the way and manner in which their high mightinesses intend to execute this accession is left to their own judgment, as well as the forming of a project for that purpose in order to communicate it to the parties concerned.

This is the substance of the rescripts sent to the said russian ministers at Vienna, London and the Hague; and it is hoped that His Britannick Majesty's envoy extraordinary, m-r Guy Dickens, will lose no time in furthering the dispatch of this affair at his court by such representations, as he shall find most proper.

In colonel Guy Dickens's secret letter of 5-th November 1750.
P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 88.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 5-th November o. s. (16-th November) 1750.

Most secret. My lord. I have reserved for this letter the sending your grace a distinct answer to your most secret letter of the 9-th February last by Lamb, the messenger upon the letter which general Bernes at the instigation of count Bestuchef had wrote to general Puebla at Berlin and which m-r de Richecourt thought had fallen into the king of Prussia's hands and been communicated by him to the french minister.

As soon as your grace's abovementioned letter came to my hands, I communicated the contents of it to general Bernes in order to concert with him the properest manner of laying before the chancellor the fatal

consequences that would unavoidably arise from publishing such facts as [are] contained in his general Bernes letter to m-r Puebla upon too slight grounds. General Bernes told me hereupon that he had already, by order of his court, made the like representations to the chancellor, but instead of receiving them well he appeared uneasy and displeased at them. Therefore he thought it best to speak no more to him about this incident, as it gave him pain, like a man who was conscious of having done wrong; besides that he believed m-r Richecourt's suspicion of his letter to m-r Puebla having fallen into the king of Prussia's hands was groundless. However some days after as I was with the chancellor, I began in a very tender and delicate manner to mention to him this affair and the concern it gave my court least it should do him any hurt, but perceiving, as I thought, that he blushed and that he returned no answer to me, I dropt the discourse and have not renewed it ever since. But as your grace observes this is not the single instance where suppositions and advices not founded upon facts have been flung out by our friend the chancellor, and I am now charged with two commissions of this nature to your grace, as you will see by the two inclosed papers.

The one intituled *Insinuations à faire sur le rappel du sieur Gross, ministre de Russie à Berlin.*

The other: *Insinuations à faire sur l'arrivée de la nouvelle de la conclusion de l'accession en Angleterre.*

The ill consequences of such a method of proceeding could not fail to be sure of being great if known, but I find the chancellor thinks himself the more justifiable in it, as the courts of France, Prussia and Sweden are daily using much more unwarrantable means to ruin him. R. 28-th November, by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

Insinuations à faire sur le rappel du sieur Gross, ministre de Russie à Berlin.

Qu'on avait appris de bonne main de Paris que la cour de Prusse piquée de la manière dont la cour de Russie avait résolu de rappeler son ministre de Berlin, sans qu'il dût se congédier, ni du roi, ni du ministère, pendant qu'on était d'intention de faire une déclaration très forte sur cette démarche au ministre de Prusse à Pétersbourg, la dite cour de Prusse avait fait faire toutes sortes d'insinuations sur ce sujet à Paris. Qu'entre autres choses la cour de Prusse devait avoir communiqué au ministère de France, comme quoi elle avait fait faire les plus fortes instances en Suède

pour qu'on en marquât du ressentiment au sieur Panin, ministre de Russie à Stockholm. Qu'on savait surtout que le ministre de Prusse en France avait pris à tâche de faire comprendre que tout ce qui s'était résolu à l'égard du sieur Gross ne partait que du chancelier Bestouchef en Russie et qu'il serait à souhaiter qu'on mît le sieur Panin dans le cas de pouvoir se plaindre à son tour des manières de la cour de Suède, ce qui serait peut-être le moyen le plus sûr de faire rappeler également ce dernier, comme le sieur Gross le serait de Berlin, moyennant quoi l'on parviendrait à être quitte d'un esprit inquiet tel comme Panin, qui n'aimait pas la Suède et dont la présence ne pourrait qu'être incommode pour la prochaine diète en Suède, au lieu que si ce dernier était rappelé on y aurait les mains d'autant plus libres, qu'il y avait toute apparence que dès que le dit Panin serait rappelé, la Russie soit vanité, soit délicatesse ne se résoudrait pas si tôt à y renvoyer un autre ministre à sa place. Que la Prusse ne doutant pas de l'étroite amitié de la France souhaiterait que cette dernière voulût appuyer de son côté ce que la Prusse avait déjà fait insinuer à cet égard en Suède.

Le duc de Newcastle doit être prié de faire usage de l'avis ci-dessus envers le comte de Czernichew et d'y ajouter qu'on avait déjà si souvent averti en confidence la cour de Russie que si tôt qu'elle prenait quelques résolutions, la cour de Berlin ne manquait pas d'en être instruite aussitôt et d'avance, que cet avis en était une nouvelle preuve probante, et tant qu'on ne boucherait pas en Russie les canaux par où la cour de Prusse était instruite de tout, on ne pouvait pas toujours s'ouvrir et s'expliquer confidemment avec la Russie, comme l'on le souhaiterait, d'ailleurs, de la part du roi d'Angleterre sur plusieurs objets intéressants sur la situation des affaires en Suède et des mesures à prendre dans ce pays vers la diète prochaine, de crainte que le tout ne transpirât mal à propos et d'avance à la cour de Prusse et de là en Suède et en France. Que par la même raison la Grande-Bretagne devait balancer à s'ouvrir sur d'autres matières et propositions au désavantage du roi de Prusse, quoique tendantes au bien et à l'intérêt de la Russie.

In colonel Guy Dickens's most secret letter of 5-th November 1750. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

Insinuations à faire sur l'arrivée de la nouvelle de la conclusion de l'accession en Angleterre.

Lors de la réception de la nouvelle de la conclusion de l'accession en Angleterre, l'on souhaiterait que le duc de Newcastle voulût témoigner

à m-r de Czernichew qu'outre le contentement qu'on sentait de ce que cette affaire, pressée d'ailleurs au commencement par la cour de Russie même et qui avait cependant traîné si longtemps, était finie, on était encore plus réjoui de la voir enfin terminée après les avis réitérés qu'on avait eus de France, comme si le roi de Prusse avait assuré positivement qu'il espérait sur des bons témoignages qu'il en serait jamais rien, et si en tout cas l'accession de l'Angleterre réussit, il était pourtant assuré que la déclaration en faveur de l'électorat d'Hanovre n'aurait jamais lieu, et que selon toute apparence cette difficulté ferait sinon échouer, du moins reculer considérablement l'accession de l'Angleterre. Que lui, duc de Newcastle, charmé de ce que le contraire était arrivé, espérait que le roi de Prusse, qui d'ailleurs jusqu'à présent n'avait été que trop bien informé des allures et d'intentions de la cour de Pétersbourg, ce que l'Angleterre n'avait pas manqué de communiquer confidemment à cette dernière, et à plusieurs reprises, serait du moins pour cette fois-ci trompé et commencerait, peut-être, par là à diminuer tant soit peu de la confiance qu'il avait eue jusqu'à présent dans ses partisans en Russie et à leur rabattre quelque chose sur les pensions dont ils jouissaient. Que le duc de Newcastle souhaitait au reste qu'on voulût une bonne fois boucher en Russie les canaux du roi de Prusse, qui tant qu'ils subsisteraient empêcheraient l'Angleterre, à la vérité fort malgré elle-même, de s'ouvrir, aussi confidemment qu'elle souhaiterait, envers la Russie sur plusieurs matières, et principalement sur celles qui regardent la Suède, car dès qu'il en reviendrait quelque chose au roi de Prusse, cela serait aussitôt découvert à la Suède et mettrait cette couronne en état de prévenir et rendre inefficace tout ce qui pourrait être proposé pour le bien de la cause commune.

In colonel Guy Dickens's most secret letter of 5-th November 1750. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 89.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 5-th November o. s (16-th November) 1750.

Apart. My lord. This letter apart is to inform your grace that the day after the accession was signed, I had a message from the great chancellor by his favorit and confident m-r Funk, the saxon *chargé d'affaires*, about the presents usually made on such occasions, and least I should be uninformed of what was the particular custom and expected at this

court he specified to me the sums and the persons to whom they were to be given, viz-t:

To the great chancellor	L. St. 1.200
» » vice-chancellor	» 1.000
» general Bernes the empress-queen's-ambassador	» 1.200
To the clerks of the russian college of foreign affairs	» 250
And as a separate present to secretary Wolkof, who had had the chief trouble in this negotiation	» 50
	L. St. 3.700

I lost no time in acquainting general Bernes with the message I had received in order to know his opinion of it, and he told me it was what was usual, customary and expected at this court upon all such transactions and that he had received the same message with regard to his court, which he thought might be dispensed, though ours could not from making such presents, as they had already made them on the conclusion of the treaty of 1746. That he had sent this answer to the chancellor, but that he had since been given to understand that this being the *locus negociationis et accessionis*, they hoped here no distinction would be made between the courts of London and Vienna. And the general said he would write accordingly to his court, who rather than put people here out of humour would he believed agree to the chancellor's demand, though, in his opinion, very unreasonable for the reasons abovementioned.

I am farther at the great chancellor's particular desire to put your grace in mind of the present for general Lieven, who commanded the russian corps of auxiliary troops in the pay of the maritime powers.

P. S. The messenger Lamb who carries these dispatches has behaved with such prudence and discretion, during the time he has been detained here, that it would not be disagreeable if he was sent back with the ratifications of His Majesty's accession. R. 28-th November, by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

N^o 90.

Lettre du comte A. Bestouchef au duc de Newcastle.

Monsieur. Les sentiments d'amitié et de considération particulière que j'ai pour votre excellence et ses mérites distingués ne peuvent que me faire prendre part à tout ce qui regarde sa personne, et c'est sur ce principe que je me ferai un véritable plaisir d'apprendre qu'elle soit heureusement retournée à la suite de Sa Majesté britannique à Londres.

Je me flatte que votre excellence ne met pas en doute la pureté de mes intentions pour l'avancement du bien et des intérêts réciproques et mutuels des deux couronnes que nous avons l'honneur de servir, et que j'ai et que j'aurai toujours fortement à cœur.

J'espère donc que votre excellence regardera de ce côté l'idée que je me donnerai l'honneur de lui exposer par la présente en faveur du consul général de Sa Majesté britannique ici le baron de Wolff et sur laquelle mylord comte de Hyndford est en état de donner les plus amples éclaircissements à votre excellence, outre ce que je viens d'en mander à ce dernier et dont je joins expressément copie ici, afin qu'elle serve à votre excellence au cas que le lord Hyndford ne fût pas lui-même présent à Londres.

Il s'agirait de porter Sa Majesté britannique à accorder au dit baron de Wolff la grâce de lui faire expédier outre les patentes de consul général, dont il est déjà muni et qui lui resteraient également conservées, des lettres de créance en qualité de son ministre sans caractère à cette cour-ci.

Ce n'est point le dit baron de Wolff qui s'avise de rechercher un pareil honneur par quelque vue d'ambition. Non, ce n'est pas là sa façon de penser, et ce n'est pas non plus l'amitié que d'ailleurs je ne nie point d'avoir pour sa personne qui me déterminent à faire l'ouverture de cette idée, mais c'est uniquement pour obvier à des mauvaises intentions qu'un couple des ennemis du dit baron paraissent avoir pour lui susciter innocemment des persécutions, afin d'y trouver leur compte en particulier et de ruiner, s'il était possible, le crédit peut-être de toute la nation et des intérêts britanniques, de même que l'harmonie qui subsiste si heureusement entre les deux couronnes et qui viendrait à en souffrir.

Votre excellence sentira bientôt elle-même par sa pénétration tout le poids des considérations qui me portent pour le bien commun à ce pas et comme par l'exécution de l'idée que je propose, qui n'est pas sans exemple, il sera fort facile à Sa Majesté britannique de mettre le dit baron de Wolff

à l'abri de tout inconvénient nuisible, je ne doute nullement que votre excellence ne voudra s'y employer le plus efficacement par un effet de son zèle reconnu pour les intérêts du roi son maître et de ses sujets.

P. S. Je prie votre excellence de vouloir bien avoir la bonté de me faire parvenir sa réponse, non pas par la poste ordinaire, mais par l'express porteur de la présente ou bien par le premier courrier ou express qui parte pour ici sous l'adresse du baron de Wolff. R. 30-th November. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 91.

Copie d'une lettre du comte A. Bestouchev à milord comte de Hyndford.

Monsieur. Comme je m'intéresse sincèrement à tout ce qui regarde votre excellence, je serai très charmé d'apprendre qu'elle soit heureusement retournée de ses terres d'Ecosse en Angleterre auprès de la personne de Sa Majesté britannique, et c'est dans cette supposition que je ne saurais me dispenser d'exposer quelques considérations à votre excellence par rapport au baron de Wolff, considérations qui, à mon avis, seront également convenables aux propres intérêts de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande Bretagne, votre maître, et aux intérêts de ses sujets commerçants dans cet empire, comme ils seront nécessaires au baron de Wolff.

Votre excellence sait mieux que personne, combien le dit baron a été de tout temps utile aux intérêts britanniques dans ce pays-ci. Elle se souviendra encore entre autres circonstances relatives à cela de celle qui est arrivée pendant le cours de son ambassade ici, lorsqu'il s'agissait d'effectuer la marche du corps auxiliaire de nos troupes, pendant que les ministres respectifs des puissances maritimes manquaient des pleins-pouvoirs requis et de l'argent stipulé pour cet effet au temps marqué. Votre excellence sait aussi que par les sentiments d'honneur et de probité que tout le monde a reconnus dans ce baron, il jouit du bonheur d'être non seulement très bien et sur un pied de confiance avec tout ce qu'il y a de plus distingué ici, mais encore que Sa Majesté l'Impératrice, ma souveraine, daigne l'honorer de ses grâces et bienveillance.

Il y a cependant, comme vous ne l'ignorez pas non plus, my lord, deux ou trois personnes, qui ne laissent pas d'avoir un certain crédit et qui depuis longtemps, soit par envie, soit par d'autres passions, paraissent se faire fête de rechercher toute occasion d'inquiéter le dit baron et de lui susciter des chicanes très préjudiciables. Jusqu'ici leurs peines n'ont

pas porté coup contre lui, mais comme il n'est pas impossible qu'à l'avenir ils ne pussent trouver jour à y parvenir et qu'alors ils ne lui fissent, sous des prétextes à la vérité frivoles ou mal fondés, des affaires capables d'altérer le crédit le mieux établi et, par la suite de leurs mauvaises inclinations, peut-être celui de toute la factorerie anglaise, il paraît que l'intérêt de Sa Majesté britannique exigerait qu'on y pourvoyât à temps, en munissant le baron de Wolff d'un caractère qui lui donnât une immunité plus constatée et le mit, par conséquent, tout à fait à l'abri des procédés d'une certaine nature.

L'expédient le plus propre pour cela serait, à ce qu'il me semble, aisé et facile à Sa Majesté britannique. Car après qu'elle a daigné revêtir le dit baron du caractère de son consul général ici, il ne paraîtra pas surprenant ni sans exemple (dont on pourrait citer une infinité, s'il en était besoin), si Sa Majesté daigne encore y ajouter celui de son ministre sans caractère à cette cour-ci, en lui faisant expédier pour cet effet des lettres de créance pour Sa Majesté Impériale, à peu près comme le roi de Prusse avait conféré, il y a quelque temps, ce même caractère au sieur de Warendorff, ci-devant son secrétaire de légation, à présent son ministre plénipotentiaire ici, avec cette seule différence que le baron de Wolff serait à exempter, pour le bien de ses affaires de commerce et de celui de la factorerie ici, des voyages que cette cour-ci pourrait de temps en temps faire à Moscou ou vers d'autres endroits éloignés de cet empire.

Je passe pour être des amis de m-r de Wolff et je ne disconviens pas que je ne le sois effectivement, mais ce que j'allègue en sa faveur ne part ni de cette source, ni d'aucune vue ambitieuse de la part du baron de Wolff, qui n'a jamais désiré et qui même ne recherche pas encore rien de pareil, mais c'est uniquement en conséquence des idées que votre excellence m'a communiquées à cet égard elle-même et de son propre mouvement plus d'une fois pendant son séjour dans ce pays-ci, et pour mettre l'innocence du baron de Wolff à couvert de tout inconvénient.

Aussi votre excellence m'avouera-t-elle que les intérêts de Sa Majesté britannique à cette cour-ci, loin d'en souffrir quelque préjudice, ne s'en trouveront que mieux, lorsqu'on voudra encore donner ce caractère au baron de Wolff, qui en toute sorte d'occasions peut prêter les mains à m-r l'envoyé de Guy Dickens et qui même, lorsqu'en tout cas ce dernier vint un jour à tomber malade ou à être rappelé d'ici, pourrait en attendant ménager les affaires du roi, quoi il trouverait toute facilité et par la langue du pays qu'il possède, et par la connaissance où il est avec le ministère et

avec tous ceux qui sont employés ou à la cour, ou dans les différents tribunaux ici.

J'écris moi-même à son excellence my lord duc de Newcastle pour lui faire goûter cette proposition qui ne tend qu'au bien mutuel des deux couronnes, et je joins ici une copie de ma lettre, afin que votre excellence en voit le contenu.

Vous êtes, my lord, entièrement au fait de tout ce qui regarde cette idée que je viens d'exposer et dont vous êtes en partie auteur, et comme vous connaissez, aussi bien que moi le baron de Wolff, je crois que les considérations et représentations que vous êtes en état de faire là-dessus plus amplement, donneront tout l'appui nécessaire à la chose pour qu'elle réussisse.

P. S. J'ai trouvé à propos pour gagner le temps d'envoyer la copie de cette lettre-ci à son excellence my lord duc de Newcastle, pour qu'elle lui serve, en cas que votre excellence n'eût peut-être pas joint Sa Majesté britannique à Londres, et j'espère que votre excellence, qui a été elle-même témoin oculaire de tout ce qui est contenu dans la présente, voudra l'appuyer de son mieux. Je la prie aussi de vouloir me faire sa réponse non pas par la poste ordinaire, puisqu'on ouvre les lettres en Prusse, mais par quelque bonne et sûre occasion d'un courrier ou exprès sous l'adresse de m-r le baron de Wolff.

Souvenez-vous, my lord, de ce que vous m'avez chargé d'assurer m-r d'Apraxin touchant une tabatière pour servir de souvenir du roi au dit général. Si cette marque de grâce peut être changée en celle d'une épée, ce serait, ce me semble, d'autant mieux et pour lui plus agréable.

Ut in litteris. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 92.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 20-th November 1750.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I received yesterday your letter of the 27-th past and laid it before the King.

His Majesty was very glad to find that the affair of the accession was now likely to be forthwith compleated in earnest. I shall expect very soon Lamb, the messenger, with an account of it and of the present situation of affairs at the court where you are, upon which you may depend upon having immediately His Majesty's thoughts, the King thinking

it more necessary, than ever to keep up the strictest union and correspondence with the Empress of Russia, for which the best foundation will be laid by the accession which, I hope, is concluded before this time. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 93.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 13-th November o. s. (24-th November) 1750.

My lord. Before this letter reaches your hands your grace will, I hope, have received my dispatches by Lamb, who went from hence on Monday the 5-th instant at night.

Since Lamb is gone, I find I have committed a most egregious blunder in agreeing, as I did, to the paragraph inserted by the great chancellor, limiting His Majesty's accession to the term of years only that the King's former engagements with the two empresses had to run. I shall sincerely confess to your grace that before I signed the accession, I was really of opinion that by His Majesty's acceding upon the foot of his former engagements was meant the time, as well as the engagements themselves, so that, as your grace will have observed, in my letter accompanying the several acts of the accession the paragraph added by the chancellor seemed to me needless and superfluous. I will hope the great chancellor was as deeply led into this error, as I, whatever ill opinion it may give of his judgment, as well as mine; for I should be sorry to think that the presents, usually made on renewal of such engagements, could have any share in his insisting on this paragraph; but, as concerned as I am at this blunder, I sometimes think, it is for the better that it happened, for had I waited for new orders and let slip the opportunity which offered, by the sudden notion that came into their heads of concluding this affair on His Majesty's birthday, we might have been six months longer before we could have fixed them here to any business; as birthdays, holydays and long, and short fasts, together with rambling parties of sledges are coming thick one upon another, besides this mistake may easily be rectified by a separate article, before the ratifications are exchanged. R. 10-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 94.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 17-th November o. s. (28-th November) 1750.

My lord. Not only the affairs with England, but with all other courts have lain dormant here for a long time. Those with Sweden do so still and will, we hope, continue so; but those with Denmark seem to recover a little motion and activity. On Tuesday last, count Lynar acquainted the great chancellor that he had received orders from his court to remain here 'till the arrival of his successor, by which we suppose the court of Denmark must have some hopes of that minister's succeeding in a secret negotiation, he has, for some time, been carrying on with the minister of the great duke for the exchange of some lands in Holstein, which gives continual disputes between the court of Copenhagen and Petersburg. This negotiation is, not only carried on with the Empress's approbation, but, as it were under her mediation, the great chancellor being present by her order at all the conferences, count Lynar has with baron Pechlin, the great duke's chief minister for the affairs of Holstein; and I am told, there is great probability of this negotiation being brought to a conclusion, as the great chancellor is of opinion that, if this affair was settled to the satisfaction of Denmark, that court would be the readier to renew her engagements with her natural allies. I hear farther that Oldenburg and Delmenhorst are the lands that are to be given in exchange for those of Holstein and that Denmark offers, besides, a considerable sum of money. How far this exchange may be agreeable with his majesty's electoral interest, I am not able to judge; but, as this information was given me in the greatest confidence, I must beg that if any use be made of it, it may not appear that it came from me. R. 11-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 95.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 30-th November 1750.

All in cypher. Sir. Lamb, the messenger, arrived here, on Wednesday last, with the several instruments of His Majesty's accession to the treaty between the empress-queen and the Empress of Russia concluded in 1746,

signed by the respective ministers and the several declarations which were transmitted to you from hence, signed also by the respective parties. I have the pleasure to congratulate you upon the finishing of this great work to His Majesty's satisfaction, and to acquaint you with the King's entire approbation of your conduct, which has been attended with all the success that could be expected from it.

I shall redispach Lamb (as you desire), as soon as ever the ratifications can be got ready.

I cannot conclude without assuring you that it is a particular satisfaction to me, that a work of this importance to His Majesty and his kingdoms has been happily brought to perfection by your diligence and ability.

I send, by this night's post, His Majesty's orders to lord Holdernessee to take the necessary measures, jointly with count Golowkin, for procuring the immediate accession of the States General to the treaty of 1746; and I do not doubt, but I shall soon have the pleasure to acquaint you with the success of the instances which will be made on this occasion.

His Majesty takes it for granted that the accession of the king of Poland will meet with no difficulty; and if the consequences of this great and powerfull union should farther engage his polish majesty to join in giving his vote for the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans, there would then be such a system formed as would discourage any power from attempting to infringe the rights and possessions of the contracting powers, or to disturb the peace and tranquillity of Europe; and therefore, the King hopes that the Empress of Russia will forthwith renew her powerfull instances with his polish majesty to join with the King and the court of Vienna in bringing the great affair of the election of the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans to a happy conclusion. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 96.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 24-th November o. s. (5-th December) 1750.

My lord. In some expostulations I have had with the great chancellor and the ministers of Vienna, Dresden and Holland upon the clause I agreed to limiting His Majesty's accession to the term of years, his former engagements with the two imperial courts had to run, they all

insist that my only blunder, in that affair, was to think that I had committed one. For, if that had been His Majesty's intention, some mention would have been made of it in the project of the act of accession sent to me. But, how positive so ever these gentleman may be in their opinion, I shall suspend my judgment, 'till I know His Majesty's sentiments about the matter; one of above views I cannot help yet thinking, was that his former engagements should subsist, as long, as the treaty between the two empresses, to which he had taken the resolution to accede.

The Empress's journey to Moscow is put off till the latter season of sledging, the hetman's and the vice-chancellor's ladys, who constantly attend Her Imperial Majesty in these journeys, being with child and not able to undertake it, till they are brought to bed.

Though I have not had any orders from your grace to direct no more my letters to Hanover, yet I shall leave off doing it, all public and private advices agreeing that His Majesty and your grace have long since left that place on your return to England. R. 17-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 97.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 7-th December 1750.

All in cypher. Sir. As the ratifications of His Majesty's accession will be ready by Tuesday next I shall dispatch Lamb, the messenger, that night to Petersburg. And it is His Majesty's intention that he should pass by Hanower and Vienna, that there may be an opportunity of giving the King's ministers in both those places an account of the situation of affairs, as far as it relates to His Majesty's great object of proceeding to the election of archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans; and I must observe to you that the promoting the success of that measure will be the best consequence and the wisest use that the Empress of Russia can make of His Majesty's accession; and that may be to be done by the influence the Czarina has over the king of Poland, who is, himself, certainly well inclined to it; but would be glad to have subsidies from the maritime powers, which, in the present exhausted situation of both countries, are not to be obtained. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 98.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 11-th December 1750.

All in cypher. Sir. As the ratifications of His Majesty's act of accession to the treaty of the two empresses of 1746 could not be got ready by this night's post, I am obliged to defer the dispatching the courier till Friday next; by whom I shall write fully to you and I shall therefore, at present, only acknowledge your letter of the 13-th of November, which I received yesterday, and that of the 17-th, which I received this morning. I have laid them both before the King, but have not yet had an opportunity of taking His Majesty's orders upon them. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 99.

M-r George Morley, secretary to the Russia Company, to the duke of Newcastle.

London. 11-th December 1750.

My lord duke. As your grace was pleased to give permission to the Russian Company to lay before your grace any complaints they had reason to make, so they desire to represent that by the 8-th article of the treaty of commerce is stipulated a free trade to Persia throw Russia, whereas at present it is absolutely prohibited to us by the court of Russia.

By the 16-th article of the said treaty the british subjects are to have their houses in Petersburg, Moscow and Archangel exempt from soldiers quartered upon them, which has been infringed.

By the 19-th article all british affairs of trade should be under the cognizance of the college of commerce only, throw many times have been refered to the magistracy, where british merchants can never hope for equity and justice.

By the 23-d article effectual orders are to be sent for bringing out of the countrey such Russes to Petersburg, as we have debts and demands upon. The strict observance and execution thereof is earnestly recommended, as being highly necessary.

The 26-th article agrees a strict break upon hemp and flax which we desire may be kept up to it's just standard, as is done at Riga.

As this company delivered a memorial to your grace of the demand which several of the members had upon account of an iron contract with baron Schomberg relating to the interest of their money and charges thereon, which memorial your grace transmitted to lord Hyndford, who assures us this demand was put in a fair way of recovery, the Company prays this affair may so effectually be recommended to His Majesty's minister m-r Guy Dickens as to obtain success.

These are the material articles of the infraction of the treaty of commerce and grievances in our trade which we pray your grace will be pleased to recommend to His Majesty's minister at the court of Russia and likewise to the consul baron Wolff, that they may be redressed and removed.

By order of the governor, consuls and assistants of the Russia Company George Morley secretary. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 100.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 1-st December o. s. (12-th December) 1750.

My lord. The day before yesterday I received with a letter from m-r Keith from Vienna of the 18-th November n. s. the honour of your grace's letters from Hanover of the 12-th (23-d) and 14-th (25-th) October, in the first of which was inclosed His Majesty's letter to the Empress of Russia notifying the birth of a prince, which I shall take care to deliver in the usual manner.

In answer to your grace's second abovementioned letter I have the satisfaction to acquaint your grace that His Majesty's desires with regard to the election of the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans have been anticipated; the king of Poland upon the instances made by this court having declared that he would concur in this great and salutary work. So no obstacle, we think, now remains to it's being brought soon to it's perfection.

As to the russian courier dispatched from hence to count Czernichew in September last, it is very possible I may not have guessed the true subject of his errand. It is now full six months that I have not seen the great chancellor in private. For, as long as the affair of the accession was depending, he seemed to decline it on his part, and, on mine, I avoided giving him the pain to press it. But I may venture, I believe,

to assure your grace that, if he had the least thought that the negotiation, now on foot with Denmark, had been begun by the advice and at the instigation of France, he would immediately break it off. But I have reason to believe the contrary. For I am informed, by very good hands, that the report spread, at first, as if setting a cartel for the giving up of deserters occasioned count Lynar's staying here so long after he had received his letters of revocation, had no other view, than to conceal the true negotiation from France, who, Denmark was afraid, might be offended and withdraw her subsidies, if she came to the knowledge of it. I believe, I may likewise venture to assure your grace that the negotiation will not be brought to it's full perfection without His Majesty's participation and concurrence. And, in a few days, I propose asking a private conference of the great chancellor, in which, I am sure, he will give me a full and ample communication of every thing. Nor can I attribute it to any reserve in him that he has not done it hitherto, but to his natural indolence. Besides, though I wrote in my letter of the 17-th past that there was a probability of this negotiation being brought to a conclusion, yet, as matters are transacted here, it will not be so soon. And, by some loose hints, count Lynar let drop to me, a few days ago, I find he has no great hopes of it during his stay here. As among the objects of this negotiation your grace's accounts talk of Sleswick, I must acquaint you that no mention has been made of it hitherto, but purely of the affairs of Holstein. And, if they are settled, it will be by some convention between the two courts, that will have no manner of relation to or connection with the agreement made by the intervention of France between the king of Denmark and the prince successor of Sweden. Your grace may be also assured that this court will not comply with the desires of that of Denmark, unless they break off their engagements with France and unite with Russia and her allies. But I shall defer saying any thing more upon this subject to your grace, till I have seen the great chancellor, which shall certainly be one day next week.

On Wednesday last general Arnheim had an audience of the Empress, in which he delivered the king of Poland's letter in favour of duke Biron; and Her Imperial Majesty promised she would give orders to have that affair examined into.

The last mails from England brought me the honour of your grace's letter of the 6-th instant with the agreeable news of His Majesty's being safely arrived at St. James's. R. 28-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 101.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 14-th December 1750.

Sir. I herewith transmit to you His Majesty's ratifications, in due form, of the act of accession to the treaty of 1746 and, in order to give them the greater weight, you have also His Majesty's ratifications of the two secret declarations.

The King approved the leaving out of the treaty of 1741 for the reason you give, as all the material part of it is renewed in that of 1742. But I must observe that our treaty of commerce is looked upon here to be so advantageous to us, that I find our Russia Company will be very desirous to have it prolonged; and, indeed, they have already flung out to me hints of that kind.

As the King acceded upon the foot of the treaty of 1742, His Majesty could have no objection to the clause inserted by the russian ministers, viz-t, that the act of accession should have the same duration with the treaty upon the foot of which the accession was made. And I do not apprehend that any inconvenience can arise from it. On the contrary, it may dispose the court of Petersburg hereafter to be more inclined to renew the treaty of 1742.

You will immediately exchange the ratifications with the respective ministers and then redispach Lamb by the way of Vienna.

Though there does not seem to be any material difference, yet, as the secret declaration given by you was signed and sealed, it would be better if you could get that relating to His Majesty's german dominions sealed also.

As soon as the ratifications are exchanged, it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should ask an audience of the Empress of Russia and express the King's great satisfaction at the conclusion of this work, whereby the separate defensive engagements of the several powers are now happily reduced into one common act, which, His Majesty thinks, gives great security for the support of the interests of the contracting parties and for the preservation of the peace of Europe.

I send you a copy of my letter to lord Holdernesse directing him to take with count Golowkin in Holland the proper steps for obtaining the immediate accession of the States General. And I inclose also extracts of some letters from my lord Holdernesse, whereby you will see the steps

he has already taken. I doubt not, notwithstanding the seeming difficulties therein mentioned, but that this affair will soon be happily concluded.

The king of Poland, I presume, will immediately accede; and it might not be amiss. If in your audience of the Empress you acquainted her, by the King's order, that nothing was now wanting for the establishing a strict and respectable union of so many considerable powers, but the success of the great measure which His Majesty has brought so near to a conclusion, of the election of the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans, that her powerfull interposition with the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, would, if it succeeds, put that affair out of doubt (as there are already six voices sure, viz-t Mayence, Trèves, Cologne, Bohemia, Bavaria and Brunswick), and that, therefore, the King could not too earnestly press Her Imperial Majesty to use her utmost endeavours for that purpose.

I have talked very fully to count Czernichew upon that subject and have endeavoured to convince him that it was impracticable in our present circumstances to give a subsidy to the king of Poland; but that it would be very unfortunate, if so small an object, as that, could prevent so considerable a prince, as the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, from following both his interest and his inclination in concurring with His Majesty and the court of Vienna in this one necessary measure, when from the same consideration of interest and inclination, he is already in other respects so strongly united with the King and the court of Vienna and with the Empress of Russia, who takes equally a part in the election of the archduke Joseph to be King of the Romans.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the messenger is returned from Spain with an account of the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty lately concluded between His Majesty and the king of Spain. The friendship and good correspondence that is established by that treaty concluded without the interposition of any third power, appears to be as agreeable to the king of Spain and the whole spanish ministry and nation, as it is to His Majesty and his subjects; and there is all possible reason to think that it will be attended with all best consequences in all respects.

P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 102.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 14-th December 1750.

Secret. Sir. I have laid before His Majesty your secret letter of the 5-th of November giving an account of the situation of the court of Pe-

tersburg and of the favorable dispositions of the Empress for maintaining the closest union with the maritime powers and the house of Austria. His Majesty is very glad to find that these favourable dispositions are so strongly confirmed by you, though the indolence that princess shows upon all occasions and the delays which attend all business of consequence (of which this affair of the accession is a most extraordinary instance) make those favorable dispositions of less use to herself and her allies. You say very right: the great point to be had in view, at present, is to endeavour to get more dispatch given to all the transactions at Petersburg; and the chancellor Bestuchef gives his enemies great handles over him by not, himself, taking every opportunity to engage the Empress, his mistress, to dispatch those points of business which are of the most importance and which cannot but suffer by delay. The King is very glad to find the Empress of Russia has so considerable a force, as 140.000 men, between Libau in Courland and Fredericksham in Finland. The apprehension of those troops may be of great use, to keep things quiet in those parts. But it should not encourage the court of Russia to make attempts and begin hostilities, which with all their force, if they are the aggressors, they will not be able to maintain. His Majesty sufficiently shows by the two great acts of this year, viz-t, that of his accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses and the measures that are taking for the election of the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans, his real intention to cultivate and cement the strictest union and friendship between the maritime powers, the two empresses and such princes of the empire, as will adhere to that system. But if any power should flatter themselves from hence that His Majesty may be brought either openly, or covertly to assist or abet any attempt to break the peace, either in the north, or south, they will find themselves greatly mistaken. All His Majesty's measures tend to the preservation of the peace in all parts and that by making such alliances and establishing such a system, as may discourage other powers from breaking it. And 'tis upon this principle that the King is entitled to speak with authority to his allies, when he is daily giving them such convincing proofs of his real concern for their interests. The King thought proper that I should just say thus much, in general, that you, knowing His Majesty's sentiments, might be the better able to conduct yourself, in case, upon this accession. Any of those flights should be renewed, of which (though they have not long existed) we have seen some instances formerly. As this reasoning is entirely conformable to the interests and professions of the court of Vienna, I am persuaded it is

equally so to their real intentions. The King of Prussia is always at work to misrepresent every thing that is done, either at the court of Petersburg, or any other, that is in a different system from him, and endeavours to make France and the rest of the world believe that every little incident, though trifling in itself, is an indication of a design to come to a rupture; and, as, on the one hand, it is very imprudent to give him any real handle, so, on the other, when it is done without foundation, it is to be contradicted and despised. His Majesty's conduct is so far above reproach, that the court of Berlin show but their own weakness, whenever they attempt to charge His Majesty's measures with any view of this kind. The sudden recall of count Gross without taking leave is already represented, as a formed design in the Empress of Russia to break off all correspondence with Prussia. And care should be immediately taken to set that affair in such a light, and the reasons for taking that measure, that this insinuation of the king of Prussia may appear to be without foundation.

Complaint has been made of sir Charles Hanbury Williams having held improper discourses at Berlin, though there does not appear any foundation for it or, as yet, any explanation of what those discourses are. But these little acts will soon be defeated, if His Majesty's allies will follow his example by acting an uniform steady part for the preservation of the peace upon the foot of the treaties now subsisting and strengthening each other by a proper concert and union among themselves.

I send you copies of the king of Prussia's letter to the King and of His Majesty's answer. You will communicate them to the chancellor Bestuchef, whereby he will see the strength and firmness with which His Majesty maintains this great measure of the election of a king of the Romans. If the chancellor Bestuchef wants really to revenge himself of the king of Prussia and serve, at the same time, the Empress, his mistress, and the common cause, he must forward the success of that measure by securing the vote of the king of Poland, elector of Saxony. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 103.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 14-th December 1750.

Very secret. Sir. I received on the 11-th instant the favour of your letter of the 17-th of November giving an account of the negotiatio not

count Lynar to obtain the consent of the great duke to the exchange of some lands in Holstein with others to be given by Denmark.

This negotiation is of more importance, than you seem to imagine and appears to be no less, than the getting the consent of the present duke of Holstein, great duke of Russia, to the present exchange of all these countries, which the prince successor of Sweden has, by the interposition of France, eventually consented to. It was by the means of that agreement that France detached the king of Denmark from His Majesty's alliance and from the king's allies and united him to themselves and Sweden. And the court of France will be the better able to fix Denmark in their interest, if they can also procure the consent of the present possessor. The renunciation to Sleswick is, I suppose, part of this agreement, as it is one material article of the eventual cession. I am much surprised to see the chancellor so forward in this measure; for, if it is what I apprehend it, as the King has had information of such a negotiation being now actually carrying on at Petersburg, instead of bringing Denmark back to their natural allies, it will be fixing them in the french and swedish interests.

Oldenburg and Delmenholst, I know, were to be given eventually in exchange, and therefore I conclude the whole bargain is the same. It is therefore the King's pleasure that you should talk very seriously to the chancellor upon this subject and represent to him the certain consequences that must attend a hasty concurrence in this measure, which is a trap laid for them by France and Sweden.

You will, however, take care that m-r de Bestuchef does not mention your having in any manner interfered in this affair. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 104.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 14-th December 1750.

Most secret. Sir. I am now to acquaint you in answer to your most secret letter that His Majesty approves your conduct in not having further pressed the chancellor Bestuchef upon the letter sent to m-r Puebla at Berlin. The fact was certainly true and the court of Vienna was as much scandalised at it, as the King could be. The only inference to be made from it is that, if the chancellor will take such low and unjusti-

liable methods, as these, he may not always be able to get out of it so well, as he has done in this.

As to the paper inclosed, entitled «Insinuations to be made upon the recall of m-r Gross», the russian minister at Berlin, as His Majesty has received no advice of the insinuations supposed to have been made in France and Sweden to procure the recall of m-r Panin, it is impossible for me to say any thing of it to count Czernichew or anybody else. I cannot but have my doubts as to the truth of these advices, but I am very far from wanting sufficient indications that the transactions and those of the most secret nature of the court of Russia have been communicated, at times, to the king of Prussia. Some particular instances I could give; I will only mention one which happened the other day, which was that m-r de Mirepoix, the french ambassador, talking to me of His Majesty's accession to the treaty between the two Empresses, expressly asked me, whether the King had acceded to the four secret articles? The knowledge of which probably came from Russia to Prussia and from thence to France. I neither owned nor denied the existence of any such articles; but contented myself with saying that His Majesty's accession was purely upon the foot of the defensive engagements, which the king had taken by former treaties, and this m-r de Mirepoix did not seem dissatisfied with thus far, therefore (because it is true) His Majesty does allow me to say to count Czernichew that we have the greatest reason to believe that the king of Prussia does find means to be constantly informed of some of the most secret transactions at the court of Petersburg; that if this is so, it must necessarily lessen the confidence that His Majesty has in Her Imperial Majesty's councils. I have accordingly talked to count Czernichew. I found him more unwilling than formerly to enter into this affair. He promised, however, that he would write as I desired to the chancellor only, but he would have had me believe that m-r de Mirepoix's information might come from hence. And he seemed to think the insinuation of lessening the King's confidence in the Empress, his mistress, would be looked upon as a menace not supported upon any certain fact, and therefore wished that that might be omitted.

As to the other insinuations contained in the other paper, which it is desired that I would make to count Czernichew, I have a notion that the king of Prussia has looked upon the affair of the accession, as not likely to take place, and very possibly had given hopes of it in France. But I am, by no means, certain enough of it to declare it to count Czernichew. I am persuaded that the chancellor's suspicions are true, that the

courts of Prussia and Sweden would do every thing in their power to ruin him, the chancellor Bestuchef. But whatever they do of that kind, which is not founded upon truth and fact, will turn upon themselves; and, therefore, I hope the chancellor Bestuchef, for his own sake, will not follow them in any such practices, if there are any such. Upon the whole, I could only repeat to m-r Czernichew what I have often said before, that we have reason to believe that the king of Prussia is too often informed of what passes at the court of Petersburg, which must have a very bad effect in the present conjuncture.

These two papers of insinuations are, as you very rightly observed, a continuation of suppositions and advices possibly not founded upon facts or which, at least, are not come to my knowledge. And I must be allowed to have too much regard for my own reputation ever to advance any thing of this kind which I do not know of my own knowledge. I cannot also but observe that there are some hints flung out in both these papers relating to the affairs of Sweden, which show the necessity of my explaining to you His Majesty's thoughts in the manner, I have done in my secret letter of this date. And I must again repeat to you that the surest way to disappoint the king of Prussia in any of his views against the person of the chancellor Bestuchef would be for him to engage the Empress, his mistress, to attend to the affairs of her great empire and to act an open great part in concert with His Majesty, in support of the system laid down by the King for the preservation of the public peace.

Though it is impossible for me for the reasons abovementioned to comply with what the chancellor Bestuchef has desired in these two papers: yet, it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should give him the strongest assurances of the King's resolution to do every thing in his power to assist and support him, His Majesty being thoroughly convinced that nothing can be more useful to the common cause and to the system which the King has laid down, than the maintenance of m-r Bestuchef's credit and influence with the Empress, his mistress. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 105.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 14-th December 1750.

Separate. Sir. I send you inclosed a copy of a letter I received from the chancellor Bestuchef and of my answer, as also of the letter I

write to consul Wolff, the original of which inclosing his credential of resident you will deliver to him.

You will see that at the same time that His Majesty has thought proper, in some degree, to comply with the earnest request of the chancellor Bestuchef, the King has taken care that consul Wolff shall neither have any pretensions to any salary, or any pretence to interfere with you in any business, or in the execution of His Majesty's orders.

I am persuaded that the King's attention to you in this respect will, as it ought, give you great satisfaction and remove any objection, you might otherwise have to the chancellor Bestuchef's proposal in favour of consul Wolff. His Majesty was willing to oblige m-r de Bestuchef, when it neither was attended with expence nor any other inconvenience. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 106.

Le duc de Newcastle au comte A. Bestuchef.

A Whitehall, le 14 Decembre 1750.

Monsieur. Je suis infiniment obligé à votre excellence des professions d'amitié dont elle m'a honoré dans sa lettre du 30 Novembre dernier. On ne saurait être plus convaincu, que je suis du zèle distingué et de l'attention très particulière qu'elle a toujours témoignés pour l'union la plus étroite entre nos deux souverains, laquelle, comme j'espère, prendra une nouvelle force par l'acte d'accession du roi au traité conclu en 1746 entre leurs deux majestés impériales.

Je n'ai pas manqué d'informer le roi de votre requête en faveur du baron de Wolff, et Sa Majesté en considération de votre recommandation et pour montrer la particularité de ses égards envers votre excellence a bien voulu lui accorder le caractère de son résident auprès de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies. J'en écris au baron de Wolff par ce même courrier en lui envoyant sa lettre de créance, et il recevra l'une et l'autre de m-r le colonel Guy Dickens, à qui je fais part aussi des motifs qui y ont porté le roi. Mais je dois, en même temps, informer votre excellence qu'afin que m-r de Wolff ne soit point détourné de l'attention qu'exige la commission de consul général et pour ne pas donner de l'ombrage à m-r le colonel Guy Dickens, le roi a trouvé à propos de dispenser absolument m-r de Wolff de toute fonction de ministre et m'ordonne de lui dire qu'il ne doit s'attendre à aucun salaire en conséquence de ce nouveau

caractère, m-r le colonel Guy Dickens demeurant seul ministre du roi à la cour de Sa Majesté Impériale.

Je suis charmé de toute occasion de vous faire voir ma promptitude à obéir au possible à vos ordres et l'estime et la considération distinguées avec lesquelles j'ai l'honneur d'être etc. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 107.

The duke of Newcastle to consul Wolff.

Whitehall. 14-th December 1750.

Sir. I having received a letter from the chancellor Bestuchef earnestly desiring for particular reasons, which he has mentioned, that His Majesty would be pleased to give you a character of minister, His Majesty has been pleased to give you a credential letter appointing you His Majesty's resident at the court of Petersburg, which I herewith inclose to you, but I am to acquaint you that it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should not interfere in any business without his express order and that you are not to expect or have any salary or pay in consequence of His Majesty's credential letter.

I am very glad of any thing that may be agreeable to you or be of service to you. I know your zeal for His Majesty's service and your successful applications upon all occasions in support of the interests of the Russia Company and I must, in the strongest manner, recommend to you the continuance of that zeal and attention, which you have hitherto showed upon all occasions. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 108.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 14-th December 1750.

Apart. Sir. I received your letter apart of November the 5-th with the list of presents to be given upon the conclusion of His Majesty's act of accession amounting in all to 3.700 L. His Majesty thinks this a very unreasonable demand but as you represent it, as necessary and what is always practised, His Majesty is pleased to consent to the presents proposed for the russian ministers amounting in all to L. 2.700, but His Majesty does not think proper to make any present upon this occasion to

the minister of the empress-queen, as being neither founded on reason, nor custom; and you may therefore direct consul Wolff to advance the two thousand seven hundred pounds for the presents to the russian ministers according to the list given you for them by m-r Funk, by order of the chancellor Bestuchef; and consul Wolff may send an order to his correspondent here, to whom the money shall be paid.

I find my lord Hyndford thinks that these presents must be paid to the russian ministers. I have talked with him upon the present of a gold snuff box formerly desired for admiral Apraxin and the present designed for general Lieven. His lordship is of opinion that as the gold snuff box was never given, a gold sword for each would be the most proper; and the King has been pleased to order them accordingly; and lord Hyndford will take care that they shall be safely conveyed to Petersburg. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 109.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 14-th December 1750.

Sir. I send you herewith a paper which I have received from the Russia Company here, and am to signify to you His Majesty's pleasure that you should make inquiry into the grounds which there may be for the complaints contained in it, and that, in case they should appear to be founded, you should *make the proper instances in the King's name that the same may be immediately redressed.*

To consul Wolff use your utmost endeavours for removing and redressing the same. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 110.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 18-th December 1750.

Sir. I have received the favour of your letter of the 24-th of November and laid it before the King.

As I wrote to you so fully, by the messenger Lamb, upon the several points of business now depending, and as you will have seen by those letters that you need be under no sort of uneasiness on account of

the additional clause which was inserted in His Majesty's act of accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses, I have nothing, at present, to add but the assurances of my being etc. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 111.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 8-th December o. s. (19-th December) 1750.

My lord. An incident happened this week which this court neither expected, nor were prepared, for m-r Wahrendorff, the prussian minister, wrote a short letter to the great chancellor acquainting him that he had orders to leave this court, in the same manner m-r Gross had done that of Berlin, and desiring that he might be immediately provided with the usual and necessary passports for himself and his domestics. Hereupon the declaration I formerly mentioned of the reasons which had induced this court to come to that resolution with regard to m-r Gross was drawn up in a great deal of hurry and sent to m-r Wahrendorff, the prussian minister, the next day the 4-th instant. But he refused to receive it alledging that after the letter he had wrote to the great chancellor he was no more to be considered as a public minister and consequently could not take upon him to charge himself with this declaration, or any thing else in a ministerial capacity. However, the person that was sent to him, not content with this answer, threw the declaration upon the table and came away. There is advice here that m-r Gross is arrived as far as Dantzic; but till they hear he is got on this side Memel, no passports will be granted to m-r Wahrendorff.

This affair having taken up the minister's time here this whole week, I have not yet seen the great chancellor, as I proposed; but I am appointed to come to him this afternoon; so by the next post I hope to be able to clear up all your grace's doubts concerning the negotiation with Denmark. R. 31-st December. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 112.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 11-th December o. s. (22-d December) 1750.

My lord. According to the great chancellor's appointment I waited upon him on Saturday last and talked to him, first: of His Majesty's letter to the Empress of Russia notifying the birth of a prince that he might

think it was the chief reason of my desiring to see him. We talked next of the orders m-r Warendorff, the prussian minister, had received to leave this court in the same manner m-r Gross had done that of Berlin; at which the great chancellor smiled and said: «it was plain, the prussian monarch was downright angry». He spoke to me also a good deal about sir Charles Hanbury Williams's open and friendly behaviour to m-r Gross at Berlin; saying, he would not fail to make a very particular report of it to the Empress, his mistress. After this the discourse falling naturally upon count Lynar and his long stay here after he had received his letter of revocation; I told the chancellor I had received letters from several of His Majesty's ministers abroad, by which I found they had a notion that there was some secret negotiation carrying on here by count Lynar, and that by the advice and at the instigation of France. The chancellor answered that their notions were right and that there was a negotiation; but he did not see any reason for their calling it a secret one, and yet less, to suspect France had any hand in it; that count Lynar had for some time been in treaty with the ministers of the great duke, as duke of Holstein, to put an end, if possible, to the perpetual disputes which the mixed government in that duchy gave occasion to, and that he had proposed an exchange of lands. But whether the great duke would consent to it, was yet doubtful. And I have since heard the great duke declares absolutely against it and says, he is an old duke of the empire and will not degenerate into a young count, though his ministers seem to think count Lynar's proposals not unreasonable, as it would be a means of paying the duke's debts; after which he would have the revenue of Oldenbourg and Delmenhorst clear; whereas now instead of receiving any thing from Holstein, he is obliged to remit money thither. As to Sleswick I shall repeat what I said to your grace before: that no mention has been made of it yet. But if the negotiation about Holstein could be brought to a happy issue, I doubt not, but the court of Denmark would try also to settle this article; and if it could be a means of bringing Denmark back to her true and natural allies, this court would not perhaps be unwilling to favour such a negotiation, as they think that the court of Denmark's apprehensions and fears of what may happen, when the great duke comes to reign here, is one great reason that makes them lean so much towards France, as one of their guarantees; whereas this reason would cease, if the great duke had once made a formal cession and renunciation of this duchy. As before I left the great chancellor, I let drop that I did not doubt but the same advice, of a secret negotiation here with Denmark had been sent to my

court; he told me he would write to count Czernichew about it; though he said that he hoped we could hardly believe him so weak, as to be caught in such a snare, as to countenance in any shape or manner whatsoever a negotiation that should be set on foot here by the advice and at the instigation of France.

When general Arnheim, the saxon minister, delivered the king of Poland's letter in favour of duke Biron, Her Imperial Majesty besides the assurances of giving orders to have that affair examined into, was pleased to say she would be glad to show on all occasions her regard for the king and republic of Poland, and after general Arnheim's audience was over, she told the great chancellor that she perceived she should have no rest, till she had set the duke at liberty. From whence that duke's friends have conceived great hopes of the success of the application made in his favour. But I cannot be altogether so sanguine, when I consider how much the private interest of those who have the management of his estates in Courland, is concerned to keep him out of that duchy. Besides which there are intrigues of the cabinet to which the great chancellor, as much as he is the duke's friend, is obliged now and then to submit. A few days before the Empress returned the abovementioned favourable answer to general Arnheim, the vice-chancellor found means to get her approbation to a rescript (which the great chancellor could not refuse to sign himself) ordering m-r Keyzerling to insinuate to the saxon court that Her Imperial Majesty would be glad not to be importuned with solicitations in favour of duke Biron. Indeed the great chancellor got the saxon ministers here to write at the same time to their court not to be in any pain about the consequence of this rescript. And he has since prevailed on the Empress to be of another opinion, but these intrigues and contradictions occur here so often, that there is no dependance upon the most favourable appearances, 'till a thing is done. The king of Poland, as I have already informed your grace, has been determined by this court to concur in the great work which His Majesty has begun for the election of the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans, but I am sorry to say it is in such a manner, as is not very obliging to the court of Vienna; for in answer to the instances made by this court, his polish majesty says, he will give his vote out of pure regard for the Empress of Russia, but not out of any consideration for the court of Vienna, against which he makes great complaints.

On Saturday last a copy of the declaration given to m-r Warendorff, the prussian minister, upon the recalling of m-r Gross, the russian minister, from Berlin was sent to all the foreign minister's here. They were

all in german except one sent to m-r Schwart, which was in french, in order to be inserted in the french Amsterdam Gazette. And as I could not have mine translated time enough to send by the courier, this court dispatched the next morning with copies of these declarations to Hamburg, I have desired m-r Schwart to write to the greffier to let the earl of Holderness have a copy of that he will receive to be transmitted to your grace.

As I may wait at least six months (as has happened to the earl of Hyndford) before I can obtain an audience of the Empress, I have delivered to the great chancellor His Majesty's letter notifying the birth of a prince; and he tells me that the answer shall be in the like manner delivered to your grace by count Czernichew, if you think proper. R. 4-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 113.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 15-th December o. s. (26-th December) 1750.

My lord. The letters by the last post having brought advice that m-r Gross, the late russian minister at the court of Berlin, had past Memel on the 4-th instant o. s. on his return hither, the passports m-r Wahren-dorff, the prussian minister, had desired were sent to him on Wednesday evening last; and the next evening he left this place in the same manner, as m-r Gross had left Berlin without taking leave of any body, except the foreign ministers; so that now all direct correspondence between the two courts is broke off and will not, probably, be soon renewed to the great mortification of the prussian partisans here.

We have letters here from Constantinople of the 31-st of October and the 10-th of November, by which there is advice of the death of m-r Nepluef, the russian minister there. By the character which m-r Porter, His Majesty's ambassador, has sent me of the deceased, I find he could wish that whoever succeeds him, should be in another way of thinking. M-r Nepluef was a creature of the vice-chancellor and sent on that remote mission by the great chancellor on purpose to remove him from hence, and they talk of filling again that post by another friend of the vice-chancellor m-r Alsuius ¹⁾, one of the secretaries of the chancery, but he bears here a very good character. R. 7-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

¹⁾ Надо полагать, что подъ этимъ именемъ слѣдуетъ читать: Алсуфьевъ или Олсуфьевъ.

№ 114.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 22-d December 1750 o. s. (2-d January 1751).

My lord. A few days ago, as I was at court, the great chancellor came up to me by the Empress's order to desire I would return His Majesty her most hearty thanks for sir Charles Hanbury Williams's friendly behaviour towards m-r Gross at Berlin, particularly the day m-r Gross left it, when sir Charles Hanbury conducted him a good way out of town in his own coach upon a report raised, as if some insult was intended to be offered to him. Her Imperial Majesty says she takes this, as a new proof of the King's true and sincere friendship, and desires His Majesty would be assured that he will always find the same on her part.

I have received the honour of your grace's letter of the 20-th November acknowledging the receipt of mine of the 27-th October, and as according to my accounts from the Hague Lamb, the messenger, must have arrived a few days after with the several acts of His Majesty's accession, I will flatter myself that the King will not have been displeased with that transaction notwithstanding the mistake or blunder which I am apprehensive we have committed here, since the only inconvenience that can arise from it will be His Majesty's renewing those engagements some years sooner, than he perhaps expected he should be obliged to do; which is a very trifling consideration, if all the other great ends His Majesty has proposed to himself by this measure are answered.

The great duke has altered his opinion with regard to count Lynar's negotiation for accomodating the disputes about Holstein and declared to the Empress that, as soon as she had come to an agreement with Denmark about her own system, he would readily consent to every thing that could settle his affairs and differences with that court; upon which count Lynar dispatched a courier to his court on Tuesday last and, as I doubt not, but he transmitted at the same time some proposals for a closer union between the Empress and her allies and Denmark. I shall try to see the great chancellor, as soon as possible, in order to have a communication of them. In the mean while from the last discourses I had with him, I think I may venture to tell your grace that they consist chiefly in desiring Denmark to follow His Majesty's example and accede to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses. As to Holstein, all the ducal part of it is to be yielded up to Denmark, and in exchange, as I have already acquainted

your grace, Oldenburg and Delmenhorst, which are to be erected into duchies, will be given to the great duke, and all his debts paid amounting to two millions of crowns.

Since m-r Gross has left Berlin, a secret rescript has been sent to count Czernichew to desire His Majesty to send orders to sir Charles Hanbury Williams to transmit hither to me for the information of this court regular accounts of whatever passes there worth notice.

P. S. Two mails are just now come in from England, by which I have received the honour of your grace's letter of the 30-th November, but it cannot be decyphered before this must go to the post. R. 16-th January 1751. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

№ 115.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 25-th December o. s. 1750 (3-d January 1751).

My lord. I had just time to acknowledge by the last post the honor of your grace's letter of the 30-th November, which being now decyphered I have the satisfaction to see that my conduct here in the affair of the accession has met with His Majesty's approbation, and it is so much the greater, as I have reason to hope that my apprehensions of having committed a mistake were groundless, or at least that the King does not think it a material one.

The saxon ministers here have received no answer yet to the dispatches they sent by general Bernes's courier desiring full powers and instructions for concluding his polish majesty's accession, but they expect them by the austrian courier, who will bring the empress-queen's ratifications. And this affair will meet, we hope, with the less difficulty, as this court is now satisfied that that of Dresden should accede in the manner His Majesty had done upon the foot of the former engagements; whereas they insisted before that the court of Saxony should accede in full to the treaty of 1746 and take upon them a quota of 30/m men, to which the saxon ministers with great reason objected, as an engagement which it was not in their power to fulfill. On the arrival of general Bretlack, who is now soon expected here (having left Dresden on the 8-th instant), we hope to hear, how stands the affair of his polish majesty's vote for the archduke Joseph to be the king of Romans and should there be a few difficulties by that court's unreasonably reviving some old claims

and demands, they will soon be removed by the intervention of this court, who (to their praise, I must say it) have the success of this affair sincerely at heart.

This being Christmas day, every body here is taken up with their devotions, so that no ministers will be seen or any business done, 'till after the holy days.

P. S. M^r Gross, late the Empress's minister to the king of Prussia, arrived here the evening before last from Berlin. R. 19-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1750. № 61.

1751.

№ 116.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 8-th January 1751.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I am to return you thanks for the favor of your two letters of the 11-th and 15-th of December, which I have received and laid before the King.

His Majesty was very glad to find that the chancellor Bestuchef was pleased with sir Charles Hanbury William's behaviour at Berlin.

All His Majesty's ministers in foreign courts are so well apprised of the King's regard for the Empress of Russia, that they will not fail to show all proper attention to her Imperial Majesty's ministers in those courts.

As to count Lynar's negotiation, if the chancellor thinks, it is carried on without the knowledge and approbation of France, he is mistaken. This negotiation will never take effect without Keswick being a principal consideration in it; and it appears to the King at present (as far as His Majesty is informed of it), that instead of being a means of bringing the king of Denmark back to his old allies, it will rather be made use of to fix him where he is. The king of Denmark has expressed great satisfaction at His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746.

The danish ministers seemed puzzled as to their conduct, if the king of Denmark's accession to that treaty should be also desired by the contracting parties, and therefore it might not be amiss that the chancellor Bestuchef should be turning it in his thoughts; whether such a step might be proper or not you have already had His Majesty's orders (at the desire of count Bestuchef) to join in employing your good offices in behalf of the duke de Biron, and nothing would be more likely to disappoint the king of Prussia's views there, than the reestablishing of the duke de Biron in the duchy of Courland.

The King was glad to hear that the king of Poland had declared to the Empress of Russia that he would give his vote for the election of the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans. If he does it His Majesty will be very well satisfied, whatever the motives may be; but I must own by the advices I have lately had, I doubt the king of Poland is not so determined as the court of Petersburg thinks him to be, and therefore you will repeat your instances upon this head that this point may be out of doubt.

I am glad to see you have had the same accounts from m-r Porter upon the death of m-r de Nepluef, as have been received here. It seems very odd politics in the chancellor Bestuchef to be removing his enemies from his own court to the most material places and where they may be able to do most mischief. It is therefore, His Majesty's pleasure that you should represent seriously to m-r Bestuchef the ill consequences of having a russian minister at the Porte who is any ways tainted with prussian principles or can be thought to belong to the king of Prussia.

I can assure m-r de Bestuchef that the keeping the Porte in the present state of inaction is of more service to Russia, than any one measure that can be recommended to them; and, therefore, the best man and the most to be depended upon by the chancellor ought to be sent to replace m-r de Nepluef.

There are reports in Holland (for which, I hope, there is not the least foundation) of the chancellor Bestuchef's disgrace. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 117.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 1-st January o. s. (12-th January) 1751.

My lord. I received by the last post the honor of your grace's letter of the 7-th December, by which I find I may expect here soon Lamb, the messenger, with the ratifications of His Majesty's accession. General Bernes received those of the empress-queen by a courier from Vienna, on Friday morning last, as also the presents for the ministers of this court; namely, for the great chancellor—two thousand ducats, and for the vice chancellor—fifteen hundred, which will be the more acceptable here, as I doubt not, but they will expect this should serve, as a precedent for the court of Vienna's renewing this bounty, when Saxony, Holland or any other power accedes.

As I have already informed your grace, we are here in the middle of the Christmas holidays, when no business is thought of or done; but, as next Sunday (which is twelfth day) they will be over, I shall, next week, desire the great chancellor to fix the day, when I may have an opportunity to discourse with him, at leisure, upon the negotiation carrying on with Denmark, upon the orders sent to m-r Keyserling at Dresden for procuring the king of Poland's immediate concurrence to His Majesty's great object of proceeding to the election of the archduke Joseph, to be king of the Romans, and lastly, upon the steps taken to engage that court to follow, as soon as possible, His Majesty's example in acceding to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses; of all which I hope to be able to send your grace very circumstantial accounts by the return of Lamb, the messenger. R. 26-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 118.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 8-th January o. s. (19-th January) 1751.

My lord. I received, by the last post, the honor of your grace's letter of the 11-th of December and, as I find by other letters of the 14-th that Lamb, the messenger, was certainly to set out that evening I shall be expecting him towards the latter end of this week or the beginning of next.

Now the holidays are over, we hope the ministers of this court will set to a little business again, though I foresee one week more will be lost in ceremonies, general Bretlack being expected here to-morrow, to whom, consequently, the Empress must give an audience, as also to general Bernes, who is very impatient to set out on his return home that he may have as much benefit, as possible, of the fine sledging season. General Bernes tells me that, besides the fine presents he had received from his court for the great chancellor and the vice chancellor they had also sent him five hundred ducats for the russian chancery, and one hundred and fifty ducats for secretary Wolkof, which latter sum is fifty ducats more than was desired. R. 2-d February. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

Nº 119.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 22-d January 1751.

All in cypher. Sir. Since my last of the 8-th instant I have received your letters of the 22-d and 25-th of December and laid them before the King.

His Majesty was glad to find that orders had been sent to the russian minister at Copenhagen to propose the king of Denmark's accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses. You will acquaint the chancellor Bestuchef that m-r Titley has directions to join with m-r Korff in any application he shall make for that purpose; and I have sent to m-r Titley a copy of His Majesty's act of accession, that the king of Denmark may see the manner in which His Majesty has acceded. As the king of Denmark expressed great satisfaction at His Majesty's accession, it is to be hoped that his danish majesty will follow the example.

As to count Lynar's negotiation at Petersburg notwithstanding what chancellor Bestuchef said to you upon that subject, the King cannot but apprehend that if it is not managed with great address and dexterity, it may fix the court of Denmark more strongly in the french party, than they are at present. For. as the project of yielding the ducal part of Holstein to Denmark in exchange for Oldenburg and Delmenhorst was first proposed by France, as the means to detach Denmark from their ancient allies, and was actually carried into execution in Sweden by the intervention of France, and as the court of Russia has no other merit with Denmark, than that of coming into the proposal, at last; it is to be apprehended that the first and principal obligation of Denmark would still be to France. However, if count Bestuchef should prove to be in the right and that this measure, instead of fixing the king of Denmark where he is, may be a means of reuniting him more firmly with the King and the Czarina, His Majesty will, in that case, be glad to see it brought to perfection.

The King was very glad to find that the Empress of Russia was pleased with the attention which sir Charles Hanbury Williams showed to m-r Gross at the time of his leaving Berlin, in which he acted in conformity to the general instructions he had received from His Majesty. I have lately heard that count Gross is intended to replace count Czernichew in England and from the general good character of that minister I am

persuaded (if count Czernichew goes from thence), he could not be relieved by any body more agreeable here.

You will acquaint the chancellor Bestuchef that the king of Prussia having for some time past made the strongest instances to His Majesty to recall sir Charles Hanbury Williams, whose situation at Berlin has been very disagreeable to himself from the great coolness that has been constantly showed him by his prussian majesty and his ministers; the King has thought it for his service that sir Charles Hanbury Williams should remain no longer at Berlin, and he will go immediately to Dresden and, for the present, reside there with the same character he had at Berlin.

I have received from the earl of Holderness a translation of the paper left by m-r Simolin, with m-r de Wahrenдорff (as mentioned in your letter of the 8-th of December) which seems little less, than a manifest intended to put an end to all correspondence between the two courts, by declaring that to have been the intention of the king of Prussia, in consequence of which the Empress of Russia recalls her minister count Gross. I have heard that the king of Prussia takes this step very highly and has ordered m-r Wahrenдорff to send back the letter. His Majesty does not enter into the causes the Empress may have had to be dissatisfied with the treatment of her minister at Berlin, but the King, as a faithful friend and wellwisher to Her Imperial Majesty, cannot but most earnestly recommend it to her to avoid pushing this affair so far, as to come to an open rupture with Prussia, in which, it is much to be apprehended, Her Imperial Majesty might not be supported. For, though the king of Prussia's conduct upon this occasion may have been very improper and by no means friendly, it does not appear to the King to be a sufficient cause for coming to a breach. And, as the circumstances of the present conjuncture and situation of affairs convince the King of the necessity of preserving the public and general peace, His Majesty is persuaded the Empress of Russia will not suffer this incident to be a cause of breaking it, which you cannot too strongly inculcate to the chancellor Bestuchef.

You will earnestly recommend it to m-r Bestuchef to press the court of Dresden upon the subject of the election of the king of the Romans, the success of which may, very probably, depend upon the vote of the elector of Saxony. If, after all that has passed, this election should finally miscarry and the great object of His Majesty and the empress-queen be thereby defeated; the king of Prussia will gain his ends, grow more powerful in the empire and be the better able to induce France to give subsidies to the princes of the empire; the consequences of which, m-r Bes-

tuchef will see, must greatly increase the power of Prussia. And therefore it is the interest of the Empress of Russia, in the highest degree, to use the most pressing instances to determine the elector of Saxony to declare immediately that he will give his vote for the archduke Joseph. This point once gained and the election made, the king of Prussia will undoubtedly lose weight in the empire, and France think it less worth her while to support him. With the elector of Saxony's vote we shall have six voices sure, viz-t, the electors of Mayence, Trèves, Bohemia, Bavaria, Brunswick and Saxony (and, in all probability, the elector of Cologne also), and then they will immediately proceed to the election.

As sir Charles Williams will be, now, very soon at Dresden, you will desire that m-r Keyserling may have directions to communicate his orders to him, and particularly what relates to the accession and to act in concert with him in the execution of them. His Majesty will send the like instructions to sir Charles Williams with regard to m-r Keyserling. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 120.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 12-th January o. s. (23-d January) 1751.

My lord. Yesterday morning, between one and two, Lamb, the messenger, arrived here and delivered to me His Majesty's ratifications of the act of accession to the treaty of 1746 together with your grace's several orders and dispatches of the 14-th December. In consequence of which having desired to speak to the great chancellor, he has appointed me to come to him this evening, so that I hope to let your grace know, by the next post, when we shall proceed to the exchange of the ratifications.

The evening before last arrived here general Bretlack, the new imperial ambassador. R. 8-th February. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 121.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 19-th January o. s. (30-th January) 1751.

My lord. Having waited on the great chancellor on Saturday last, according to his appointment, I acquainted him with my having received

His Majesty's ratifications of the act of accession signed here by the respective ministers on the 30-th of October last; upon which the great chancellor told me that those of the Empress, his mistress, were lying before her and, he hoped, would be soon signed. But I do not hear, they are yet. Nor has the great chancellor sent me a translation of them, as he promised that I might see, if everything was right before we proceeded to the exchange. The reason of which, I find, is that they are unwilling to ratify the two secret declarations. But I will say no more at present, as I have not yet been able to come to a right explanation with them about it by reason of the great number of public dinners which have been given all this last week on occasion of general Bretlack's arrival, though he could not assist at them being indisposed, and, last night, there was a masquerade at court which lasted till seven of the clock this morning.

I have received the honour of your grace's letter of the 18-th past, which gives me a great deal of satisfaction as I find thereby that I need be under no sort of uneasiness on account of the additional clause which was inserted in His Majesty's act of accession. R. 12-th February. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 122.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 26-th January o. s. (6-th February) 1751.

My lord. Since mine of the 19-th instant o. s., which is my last, I have been altogether taken up in explanations and disputations with the great chancellor and general Bernes, the austrian ambassador, about the ratifications of the secret declarations, given by the respective ministers, on the signing His Majesty's act of accession to the treaty of 1746, which went so far, that I was told that if I did not desist from this demand, the Empress of Russia would not think herself obliged to ratify the act of accession. My doubts and perplexities were very great for some days; but, at last, rather than render useless a work we had been so long about and which makes so much noise in Europe, I submitted to what was desired and accordingly proceeded, yesterday, to make the exchange of the ratifications of the act of accession only, leaving those of the secret declarations to be discussed and settled in a friendly negotiation.

I could, now, be ready, in a couple of days, to redispach Lamb,

by whom I shall give your grace a very full account of all my proceedings about the ratifications of the secret declarations; but, as I must first have a conference with the great chancellor upon the negotiation carrying on with Denmark, which he will not be able to fix untill Wednesday or Thursday next, as he is now busy in procuring the two imperial ambassadors their audiences, which they say will be next Tuesday, m-r Swart, the dutch envoy, tells me in confidence that the great duke has given his minister, baron Pechlin, full power to conclude with count Lynar, but, as count Lynar's courier is not yet come back, I have full time to put a stop to this negotiation, if, in my conference with the great chancellor, it appears to be such, as, I find, His Majesty suspects by your grace's very secret letter of the 14-th December; and I shall, at the same time, take care that the great chancellor does not mention any thing of my having in any manner interfered in this affair. R. 18-th February. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 123.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 12-th February 1751.

All in cypher. Sir. I have received your several letters of the 1-st, 8-th and 2-d of January, by the last of which I find that Lamb, the messenger, was arrived. I shall therefore expect him back here soon with a full account of the views, inclinations and present situation of the court of Petersburg.

Sir Charles Hanbury Williams will have sent you, and general Bretlack will have received from his court a copy of a most extraordinary and offensive paper given by count Podewils to count Puebla.

You may imagine that (as the paper was not given to the King's minister nor addressed in any manner to His Majesty), the King is above taking any other notice of those unjust, indecent and offensive expressions than by treating them with neglect and contempt. His Majesty's conduct is and always will be governed by the great views of promoting and securing the general peace of Europe and performing most religiously the engagement of his treaties, provided they are kept also towards him.

I send you an extract of a letter from sir Charles Hanbury Williams, by which you see that there is a woman now at Riga who lived with veldt-marshal Keith at Berlin and who was, probably, in all his se-

crets, and, particularly, in what relates to the pretenders son and his having been at Berlin (if, as is said, he was there). You will, therefore, desire in the King's name that this woman (who must be easily found out by the circumstances of her having been at Berlin with general Keith and lately sent from thence to Riga by the king of Prussia's order), may be sent for to Petersburg and there examined, as to what she knows of the pretender's son's being at Berlin, and as to what may have passed with him, whilst he was there, either by the canal of veldt-marshal Keith, or any other way; and it is probable that this woman may be able to let the court of Russia into other secrets relating to the king of Prussia, which it may be of consequence to know.

His Majesty doubts not but the Empress of Russia will give him this mark of her affection and regard, which the King will take very kindly.

I am, however, to repeat to you, by His Majesty's order, that, whatever reason the King has to be offended with any outward demonstrations of ill will and disregard, His Majesty is still in the same inclination to maintain and preserve the general peace; as the King is convinced that in the present circumstances, a rupture would be attended with very bad consequences to the power which should be so unadvised as to begin it.

I am very sorry to acquaint you that, by all my accounts from Dresden, the king of Poland is by no means disposed, at present, to give his vote for the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans without a subsidy from the King. I own, this surprises me, after the assurances you have given me of the contrary. And it concerns me the more, as I see no possibility of complying with the king of Poland's demand. The Empress of Russia must exert herself, and that may yet have its effect.

I have this moment received your letter of the 19-th of January and am sorry to see, you meet with any difficulty in the ratification of the two secret declarations. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 124.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 2-d February o. s. (13-th February) 1751.

My lord. Lamb, the messenger, is still here, but I hope to be able to send him away by next Tuesday, if the great chancellor's dispatches for the Hague and London be ready. On Sunday last general Bernes had

his audience of leave. The next day general Bretlack had his first audience and on Tuesday there was a wedding at court of one of the Empress's maids of honor, which has taken up all this week by the feastings and rejoicings that followed it. R. 25-th February. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 125.

The colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 9-th February o. s. (20-th February) 1751.

My lord. This day was sennight; in the evening I received the honor of your grace's letter of the 18-th of January, which I did not acknowledge by the last post as I was in daily expectation of redispaching Lamb, the messenger, having settled every thing with the great chancellor, in a long conference, I had with him on Sunday last, but he has not yet sent me his dispatches for the Hague and London, nor the passport for the messenger, as he never does before he is ready. All this whole week has been taken up in weddings, balls, feasts, masquerades and other diversions, as always happens a little before lent; and as our friend, the chancellor, is not backward in taking his full share of them, I am not surprised he cannot find any time to do business. To-morrow is another great day, being the great duke's birthday, but after that I shall leave the great chancellor no rest untill I have his dispatches and the passport for the messenger. General Bernes recredentials are not yet signed, though he is very impatient to set out on his return home before the sledging way be over. He has found means, however, to get the necessary passports for a courier, which he has sent to Vienna with the ratifications, for when he went away, neither general Bernes, nor general Bretlack had had an opportunity to execute any of the orders they had been lately charged with. R. 6-th March. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 126.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 9-th February o. s. (20-th February) 1751.

My lord. I now redispach Lamb, the messenger, to your grace with the empress-queen's and the Empress of Russia's ratifications of His Ma-

jesty's act of accession to the treaty of seventeen hundred and forty six, which were exchanged with those of His Majesty on Friday the 25-th January. To the Empress of Russia's ratifications your grace will find a french translation annexed, which I thought it was proper to desire as they are in russian.

As to the ratifications of the two secret declarations, your grace will have seen by my former letters that I was obliged to give up that point. I made very little hesitation about the declaration relating to the secret articles, which as I look upon to be nothing more than a protest, I told the austrian and russian ministers I would content myself with a writing signed by them, acknowledging they had received such a declaration from me, but the declaration relating to His Majesty's electoral dominions, I thought, ought to have been considered in quite another light and like as solemn an engagement as any contained in the treaty, to which His Majesty had acceded. I represented to the ministers of the two empresses that if it was the real intention of their respective mistresses to fullfill that engagement, I did not see why they should refuse ratifying; and if it was not their intention, it had been better this declaration had never been given; that their excellencies had often told me themselves that the king of Prussia by some means or other was informed of the most secret transactions here, so that this declaration would rather encourage him to attack His Majesty's electoral dominions, than discourage him from it, as he must naturally conclude when he hears the two empresses would not ratify, that they had no design to do anything for the defence of the abovementioned dominions. All the imperial ministers said to me in answer to these representations, was that nothing else had been desired on our part from the beginning, but a simple declaration and that it was not customary to ratify transactions of that kind, as an instance of which they alledged a declaration given by the austrian minister at the treaty of Aix la Chapelle. But these reasons not appearing to me of weight enough to dispense the two imperial courts from performing an act which I thought so necessary for the security of His Majesty's german dominions, I wrote a letter to general Bernes on the 18-th of last month, the copy of which is here inclosed.

In this letter I tell his excellency, as your grace will observe, that I did not think myself at liberty to proceed to the exchange of the ratifications unless the two secret declarations were ratified by the two empresses in like manner, as they had been by the King, my master, and desiring him to come to some agreement about that matter with the ministers of

this court, as soon as possible. This produced a conference on the 23-d January between the great chancellor, general Bernes and me, in which I renewed the representations abovementioned and declared I could not take so bold a step upon me, but must wait for new orders and instructions. The great chancellor was very warm on this occasion saying it was prescribing and dictating to the Empress, his mistress, that he could not and would not propose to her the ratifying the declaration relating to Hanover, as it implied a mistrust of the sincerity of her intentions, therefore that he washed his hands of the matter and left me to answer for all the ill consequences of my so obstinately insisting on what could not be expected from the two empresses, as being unusual and unreasonable. When I found things went so far, I asked the great chancellor if he would give me in writing all he had said, to which he very readily answered: «Yes», for it proceeded entirely from his good intentions. Accordingly the next day his excellency wrote me a letter, which said original letter I herewith transmit to your grace, as I hope it will not only serve as a kind of ratification of the declaration relating to Hanover, but justify me in some measure for complying, as I did in my answer (a copy of which is likewise here inclosed), with the desires of the ministers of the two empresses, rather than knock at once on the head a measure which has raised so much the hopes and expectations of all the powers who have at heart the preservation of the peace of Europe. If I was unsuccessful in this part of my endeavours for His Majesty's service, I must however inform your grace that upon my desiring it, two new secret declarations relating to Hanover have been drawn up and signed and sealed in the same manner, as the declaration given by me relating to the secret articles, both which are sent by Lamb, the one to count Richecourt, the other to count Czernichew, who are to exchange them with those I transmitted to your grace with the act of accession.

As your grace takes notice in your letter of the 14-th December accompanying the ratifications that our treaty of commerce with this court is looked upon to be so advantageous, that the Russia Company is very desirous to have it prolonged, I discoursed the great chancellor upon this subject in the conference I had with him on Sunday last; and he gave me to understand it would meet with no difficulties on this side, unless it be in our trade to Persia through this country, to which not he, but the college of commerce had some objections to make. But he said, we had yet time to consider of that matter and that we would do well to see first the issue of the treaty of commerce, which the Dutch had been negotiating here for some time;

but as this, as well, as all other affairs here, will in all probability move very slowly, I would advise the Russia Company to give their opinion, as soon as possible, concerning any amendments that may be made in a new treaty of commerce, and no person in England can be of greater use and service in this than m-r Cramond.

The court of Dresden continuing, notwithstanding the repeated hopes and assurances given to this, to leave their ministers here without full powers or instructions in the affair of his polish majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746, the great chancellor read to me, on Sunday last a new and very long rescript which was to be sent to count Keyserling in a few posts upon this subject and which contained such strong representations mixed with reproaches upon the conduct of that court for several years past, that I hope it will quicken his polish majesty's resolution and make him delay no longer concurring in so salutary a measure.

A french translation has been made of this rescript by the great chancellor's order and is sent by this messenger to count Czernichew with orders to communicate it to your grace and let you have a copy of it, if you please.

As to the audience His Majesty was pleased to order me to ask of the Empress of Russia, as soon as the ratifications of His Majesty's act of accession were exchanged, I have not been able yet to obtain it, though I was appointed three different times to come to court in order to take it. The last was the evening before, last the 10-th of March, as was likewise general Bretlack to deliver the empress-queen's letter notifying the death of the empress dowager, but we returned home without seeing the Empress, she being, as the great chancellor told us, a little indisposed. R. 15-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

Copie d'une lettre de m-r Guy Dickens au général comte Bernes.

St.-Petersbourg, le 18 Janvier 1751.

Monsieur. Depuis que j'ai eu l'honneur de voir votre excellence, ayant réfléchi sur ce qu'elle me fit l'honneur de me dire touchant les déclarations secrètes données de part et d'autre lors de la signature de l'acte d'accession du roi, mon maître, au traité conclu en 1746 entre les deux impératrices, je ne dois pas lui laisser ignorer que je ne me trouve pas en liberté de procéder à l'échange des ratifications, à moins que les deux susdites déclarations secrètes ne soient ratifiées de la part des deux impératrices, comme elles l'ont été de la part du roi, mon maître, et c'est sur-

quoi je prie votre excellence de vouloir bien se concerter, aussitôt qu'il sera possible, avec les ministres de cette cour. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

Lettre du comte A. Bestouchev-Rumin à m-r Guy Dickens.

St.-Petersbourg. 20 Janvier 1751.

Monsieur. Quoique dans la conférence que j'eus hier avec vous, monsieur, en présence de son excellence m-r le comte de Bernes, je n'aie rien négligé pour faire sentir l'impossibilité, où nous nous trouvons de consentir à ratifier réciproquement de toutes parts la déclaration secrète touchant les états de Hanovre, je ne puis me dispenser de vous en réitérer toutes les raisons qui s'y opposent et que je ne serais peut-être obligé d'exposer si amplement, si j'eusse été moins piqué de zèle pour la gloire et pour l'intérêt de toutes les parties contractantes de l'acte d'accession.

Quand j'examine les premières propositions de votre cour, je trouve que nous avons amplement satisfait à toutes ses demandes.

L'Impératrice se faisant un plaisir particulier de pouvoir affermir de plus en plus l'alliance et amitié qui subsistent si heureusement entre elle et Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, n'a pas hésité d'accorder tous les articles qu'on lui avait proposés. Sa Majesté se désista d'abord des conditions qui devaient engager le roi, votre maître, en accédant au traité d'alliance conclu ici avec la cour de Vienne l'an mille sept cent quarante six, à tout ce qui y est contenu elle se contenta d'accepter l'accession du roi uniquement sur le pied de ses engagements antérieurement contractés. L'impératrice a fait plus. Elle a consenti jusqu'à la dernière demande contenue dans votre promémoria du 21 du mois de Mars de 1750, où vous dites, monsieur, en propres termes que Sa Majesté Britannique espère que l'Impératrice de Russie voudra bien, à l'imitation de l'impératrice-reine de Hongrie, lui donner cette marque de sa justice et amitié, que de consentir que ses ministres plénipotentiaires signent la déclaration, ci-jointe sub lit. b, pour la défense des états de Hanovre, en cas que si, contre toute attente, ils fussent attaqués uniquement en haine de l'accession du roi au traité en question, sans vouloir se réserver la moindre réciprocité, que le plaisir de donner par là une nouvelle et essentielle preuve de son désir sincère de mettre toujours en effet les engagements pris avec ses alliés et particulièrement avec Sa Majesté le Roi et de pourvoir à la sûreté de leurs états.

Mais peut-on avec la même raison prétendre qu'elle ratifie ce qu'on n'a proposé que pour être signé par ses ministres? Au contraire, je puis

vous assurer, monsieur, que Sa Majesté n'y consentira jamais, non pour ne vouloir point tenir la parole donnée par ses ministres (chose qui ne lui pourra jamais être imputée), mais parce que Sa Majesté Impériale croirait sa gloire trop intéressée, si elle voyait avec indifférence qu'un de ses plus naturels alliés doute un moment de la foi de sa parole. Or on ne saurait disconvenir que Sa Majesté n'en ait donné assez des preuves, mais on devrait plutôt être convenu que l'Impératrice en faisant des engagements avec ses alliés ne cherche pas tant ses propres avantages, que d'affermir ceux de ses alliés.

Après vous avoir donné, monsieur, cette juste idée des sentiments de mon auguste souveraine, dont elle ne se départira jamais, je vous laisse à juger si on pourrait espérer le moindre changement dans ce qui est fait; au moins je ne saurais lui proposer de ratifier la dite déclaration secrète sans exposer tous les travaux d'un ouvrage si salulaire à devenir inutiles, car après l'expiration du terme prescrit à l'échange des ratifications à l'acte d'accession, l'Impératrice ne saurait plus être tenue de le faire exécuter, quoiqu'elle ait déjà signé sa ratification, et il ne tient qu'à vous, monsieur, de mettre la dernière main à la conclusion de toute cette affaire.

Quant à moi, j'aurai toujours la satisfaction d'avoir fait tout mon possible pour prévenir un tel accident, qui ne saurait que faire du plaisir à des puissances jalouses de l'étroite union et harmonie qui subsistent heureusement entre les alliés et qui seules sont capables de mettre des bornes à leur vastes et pernicieux desseins.

En attendant une réponse prompte et décisive de votre part j'ai l'honneur etc. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

Copie d'une lettre de m-r Guy Dickens au comte A. Bestouchef-Rumin.

St.-Petersbourg, le 24 Janvier 1751.

Monsieur. Je reçois dans ce moment la lettre que votre excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'écrire ce matin touchant les ratifications de la déclaration secrète par rapport aux états de Hanovre. Quelque répugnance que j'aie de m'écarter en rien de mes instructions, je serai pourtant fâché que l'on pût en aucune manière m'imputer d'avoir rendu inutile l'ouvrage salulaire que nous avons conclu ici le 30 d'Octobre passé; ainsi, monsieur, je suis prêt à me rendre chez votre excellence au jour et à l'heure qu'elle jugera à propos de m'indiquer pour faire simplement l'échange des ratifications de l'acte d'accession. J'ai l'honneur d'être etc. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 127.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 9-th February o. s. (20-th February) 1751.

Secret. My lord. I have reserved for this secret letter to acquaint your grace with the views and motives of this court in refusing to ratify the secret declaration relating to Hanover. I had some suspicions of them from the very beginning, for on my telling and repeating to the ministers that this refusal looked as if they had no design to make good the said declaration, should the case ever exist, they as constantly answered that I was mistaken, but called it a *preliminary engagement*. My suspicions have since been verified by m-r Schwart, the dutch envoy, who one day told me he had something to communicate to me in the greatest confidence and to show he acted without any reserve, he would let me know he was desired by the great chancellor to make me this communication, but said it was to have come as from himself only and not from the chancellor. Upon which m-r Schwart gave me a paper to read, the copy of which is here inclosed, by which your grace will see a new scheme is laid for getting subsidies from England, without which it is, I think, pretty plainly hinted in the inclosed paper that the declaration relating to Hanover is not to be thought sufficient to remove the apprehensions those dominions ought to be under with regard to the king of Prussia. The necessity of keeping a body of troops, and a very considerable one too, on the frontiers is apparent, but I cannot persuade them that 'tis their own defence and security requires it more than their allies, as they have a notion that let their disputes with the court of Berlin run ever so high, the king of Prussia will never be so ill advised as to come and attack them, but rather show his revenge and gratify his ambition on neighbours that are less remote, and I wish their reasonings may not prove too true.

I now shall do myself the honour to answer your grace's secret letter of the 14-th December by Lamb, the messenger. It is a great satisfaction to me that your grace is pleased to acquaint me therein in so particular a manner with His Majesty's sentiments and resolutions upon the present situation of affairs at this court, and I shall not fail to conduct myself accordingly in case upon His Majesty's late accession, or any other occasion whatsoever they should renew here any of those hights, of which we have seen some late instances, but I can with truth assure your grace that, notwithstanding their considerable force, they will be very cau-

tious how they are the aggressors, being very sensible that they would in the end come off very ill, if they were not supported by their allys. But on the other hand, when I reflect on the alarming prospects there are from several quarters, care, in my humble opinion, should be taken not to carry our pacific advices so far, as to lull them asleep, as they are but too much inclined to be of themselves, but rather keep them alert and ready to fly to the assistance of their allys, for should they proceed with that sloth in furnishing the stipulated succours, when the case exists, as they do in other matters, the consequences are easy to be foreseen. If all we hear be true, the danger on the side of Prussia deserves the most serious attention. That prince seems to be uneasy in his present situation and to think it requires some immediate remedy. He sees that by the empress-queen's wise dispositions with regard to her finances and her troops, she will, if he gives her time, grow every year more powerfull whereas he sees himself growing every year less. Two thirds of the treasure his father left him is spent. The army he has on foot cannot be supported out of his revenues, though absolutely necessary, as he thinks, for his security and defence; therefore necessity will force him upon some desperate attempt. We have here a copy of the paper which was delivered by his order on the 27-th of last month to count Puebla, and it is not with little indignation that this court sees the insolent manner in which our royal master is treated in it *par le plus cadet des rois*. They think here that he is seeking for a pretence to put some of his black schemes in execution, which he may certainly the more easily do, as the measures hitherto concerted between His Majesty and his allys are not sufficient to oppose him. He is able in eight days time to bring an army of eighty thousand men in the field, with which, if divided into three corps, he may take possession of Hanover, Saxony and of Poland as far as the Vistula; the town of Dantzick he is master of when he pleases, as the recruiters and recruits he has constantly there are more numerous, than the garrison kept by the magistrates, not to mention the great party he has amongst the burghers. And on this occasion it is not thought a little extraordinary that the king of Poland should favour the burghers in their disputes with the magistrates, when he must know the greatest part of them are friends and pensioners to Prussia. If I take the liberty to lay thus before your grace's eyes the dangers the liberties of Germany and Europe are exposed to, in case his prussian majesty should undertake any thing whilst the powers who have at heart the preservation of the peace are unprepared, I would not have you imagine my intention is to plead in favour of the

subsidies desired by this court. I think it a very unreasonable demand and very inconsistent with the power and dignity of so great an empire as this, who should be proud of an opportunity of supporting the liberties of Europe, especially as in doing it, they act conformably to their own interest. But I would show to your grace the necessity of putting things upon a clearer foot with this court, and coming to such explanations as may leave no doubt with regard to the assistance we may depend upon from hence, least our friendship and alliance with this court should prove in time of need more nominal than real, which I wish may not be the opinion the king of Prussia has of them already. In a very long conference I had with the great chancellor on Sunday last and which I had asked in from two days before, he spoke to me of himself of his new notions of obtaining a subsidy from England and, without taking notice of the paper which he knew m-r Schwart had given me, urged in general at the arguments contained in it for engaging our court to comply with this demand. But he told me at the same time that what he said to me was not in his ministerial capacity, but as a friend who had the good of the common cause sincerely at heart. He added that could they obtain such a subsidy, he would find means to ruin the king of Prussia's army by sending a great number of recruiting officers to Dantzick, who should offer a reward of ten roubles to every soldier and of twenty roubles to every under officer who would desert. But though it is not to be doubted that there are many in his prussian majesty's service who would be glad of an opportunity to leave it, the question is if they would be willing to come into this service.

In this conference the great chancellor urged to me again the necessity of giving the king of Poland also a subsidy and that, though they could and had a right to insist in the strongest manner on his polish majesty's accession to the treaty between the two empresses, yet he did not see how they could be so pressing in the affair of this vote for the archduke Joseph, unless we used his polish majesty as friendly a manner as we had done the elector of Bavaria. I have acquainted general Bretlack, the new imperial ambassador, with what the great chancellor had told me upon this important affair of the election of the archduke Joseph, who is of opinion, as well as general Bernes, that a subsidy would be very ill employed at that court, but they seem to think that the only sure way of preserving a lasting peace and tranquillity in Europe, is to put this court in a good humour and engage them to keep constantly on the frontiers an army of one hundred thousand men of regular troops and

ten thousand irregulars besides, which they believe this court would oblige themselves to do for a subsidy of one hundred thousand pounds per annum, and at the same time take upon them to bring the court of Dresden into all the measures they and their allys should think proper, without being of any expence to the maritime powers.

That I may omit nothing that can give your grace a clear idea of affairs here, I must not let you be unacquainted that I have the strongest reasons to believe that the Empress is entirely ignorant of the attempt made by her chancellor to procure a subsidy from England and that care is even taken not to let her entertain the least hopes of it. It is therefore the great chancellor's own project, by which he flatters himself to raise very much his credit with his mistress if it succeeds, as it would be a great help to her in her expences for secret services which run very high.

What the great chancellor told me on Sunday last, relating to the king of Poland's vote for the archduke Joseph, having surprised me very much, as I had heard from unquestionable good hands and informed your grace thereof several weeks ago that his polish majesty had promised this court, though not in a very obliging manner for that of Vienna to concur in that measure.

I desired general Bretlack to put the great chancellor upon this subject the next time he saw him, which this ambassador has accordingly done and tells me the chancellor did mention to him the court of Dresden's making some difficultys in this affair, but took no notice that it was on account of any subsidies that court expected from England. From whence I infer that the chancellor, who has so long flattered them with these hopes, is willing to make this last attempt in their favour. General Bretlack, who I find not at all edified with the conduct of the court of Dresden, added that, when he was here before, the chancellor would often permit him to dictate the rescripts sent from hence to their ministers at foreign courts, that he would desire the same liberty might be granted to him on this occasion, in which base count Keyserling should receive the most positive orders to insist on the king of Poland's immediate concurrence in this work, *et sans marchander*, of which I shall not fail to give notice to sir Hanbury Williams, as also of the strong orders sent to count Keyserling in relation to his polish majesty's accession to the treaty of seventeen hundred and forty six; and now I mention count Keyserling, I must not let your grace be unacquainted that general Bretlack in his journey through Saxony hither has got such authentic proofs of that ministers ill practices and irregular proceedings at the court of Dresden, as

he hopes, will determine the great chancellor for his own sake to get him immediately recalled. At least the chancellor acknowledged there was an absolute necessity for it, when general Bretlack communicated to him the abovementioned proofs.

Your grace will please to observe that the court of Vienna must have been in the same way of thinking as this with regard to the ratifications of the two secret declarations, since they sent none to general Bernes. And I am sorry to say that from the beginning they showed an unwillingness to give the declaration relating to Hanover, for notwithstanding what m-r Keith wrote to your grace upon this subject, general Bernes would never own to me he had any orders to sign such a declaration, but said he would do it *sub spe rati* if this court did it and if not, he could not do it.

I do not send back to your grace the ratifications I received by Lamb of the two secret declarations, thinking it proper to know first His Majesty's sentiments upon the refusal of the two imperial courts, as upon the representations I shall have orders to make, they may perhaps comply at last with His Majesty's just desires.

As in your grace's secret letter of the 14-th December you are pleased to approve of my opinion that the great point to be had in view at present, is to endeavour to get more dispatch given to all the transactions here, I thought it proper not only to urge again the absolute necessity of it, but shall conclude this letter with a subject, which of all others I am more and more convinced deserves the greatest attention, as it is the touchstone by which we can judge, how serviceable this court may or may not be to themselves, to their allies and the common cause. It is not to be expected that they will get the better of passions that have taken deep root and which generally grow stronger with age, but no pains should be spared to make them sensible, how much their reputation and their weight and credit with other powers suffer by their giving themselves up to them so entirely as they do and that business would be no hinderance, but rather a whetter to them, if they would set aside if not proper days, at least hours for both, and no person is so proper as general Bretlack to do this, who has a great personal interest both with the Empress and the chancellor.

P. S. Since I signed this letter, I have got a copy which your grace will find here inclosed of the orders sent by this court to count Keyserling in relation to the king of Poland's vote for the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans. Your grace will see by the beginning of this

rescript that, as I wrote to you some time ago, the court of Dresden has given assurances to this of concurring in this great work, but that the hopes of subsidies have made them delay the performance of them, and I am sorry to see that the inclosed rescript will not put those hopes so entirely out of their heads, as I could wish and as general Bretlack had proposed. For though the court of Dresden is desired to annex no conditions to the giving of their vote, yet they are given to understand that their compliance may perhaps be the means of obtaining the subsidies they desire.

Lamb is the bearer of a long rescript to count Czernichew upon the paper which was delivered to count Puebla at Berlin on the 27-th of January last, by which he is ordered to show your grace the great necessity of the closest union and concert of measures between His Majesty and his allys, so as they may guard in time against the king of Prussia's dangerous designs; and your grace will I believe likewise perceive by count Czernichew's conversation that he will give some loose and general hints, as if the most effectual way to do this was to enable this court to keep a large body of troops on the frontiers. R. 15-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

Pensées vagues.

La dernière malheureuse guerre a fait voir assez clairement la perte irréparable qui a été causée par la négligence de prendre à temps des mesures assurées avec les alliés véritables et naturels pour s'opposer avec vigueur à tous les malheurs et hostilités qui sont survenues. Au contraire, les soins infatigables de la France et de ses alliés ont eu pour but et l'ont encore actuellement sans cesse d'employer en temps de paix tous les moyens imaginables pour se faire des amis et pour prendre avec eux des mesures solides pour s'en servir en cas de besoin avec utilité et profit.

Selon toute opinion équitable, fondée sur l'intérêt commun, le véritable bonheur des alliés demande que le système présent soit mis sur un pied si formidable en prenant à temps des mesures bien concertées que par là les perturbateurs du repos public puissent être tenus en respect et en crainte et qu'on puisse, en cas de troubles, d'abord s'opposer à eux avec vigueur et les réduire à un état d'impuissance à ne pouvoir plus être dangereux et nuisibles. Personne ne saurait disconvenir que la puissante opposition et les frais considérables que Sa Majesté Britannique a faits pendant la dernière guerre ont pris uniquement leur source de l'amour pour l'équi-

libre de l'Europe ou pour la conservation de la maison d'Autriche. Mais le but principal était de dégager l'électorat de Hanovre du jeu des troubles de ce temps-là et de le sauver de toutes les insultes.

La république de Hollande se trouvait en même temps dans la nécessité inévitable de prendre part à cette guerre, à cause de l'intérêt qu'elle y avait.

Qu'est ce qui a rendu le roi de Prusse, pendant la dernière guerre, à suivre de nouveau l'exemple qu'il avait donné précédemment, lorsque dans l'année 1744 il fit une invasion avec une armée de 100 m. hommes en Bohême sous le nom d'une armée auxiliaire, tenant prêt et en état de marcher sur les frontières de la Livonie en vertu de la convention conclue le 12-me de Juin 1747 avec la cour de la Grande-Bretagne? Et qu'est ce qui a abrégé la guerre dont la maison d'Autriche avec les puissances maritimes sont sorties, quoique sans avantage et avec perte, et procuré un si prompt rétablissement de la paix, si ce n'est la marche du corps des troupes auxiliaires de Russie? Nul autre que les puissances maritimes, et en particulier la Grande-Bretagne, sera autant convaincu de cette vérité.

Il n'y a aussi aucun doute que si les puissances maritimes veulent bien considérer les affreuses circonstances de ce temps-là qu'elles ne regretteront que par une économie mal à propos elles ont de temps en temps différé la négociation du corps des troupes auxiliaires de Russie et que par là, en poussant cette guerre onéreuse, elles ont perdu plusieurs millions et sacrifié des provinces entières et souffert par là un dommage irréparable; ce qu'elles auraient pourtant pu prévenir pour leur gloire et à l'avantage du système général en prenant leurs mesures, lorsqu'il était encore temps. Ainsi le malheureux succès de toute la guerre doit être uniquement attribué au délai et à la lenteur avec laquelle elles ont pris les mesures immanquables qui se sont présentées. Mais soit comme il voudra, à choses faites il n'y a aucun retour. Elles apprennent pourtant à penser à l'avenir avec plus de prévoyance et à prendre ses mesures à temps. La présente accession de Sa Majesté Britannique au traité d'alliance défensive, conclu l'année 1746 entre les deux cours impériales, servira, selon toute apparence, plus à rendre la nation économe anglaise indolente en écartant par là toutes les raisons de crainte qu'elle a, qu'à l'engager à prendre des mesures ultérieures et nécessaires, d'autant plus qu'il est connu que la conservation du Hanovre lui tient fort peu à cœur. Mais cette façon de penser est fort éloignée de celle de la régence de Hanovre.

La déclaration secrète que les deux cours impériales ont fait donner par leurs ministres à celle de la Grande-Bretagne, en concluant cet acte

d'accession, contient seulement une simple assurance de protéger les états de Hanovre, en cas qu'ils fussent attaqués en haine de cette accession.

Mais qui est ce qui se peut imaginer qu'une telle déclaration sera suffisante pour ôter toute crainte ultérieure à la régence de Hanovre et qu'elle ne souhaiterait pas de se procurer une assurance plus sûre et plus puissante; d'autant plus que les pays de Hanovre n'ont personne tant à craindre que le roi de Prusse. Car il ne faut jamais s'imaginer que ce prince, suivant sa pénétration reconnue, ni aucune autre cour sera assez simple d'attaquer les pays de Hanovre à cause de cette accession, de se servir directement de ce prétexte et de vouloir s'attirer de cette façon et de propos délibéré tant de puissants ennemis sur les bras.

Jusqu'à présent la régence de Hanovre a assez remarqué que la seule puissance de la Russie a retenu le roi de Prusse de plusieurs entreprises d'hostilités et l'a tenu en crainte; ainsi que naturellement rien ne serait plus solide pour sa sûreté, sa tranquillité et sa conservation, que si la Russie voulait tenir prêt et en état de marcher un corps considérable de ses troupes sur les frontières de la Livonie. Selon toutes les apparences il serait d'une grande tranquillité et satisfaction pour la régence de Hanovre, si la Grande-Bretagne pouvait être disposée à procurer cet avantage auprès de la cour de Russie, en offrant des subsides acceptables et à se rendre par là à elle-même, surtout à ses alliés, mais en particulier au Hanovre un plaisir et un service inestimable. La cour de Vienne, aussi bien que monseigneur le stathouder seront sans doute d'accord à ce sujet avec la régence de Hanovre et reconnaîtront la nécessité inévitable de se mettre dans une posture convenable contre toutes sortes de cas imprévus et de prendre à temps des mesures capables à garantir la cause commune contre toute surprise et attaque imprévue. L'entretien d'un corps de troupes russiennes prêt à marcher est d'une utilité si considérable, qu'elle ne souffre pas la moindre contradiction, parce que par là les puissances maritimes auront toujours un corps de troupes prêt à leur disposition.

Les subsides que les puissances maritimes ont fait offrir à quelques princes d'Allemagne marquent assez qu'elles reconnaissent la nécessité d'avoir des troupes prêtes; mais suivant l'expérience qu'on en a eue jusqu'à présent, personne ne disconvient que ces princes n'ont autre chose en vue par leurs négociations, que de redresser leurs finances sans se soucier beaucoup de l'exécution de leurs engagements.

Au contraire, c'est une chose connue que le corps de troupes auxiliaires que la Russie accorda l'année 1748 aux puissances maritimes, a été plus que complet et pourvu de tout le nécessaire en abondance. L'on ne

saurait contredire qu'un corps de troupes qui ne dépend que d'une seule puissance et qui est sous les ordres d'un seul chef ne soit d'une plus grande utilité et plus sûr, qu'un corps qui dépend de plusieurs maîtres et de plusieurs chefs, qui, à l'ordinaire, ont des instructions différentes, et qui cause plus de confusion que de profit.

La France et ses alliés ne sauraient être qu'animés à toutes sortes d'entreprises avantageuses, en voyant que la Grande-Bretagne, depuis la paix, a mis hors de vue pour l'avenir toute précaution qu'on pourrait prendre et qu'elle a même pris ouvertement la résolution de n'accorder aucun subsidé en temps de paix. Il ne serait que superflu à vouloir démontrer toutes les considérations préjudiciables qui en résultent. Elles se montrent au clair et ne sauraient échapper à la pénétration d'un chacun qui pense sainement. Il est aussi incontestable que les petites dépenses qu'on fait en temps de paix ne soient toujours d'un meilleur effet, que celles qu'on fait en cas de besoin et qu'alors il ne coûte moins de peine de se procurer une sûreté parfaite en prenant des mesures sur lesquelles on peut compter pour détourner tout embarras, que de chercher un secours incertain, lorsque les affaires sont venues à l'extrémité et que chacun est occupé à travailler pour son propre avantage.

La Russie n'a jamais eu la coutume de chercher de qui que ce soit des subsides et n'a certainement aucune vue de profit, en entretenant un tel corps sur les frontières de la Livonie. Mais elle désire de montrer avec quel zèle elle prend infatigablement à cœur, tant pour le passé, que pour l'avenir, la véritable prospérité de ses alliés et la confirmation de la tranquillité et de l'équilibre de l'Europe. Les alliés en général reconnaîtront eux-mêmes qu'un tel corps tient le roi de Prusse, qui les intéresse le plus, en bride et qu'il ne verrait pas juste que l'entretien d'un tel corps en leur faveur viendrait à la charge de la Russie seule.

A telle fin la cour de Vienne et monseigneur le stathouder ont déjà employé leurs louables instances et sollicitations auprès de la cour de la Grande-Bretagne, et il serait d'une utilité particulière et solide pour la sûreté de la bonne cause, s'ils voudraient réveiller la régence de Hanovre, par un renouvellement des sollicitations qu'ils ont faites pour cela, qu'elle tâchât par ses représentations de porter le roi de la Grande-Bretagne à offrir à la cour de Russie des subsides acceptables pour l'entretien d'un corps de ses troupes sur les frontières de la Livonie et à faire conclure à cette fin une convention avec elle pour quelques années. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. N. 63.

Traduction d'un rescrit secret envoyé à m-r le conseiller privé comte de Keyserling à Dresde, daté St.-Pétersbourg, Mars 1751.

Nous avons vu avec beaucoup de satisfaction, par votre relation secrète sub № [blank], d'un côté les expressions et assurances amiables que la cour de Saxe vous a données sur les fortes représentations et instances que vous avez faites en conformité de notre rescrit secret sub № [blank], afin de joindre sa voix pour l'élection d'un roi des Romains en faveur de l'archiduc Joseph à celles des autres électeurs et d'avancer un ouvrage si utile et salutaire; mais d'un autre côté, il nous a paru fort étrange que ces assurances n'ont consisté qu'en simples paroles qui sont restées sans aucun effet, nonobstant que l'intérêt naturel de la cour de Saxe y consiste principalement. Les difficultés que la dite cour de Saxe continue de faire tant à présent, que par le passé de donner sa voix pour l'élection d'un roi des Romains ne sauraient certainement servir à autre chose qu'à exciter contre elle une aigreur et refroidissement de la cour impériale romaine et d'une partie du collège électoral, puisque la première a déjà six voix en sa faveur, savoir celles de Bohême, Mayence, Trèves, Cologne, Bavière et de Hanovre, et qu'outre cela l'on prétend aussi d'avoir des assurances sous main que le roi de Prusse s'y joindra.

Aussitôt que la cour électoral de Saxe se propose de ne donner sa voix que sous certaines conditions, qui assurément ne sauraient avoir lieu dans une affaire qui n'a pour objet que la pure complaisance, elle se trompe beaucoup dans son idée, parce que cette affaire ne sera jamais acceptée par la cour de Vienne sur le pied d'une obligation et que nous ne nous mêlerons aussi jamais à conseiller à la dite cour d'accepter pour cela quelques conditions, et ainsi la cour de Saxe perdrait plutôt par là tout le mérite qu'elle s'en pourrait faire.

Il est notoire combien de soins nous nous sommes donnés à la cour de la Grande-Bretagne pour procurer quelques subsides à celle de Saxe; mais jusqu'à présent nous n'avons pas encore vu que la cour de Saxe nous ait montré la moindre réciprocité ou complaisance. Notre espérance de réussir dans cette affaire à la cour de la Grande-Bretagne n'est pas encore perdue, et le succès en dépend uniquement de la façon dont la cour de Saxe se prêtera dans cette affaire de l'élection, d'autant plus que le roi de la Grande-Bretagne a été le ressort de cette affaire et que naturellement il doit être fort sensible tant à sa majesté, qu'à la nation anglaise de rencontrer les seules difficultés à la cour électoral de Saxe,

son alliée, dans une affaire qui n'a pas seulement pour fondement la tranquillité publique, mais aussi ses propres intérêts.

Celle-ci est une occasion par laquelle la cour de Saxe peut avancer et relever ses intérêts et les déranger aussi et perdre ses véritables alliés.

Nous ne trouvons rien à ajouter à ceci, qu'à vous ordonner très expressément de renouveler à la cour de Saxe très sérieusement les représentations et instances que vous avez faites ci-devant de procurer au plus-tôt sa voix pour la dite élection et de lui conseiller de ne pas écouter les insinuations sinistres de la cour palatine qui n'ont pour but, que d'arracher la Saxe d'entre les mains de ses anciens alliés et de la précipiter dans le labyrinthe. Vous emploierez dans cette affaire qui nous intéresse nous-même votre zèle infatigable, afin qu'en ceci nous puissions obtenir le but que nous nous sommes proposé et vous nous enverrez au plus-tôt votre rapport secret de ce que vous aurez fait dans cette affaire P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 128.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 9-th February o. s. (20-th February) 1751.

Very secret. My lord. In the conference I had with the great chancellor on Sunday the 3-d instant I talked to him very seriously, as I was ordered by your grace's very secret letter of the 14-th December by Lamb, the messenger, upon the negotiation carrying on between this court and that of Denmark. I acquainted him with the reasons your grace had to suspect that it was a trap laid for him by France and Sweden, notwithstanding what I had wrote to your grace in my letter of the 17-th November last, at his desire upon this subject, and represented to him the consequences that must attend a hasty concurrence in the measures proposed by Denmark. In answer to this the chancellor repeated what he had told me before, viz-t, that no man had more reason than he to be upon his guard against France, Sweden, or Prussia, but that he could coldly assure me that none of those powers jointly or separately had any hand in, or knowledge of this negotiation, when it was first set on foot. That there was so much confusion in the affairs of Holstein, that it was absolutely necessary to think of some method or other of easing the great duke of the heavy debts that lay upon that country, that by the proposals made by Denmark the great duke's debts would be paid and the re-

venue of Oldenbourg and Delmenhorst come clear into his pocket, whereas he got nothing from Holstein. But whether this bargain was advantageous or not, he could assure me that the conclusion of it was still very remote. Upon this I asked the great chancellor if in the course of this negotiation he had not taken some measures for bringing Denmark back to their natural allies in such a manner, as might remove all apprehensions of their being more fixed by this agreement if it should succeed in the french and swedish interests, than they are now, and in particular if he had not, as he had hinted to me he would do in a former conference, proposed to Denmark to accede to the treaty of 1746. The chancellor said he had not, nor would it have been proper for him to do it without first knowing His Majesty's sentiments upon the matter, as Denmark would certainly insist, in case she agreed to such a proposal, that if on that occasion they lost the subsidies paid them by France, England should make them good. By which I find that this negotiation with Denmark has no relation to any other affairs whatsoever but those of Holstein and Sleswick and as it is contrary to what I understood from the chancellor's discourses, though lose and general, his chief view in this negotiation being, as I thought, to detach Denmark from France and fix them in His Majesty's and the two Empresses system. I plainly perceive that our friend the chancellor has some private personal interest in this affair, which is likewise general Bretlack's opinion, and that this is his only reason for being so forward in this measure, as he is. Nevertheless having, the evening before my conference with the chancellor, received the honour of your grace's letter of the 8-th of January, I acquainted him that in the said letter, which was of the freshest date from London, your grace had informed me that the king of Denmark had expressed great satisfaction at His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746, but that the danish ministers seemed puzzled, as if the king of Denmark's accession should be also desired by the contracting parties, therefore, though your grace continued in the opinion that the great chancellor was mistaken if he imagined this negotiation was carried on without the knowledge and approbation of France, yet your grace would be glad to know his thoughts whether such a step might be proper or not. The chancellor replied that he had one day sounded count Lynar about it, who shrugging up his shoulders told him they were too great and extensive engagements for so little a crown, as Denmark to enter into, intimating in particular that those with the court of Vienna would be the chief objection. However the chancellor is of opinion that if His Majesty approves of it, a negotiation might be set on foot with the court of Den-

mark for that purpose, which could either be spun out to the expiration of their treaty with France, which will be in three years, or concluded sooner, if His Majesty found the conjuncture of affairs required it and the court of Denmark disposed to enter into such a measure on His Majesty's taking upon him to pay them the subsidies they should lose from France.

Orders having likewise been sent to general Bretlack to get all the information he should be able about this negotiation, the said general has had a long conversation with the chancellor upon it, and finding, as well as I, that the chancellor's personal interest had a greater share in this affair, than the strengthening the system of the Empress, his mistress, and her allys, he represented to him the irregularity he had been guilty of in proceeding in this affair so far as he had done without any concert or communication with the emperor, whose approbation he must be sensible was absolutely necessary, if the exchange of Oldenbourg and Delmenhorst and the erecting those countries into dutchies made part of the bargain, as it was said. He told the chancellor besides that there was another thing to be considered, which was that according to the constitutions of the empire, though those countries should be erected into dutchies, the great duke would only have a vote in the college of counts and lose that he had in the college of princes. The chancellor in answer to this said baron Pechlin should wait upon general Bretlack and give him a full account of the true state of this negotiation, which he has accordingly done; and amongst other reasons for the countenance shown to the proposals of Denmark baron Pechlin told the general that the regency of Kiel had twice attempted to borrow money of His Majesty, as elector, to make the great duke's affairs easy, but unsuccessfully, the interest and other conditions insisted on being too burthensome. Hereupon general Bretlack has spoke to me to know if I thought the King would be disposed to lend the great duke the money he wants at the same interest, as that the court of Dresden had lately borrowed of His Majesty, that is at three percent, for which he believed as good security might be given, as had been by Saxony, hinting at most part of the dutchy of Holstein, excepting Kiel, which being the great duke's residence could not well with decency be given in mortgage. I could return no answer to this, as your grace will easily believe, but said I would write to you about it.

By the lights we have now got into this negotiation and the objections made by general Bretlack against the irregularity of their proceeding in it without the emperor's knowledge and consent, we think it is now in the power of His Majesty and the court of Vienna, either to break it off,

or to bring it to a conclusion, since m-r Pechlin has plainly given general Bretlack to understand that if they could borrow as much money, as would make the great duke easy upon reasonable terms, they would prefer it to the exchange proposed by Denmark. On general Bretlack's first arrival here, he was very much against this negotiation, but has since altered his opinion and thinks it would be a very good thing, if in bringing it to perfection the court of Denmark could be tied down in such a manner to the general system of Europe, as not to be at liberty to depart from it without losing the fruits of such an advantageous bargain, which if the great chancellor will lay aside the thoughts of making of job of this affair, might easily be done. R. 15-th April by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 129.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 9-th February o. s. (20-th February) 1751.

Most secret. My lord. My answer to the letter I had the honour to receive from your grace by Lamb, of the 14-th December, under this head shall be as short as I can possibly make it, as of all the subjects I have to write upon here 'tis the most disagreeable one. The day I acquainted the chancellor that I had received His Majesty's ratifications of the act of accession etc., he told me he found your grace had made no use of the two papers of insinuations I transmitted to you in my most secret letter of the 5-th November last, for that count Czernichew did not make the least mention of them in any of his dispatches. At which I appeared a little surprised and said that I was sure your grace had spoke to him and in the strongest manner with regard to the ill effect which the king of Prussia's being so often informed, as he is, of what passes at this court must have in the present conjuncture. And on my letting drop in general terms that count Czernichew seemed even unwilling to write all your grace did say to him, the chancellor took fire and desired I would give it him in writing, that the Empress, his mistress, would know how to use any of her ministers as they deserved, if they omitted to inform her of the conversations they had with a person of your rank, and at the head of affairs as your grace is. When the storm was a little abated, I declined this commission, as well as I could, in saying that as I had not yet decyphered all my letters I could not tell if I was at li-

berty to do it. And here this affair rested and as very luckily these things go out of his head again, he has not spoke to me about them since and if he ever should, I shall find some excuse or other to put him off. For as your grace very justly observes, the surest way for the chancellor to disappoint his enemys in any of their views against his person, is not only to engage the Empress, his mistress, to act an open part, but to do so himself, for such practices in the end must infallably turn very much to his disadvantage if not his ruin. But unfortunately there is no talking to him seriously and in a friendly manner upon this subject, without putting him out of countenance or in a passion. I am sometimes surprised that the consideration of the great share he gives to other people in his reputation does not make him abstain from such low intrigues, as he must feell how much they make him dependant on those who are in the secret of them; and I wish this may not be his case with count Keyserling, and that notwithstanding the hopes he has given general Bretlack of having him recalled, he may not be afraid to do it. R. 15-th April by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 130.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 9-th February o. s. (20-th February) 1751.

Separate. My lord. Amongst other letters which Lamb, the messenger, brought me from your grace I was honoured with your separate one of the 14-th December relating to baron Wolff together with the copy of the letter your grace received from the chancellor Bestuchef and your answer, as also the copy and original of your grace's letter to baron Wolff, the last of which inclosing his credentials as resident immediately delivered to him.

The attention which His Majesty is graciously pleased to show to me on this occasion is so much above what I deserve or could expect, that it fills me with the most lively sense of gratitude. I am only surprised that the chancellor or baron Wolff should make to me a mystery of this affair, which had I known it, I would with pleasure have pressed as warmly as either of them, baron Wolff having shown on all occasions so much zeal for His Majesty's and the nation's service as give him very just pretensions to His Majesty's favour and protection.

A few days after baron Wolff had received his credentials, he de-

livered them according to the new ceremonial to the great chancellor, and the Sunday following he was presented to the Empress in quality of His Majesty's resident, and I did the same the day after, at the great chancellor's desire, to the austrian ambassador and to all the other foreign ministers here. R. 15-th April by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 131.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 16-th February o. s. (27-th February) 1751.

My lord. When I told your grace in my letter of the 9-th instant, that I would begin to press the great chancellor the Monday following for his dispatches and the passport for the messenger, whom I am to dispatch to England, I forgot this was what they call, here, butter week, of all the weeks in the year the most taken up with eating, drinking and idleness, as it immediately precedes lent, so that I have not yet been able to see or hear of the great chancellor, since Monday last, except last night at the masquerade, which having lasted untill eight o'clock this morning, it is to no purpose for me to send to him, to-day, as I am sure he is still in his bed.

These delays fret me very much, as well as general Bernes, who cannot get away, his recredentials not being yet signed, but there is no help for it, it is what happens often here and what every foreign minister at this court has met with in his turn. On Sunday last, the 10-th instant, I went to court firmly persuaded I should have had the audience, I am commanded by His Majesty to take of the Empress on occasion of the accession, but I was put off untill to-morrow, and if I should, again, be disappointed, I must not think of it any more untill after easter.

All my dispatches for your grace are long since ready and, were it not for the ratifications, I would have had them put into cypher and have sent them by the post. But I hope all pretences for further delays will cease after to-morrow, when their lent here begins. In the mean time, I must prepare your grace that you will see by my dispatches by Lamb that this court is making new attempts to get subsidies from England. R. 11-th March. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 132.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 1-st March 1751.

Sir. As the mail, due this day, is not yet come in, I have nothing to send you, at present, but the agreeable news, that the King's cold is (God be praised) so much mended and that His Majesty is, in every respect, so well, that I hope in a few days the King will be abroad as usual. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 133.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 19-th February o. s. (2-d March) 1751.

My lord. I was disappointed again of my audience on Sunday last, nor did the Empress appear at court, being a little indisposed (as the great chancellor told us). But the true reason was that she had a private party of pleasure. I shall now give the great chancellor no farther respite, but insist upon his sending me immediately the necessary passes for Lamb, the messenger, that he may be detained here no longer.

The servant whom I sent with my letters to the post on Saturday evening last brought me back the honour of your grace's letters of the 18-th and 22-d January, in the first of which was inclosed His Majesty's speech to both Houses of Parliament and the address of the House of Lords and resolution of the House of Commons; the approbation which both houses have given to the measures His Majesty has taken in concert with his allys for the preservation of the general peace, has given great satisfaction to this court.

In answer to your grace's letter of the 22-d of January, I shall have the honor to acquaint your grace that in a very secret letter which is ready to go by Lamb, you will find a very particular account of the state of the negotiation between this court and Denmark. In the mean time it may not, however, be amiss that your grace should know that no orders have yet been sent to the russian minister at Copenhagen to propose the king of Denmark's accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses. In the discourse I have had with the great chancellor upon this subject since the exchange of the ratifications, he has given me room to sus-

pect that his personal interest has a greater share in the exchange of the lands proposed by Denmark, than any view to reunite that crown with His Majesty and the Empress. But, as there is no fear of this negotiation's being suddenly brought to a conclusion without knowing His Majesty's and the empress-queen's sentiments on such a measure, some good may be expected from it, if managed (as your grace observes) with address and dexterity.

M-r Wahrendorff (as your grace was pleased to inform me) did send back the paper left with him by m-r Simolin, but the postmaster here was ordered to return it to the postmaster at Memel and to let him know that m-r Wahrendorff being no more a minister here, the great chancellor could have no more correspondence with him. Since then we find that the king of Prussia has thought fit to cause the letter, which m-r Wahrendorff wrote to the great chancellor, when he sent back the abovementioned paper, to be inserted in the Amsterdam Gazette, which has highly provoked this court, and I am afraid something will appear in answer, which may have consequences, if his prussian majesty does not lower his sails. It certainly never entered into the thoughts of this court to push this affair so far as to come to an open rupture, but if his prussian majesty imagines they will bear any haughty or insolent treatment from him, I wish he may not find himself mistaken. But I shall write more fully to your grace upon this subject by Lamb, as I will ask a conference of the great chancellor to-morrow, in which I will speak to him in the manner I am directed by your grace's abovementioned letter.

The great chancellor desires nothing more, than to get m-r Gross into England in the room of count Czernichew, but he does not yet know how to provide for the latter. He talked to me some time ago of persuading the Empress to make him governor of Revel, but I believe this meets with some difficulties. And in the mean time he thinks of sending m-r Gross to Hamburg, where he will be at hand to go over to England, whenever count Czernichew is removed.

In my letters, which go by Lamb, I have wrote to your grace upon the affair of the king of Poland's vote for the archduke Joseph and of his accession to the treaty of 1746.

General Bretlack tells me, he has great hopes of getting m-r Keyserling removed from Dresden, which would be a very good thing. And in that case it were to be wished, m-r Gross was sent thither instead of Hamburg. R. 21-st March. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 134.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 8-th March 1751.

Sir. I send you by His Majesty's order, copies of m-r Keith's letter to me of the 20-th of February n. s. of an answer I returned to count Richecourt to the «*Mémoire Instructif*», of which he had made a verbal communication to me and of the letters which I have wrote to m-r Keith upon this subject (March 1-st, 5-th, 8-th).

You will see that they contain His Majesty's sentiments and those of the empress-queen upon the measures to be taken to secure the preservation of the present form of government in Sweden (which is the great view of the court of Russia), the preservation of the peace of the north (which is the present view of France and, indeed, of His Majesty and his allies also), and the compleating, without any farther difficulty, the great point of the election of the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans; which is or ought to be the object of all those powers who desire to see a system established for the security of the empire and for the maintenance of such a balance of power in Europe, as may discourage any powers (and particularly France and Prussia) from attempting to disturb it.

In this great light no power can be more concerned, than Russia. And if the chancellor Bestuchef will weigh the ends to be obtained and the means proposed for obtaining them, he will see them equally agreeable to the interest of Russia, the security of the present form of government in Sweden, on the one hand and the preservation of the peace of the north, on the other, being the views and the conditions of this measure. And Russia is greatly interested in both, for I must repeat to you that, should the Empress of Russia be the *aggressor* in breaking the peace, she would find herself alone and consequently be the greatest sufferer by such an unadvised measure.

The answer to count Richecourt and my several letters to m-r Keith will so fully explain His Majesty's sentiments, that I shall only acquaint you with the King's pleasure that you should make an ample communication of the whole to general Bretlack and take no step but in conjunction with him, and consequently act upon this great affair just as shall be agreed and settled between m-r Bretlack and you.

This letter will be sent you by an austrian courier who will carry

orders to general Bretlack, and m-r Keith will acquaint you with the purport of general Bretlack's instructions. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 135.

The colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 26-th February o. s. (11-th March) 1751.

My lord. Since my last, which was of the 19-th instant, I have not been able to see the great chancellor, but I have wrote to him in so strong a manner for the necessary passes for Lamb, the messenger, that, I think, he cannot well make me delay his departure much longer. Lamb shall return by the way of Vienna, as your grace has been pleased to order.

Notwithstanding their resentment here on account of the letter inserted in the Amsterdam Gazette from m-r Warendorff to the great chancellor, they have been very moderate in the notice they have taken of it, as I believe your grace will have seen by an article published in the Petersburg Gazette and which, I doubt not, has been inserted in others; however, lest this article should not have come to your grace's hands, I have sent it to your grace's office. R. 23-d March. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 136.

Baron Wolff to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 26-th February (11-th March) 1751.

My lord. Your graces most obliging favour of the 14-th of December past, I received by Lamb, the messenger, and as C. B. and m-r Guy Dickens informed me that the messenger's return would be soon, the then report being that he was to set out every day, accordingly I prepared my answer to your lordship's above favour therefore I declined writing by post.

But to my great surprise the said messenger still continues detained here, without any certainty of his being soon dispatched from hence, so that I could not longer delay acknowledging the receipt of your grace's favour of the 14-th of December as above, which brought enclosed His Majesty's credentials, whereby he was graciously pleased to nominate me as his resident. The said credentials I have delivered and was received in a

most gracious manner, as is more fully related in my letter which will come by the messenger, to which I take the liberty by referring your grace to its contents.

In the meanwhile I entreat your grace to accept of the return of my sincere and hearty thanks for the great share which your grace has thus generously been pleased to take upon you by procuring me this present honour, in return thereof your grace shall ever find me grateful and truly sensible of the obligation which you have now lain me under, and whenever it may be thought that my service in these parts can be of any use to your grace in particular, please to command me without reserve, because I have the honour to be with profound respect etc. etc. R. 23-d March. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 137.

Lettre du comte A. Bestouchef au duc de Newcastle.

St.-Petersbourg, ce 4 Mars (15 Mars) 1751.

Monsieur. La lettre du 14 Décembre de l'année passée, dont votre excellence m'a honoré en réponse à la mienne du 5 Novembre, m'a été bien rendue à son temps par m-r l'envoyé de Guy Dickens.

On ne saurait être plus sensible que je le suis à la considération gracieuse qu'il a plu au roi d'avoir pour les recommandations que je vous ai exposées confidemment en faveur du baron de Wolff, et laissant à ce dernier le soin de se remercier lui-même des soins que votre excellence a bien voulu prendre pour lui, je vous prie instamment d'être persuadé qu'en revanche et à mon tour je serai charmé de toute occasion, où je pourrai faire voir à votre excellence, autant que cela peut dépendre de moi, ma parfaite déférence pour ce qui peut lui faire plaisir et de lui prouver l'estime et la considération très distinguées avec lesquelles j'ai l'honneur d'être etc. etc. R. 15-th April by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 138.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 5-th March o. s. (16-th March) 1751.

My lord. I am ashamed for the great chancellor to tell your grace Lamb is still here, notwithstanding the pressing instances I have made for

this week past to get him passes and orders for post horses. I had just sent my letters to the post on Tuesday, the 26-th past o. s., when I had a message from the chancellor assuring me that towards the latter end of the week he would be ready, and the messenger should depart without further delay. But since then I have had another from him desiring I would allow him a couple of days longer, which expire this day and, though I do not expect he will be punctual, yet as general Bretlack, who has letters to send by Lamb to Vienna, presses him too, I hope by the next post to acquaint your grace that he has left this place.

I will not let your grace wait for my dispatches by Lamb to let you know that such strong orders are gone from hence to count Keyserling, at Dresden, concerning his polish majesty's vote for the election of a king of the Romans and his accession to the treaty of 1746, that if that court has any regard or value for the friendship of this, they cannot avoid giving their immediate concurrence to both these affairs. Copies of these orders shall be sent to sir Charles Hanbury Williams that he may see if count Keyserling executes them punctually.

General Bernes, the former austrian ambassador at this court, could now sit out on his return home having received his recredentials and the usual presents, but he is not able having been seized with such a violent fit of sickness, as had like to cost him his life. He is now much better, and the physicians hope they may say he will be out of danger to-morrow, but they will not allow him to think of beginning his journey before May.

Monsieur Funk, the saxon resident, has been in the same dangerous way, and general Bretlack has also been confined to his chamber for this fortnight past with swelled legs and a violent cold, all which is the fruit of the round and hurry of pleasures which this court was engaged in this last carnival. They have also brought upon me, what I never had the least symptom of before, a most severe fit of the gout. R. 2-d April. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 139.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 7-th March o. s. (18-th March) 1751.

Apart. My lord. The day we exchanged the ratifications of His Majesty's act of accession, general Bernes and I delivered to the great chancellor and the vice-chancellor a list of the presents we had orders to make

on that occasion. They both thanked His Majesty and the empress-queen very much and said that after they had acquainted the Empress, their mistress, therewith, we should hear further from them, but it was only on Friday the first of March, which was five weeks afterwards that they sent to me secretary Wolkof for their respective assignments on baron Wolff, which I delivered to him viz-t:

	Z.
For the great chancellor	1.200
» » vice-chancellor	1.000
» » chancery	250
To secretary Wolkof for himself	50
Total	2.500

For which sum of two thousand five hundred pounds baron Wolff desiring I would give him a bill upon somebody belonging to the treasury which he said former ministers used to do on the like occasions, I have ventured to draw on m-r Davis, as I did when I was in Sweden, of which your grace will please to order timely notice may be given to him. My bill is at sixty and five days date and dated the 5-th March, and your grace will observe that this bill is for two hundred pounds less, than the credit which, through mistake, you had given me in your letter apart of the 14-th December last.

When I delivered these presents to secretary Wolkof, he put into my hands, by order of the Empress, two purses, the one containing two thousand ducats and the other five hundred. The first he told me was a present from Her Imperial Majesty to me, an equal (as the custom here was in these cases with regard to ministers of the second order) to that made by His Majesty to the vice-chancellor. The other purse containing five hundred ducats he said was for your grace's office, being the return of the present made to the chancery here, for which sum of five hundred ducats you will find a bill of baron Wolff's here inclosed on his correspondent in England. No counter present has been made for that to secretary Wolkof, as it was a secret gratuity which the great chancellor only was acquainted with.

General Bernes, the former austrian ambassador, has been treated in the same manner with this difference, that, as ambassador, his present was equal to that his court had made to the great chancellor.

As to the two golden swords my lord Hyndford has the commission to take care should be conveyed hither for general Apraxin and general

Lieven, I find they will not be acceptable, and I am even desired by the great chancellor to let your grace know that as such trifling presents to persons of that rank would have an ill effect with the Empress, it was better to make none at all. R. 15-th April by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 140.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 12-th March o. s. (23-d March) 1751.

Supplement. My lord. The great chancellor's tedious delays and put offs in furnishing me with the necessary passports for Lamb, the messenger, having made my dispatches, that go by him, of a pretty old date, it is proper I should add this to them by way of supplement, were it only to quiet the apprehensions that seem to have been conceived of this court's pursuing their squables with Prussia so far, as to come to an open rupture with that court. During the course of my ministry here, I observe that we ought not to take any great alarm at the threats they may now and then throw out and that the best way is to let them cool of themselves, which they soon do when they reflect on the state of their finances, which are scarce sufficient to answer the expences of their court upon the high foot things are now settled and carried on there, so that it is not to be conceived that they will, without being sure of the assistance of their allies, engage in a war, the whole burthen of which must fall upon themselves.

The reports your grace takes notice of in your letter of the 8-th January of the chancellor Bestuchef's being in disgrace are without any the least foundation. He stands as well as ever he did with his mistress, only I think he might still be better and support in a more effectual manner the system he pursues, since he has the administration of affairs, if he would be more assiduous to business and in his attendance of the Empress.

The affairs of the duke de Biron are in the same situation, and I am afraid will no be thought on any more for a long time. The great chancellor who knows the orders not only I, but the austrian and dutch ministers have to join in our good offices in behalf of the duke, will not fail to let us know when it will be proper for us to renew our instances. For I have reason to believe his private interest is concerned in the procuring the duke his liberty, as well as in the negotiation with Denmark.

I know not whether it may be proper for me to renew the same request so often, but Lamb's sober, quiet and prudent behaviour here has so much gained him the good opinion of every body, that no messenger will be more acceptable, when business requires your grace's sending any to this court. R. 15-th April by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 141.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 12-th March o. s. (23-d March) 1751.

My lord. I have at last the satisfaction to acquaint your grace that this evening at eight o'clock Lamb, the messenger, left this place on his return to England by the way of Vienna.

The last mail from England brought me the honour of your grace's letter of the 12-th of February, but I must defer untill the next post returning an answer to it. R. 6-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 142.

Baron Wolff to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 12-th March o. s. (23-d March) 1751.

My lord. I am highly obliged to your grace for the honour you have done me by your two favours of the 14-th of December, wherein you were pleased to forward me our most gracious sovereigns credentials appointing me his resident at this court.

Upon receipt of the same I waited upon the chancellor count Bestuchef, to whom I delivered a copy of said credentials desiring to be informed of His Majesty's pleasure to give me a public audience in order that I might deliver her the original.

Whereupon the chancellor replied that according to the settled etiquette of this court, none but ambassadors and envoys were admitted to a public audience, but residents and ministers plenipotentiaris were not; and this practice of theirs was conformable to the custom of the courts of Vienna and France.

To which I replied that to my own knowledge His Britannic Majesty's residents had formerly been admitted to a public audience at this court, for which reason I would not be the first which would give up this

right without special orders. And here the count answered that in case I would but consult with the other foreign ministers (more particularly with our own colonel Guy Dickens) they would inform me that it could not be otherwise done, than abovementioned.

Accordingly I took the opinion of m-r Guy Dickens, and he advised me to deliver my credentials into the hands of the great chancellor count Bestuchef, and having performed the same he afterwards delivered it to Her Majesty, who was pleased to appoint the following court day for me to be introduced into her presence which was accordingly done by the great and vice-chancellor, and upon this occasion the court was very full and splendid. The reception which Her Majesty gave me was extremely gracious, she assuring me (in the russian language) of her being vastly glad of receiving me upon this occasion and that she highly applauded the choice which His Majesty had made by appointing me his minister at her court, upon which I had the honour to kiss Her Majesty's hand and I hope that this relation will meet with His Majesty's approbation, as well as that of your grace's.

As your lordship hath been pleased to signifie to me His Majesty's commands that I shall not interfere in any business without his express orders, therefore I shall with all obedience observe them; and as to any salary or pay I cannot expect that, so long as His Majesty hath another minister residing at this court.

But as I am very sensible of the share which your grace hath been pleased to take by recommending me to the favour of our most gracious monarch, therefore your grace can rest assured that upon all occasions I shall most readily and cheerfully exert the utmost of my endeavoures and interest in executing of your grace's commands in behalf of His Majesty's interest and service, and in relation to the Russia Company's complaints I have taken due notice of them, and it shall be my study and care to procure them redress, if possible. But as for the event of this matter that shall be communicated to your grace in some of my following letters.

In the meantime I beg leave to recommend myself to the farther continuance of your grace's favour and protection, because I am and shall for ever remain to be unalterably at your grace's devotion etc. R. 15-th April by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 143.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 16-th March o. s. (27-th March) 1751.

My lord. I had just time to acknowledge, by the last post, the honour of your grace's letter of the 12-th of February o. s. with an extract of a letter from sir Charles Hanbury Williams of the 6-th of February inclosed. Since then I have spoke to the great chancellor about the woman who was with marshal Keith at Berlin and is supposed to have come to Riga, since the king of Prussia ordered her to be sent out of his dominions. And the great chancellor has promised me that orders should be sent to Riga for her to come up to town, where she shall be strictly examined, as to what she may know of the pretender's eldest son's being in the neighbourhood of Berlin, and any other matters or secrets, she may be able to let this court into, relating to the king of Prussia. But I believe sir Charles Hanbury Williams is under a little mistake, in thinking she is come to Riga. I have seen this same woman with general Keith at Stockholm and always understood, she was a Finlander and born at Abo, where general Keith saw her for the first time, when he came over to Sweden with a body of russian troops under his command.

Your grace will see, by my letters by Lamb, who left this place on Tuesday evening last, the 12-th instant, that we had received here the most extraordinary paper given by count Podewil's to count Puebla, which raised so great an indignation at this court, as to have given occasion to a very long rescript, which they have sent to count Czernichew upon it by Lamb, the messenger.

Among other things count Czernichew is ordered to dissuade your grace from taking any notice of this insolent piece to France by way of complaint, as count Czernichew has wrote hither, it was resolved to do; for they are strongly of opinion here that the king of Prussia would never have taken such an indecent and offensive step, without the knowledge and approbation of the court of Versailles.

Your grace will also receive by Lamb, the messenger, a translation of the orders lately sent to count Keyserling concerning the king of Poland's vote for the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans. By these orders your grace will see that, as I had wrote to you before, the king of Poland had given assurances to this court of concurring with His Majesty and other electors in this work, but that he has, since, changed his

mind from the hopes (which I am sorry to say, he has been too much flattered with by this court) of obtaining a subsidy from His Majesty. R. 8-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 144.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 23-d March o. s. (3-d April) 1751.

My lord. Since Lamb's departure from hence little or nothing has occurred here worth writing to your grace. The post goes and comes very irregularly, as it generally does at this season of the year; else I doubt not, but I should have received His Majesty's orders which I have been expecting some time upon some new false intelligences given by the court of Berlin to that of Versailles, as if in His Majesty's act of accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses some offensive engagements had been enter'd into against the king of Prussia.

General Bretlack has read to me a very long rescript which the court of Vienna have sent to count Richecourt at London upon this occasion, giving their opinion with respect to the declaration France desires may be given to quiet her apprehensions about the designs which are imputed to His Majesty and his allies. General Bretlack tells me also that the king of Prussia, to give these advices some colour of truth, talks of forming a camp of forty thousand men in Silesia and another in Prussia; but if his prussian majesty has no other designs, than to guard against the ill intentions of the contracting parties to His Majesty's accession, we doubt not, but he will alter his mind and think such precautions needless, as there is reason to believe this court will have no objections to her allies giving France any satisfaction, she may desire upon these groundless and forged alarms, provided it be in a manner that is consistent with their dignity and not disobliging for the Empress of Russia.

Orders have been sent for bringing up to town the woman who lived with general Keith at Berlin, and though she certainly is a Finlander, it is very probable she may be at Riga, as she has a sister who is married there. R. 15-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 145.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 30-th March o. s. (10-th April) 1751.

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 1-st instant, in which your grace is pleased to send me the most agreeable news that His Majesty's cold (God be praised) was so much mended, that it was expected the King would go abroad in a few days as usual, of which I hope to receive a confirmation by the two mails now due from England.

Count Lynar begins to talk of leaving soon this court and returning home in order to enter into the functions of the post conferred on him, since the death of m-r Schulin. In a visit I made this minister two days ago, he confirmed to me what I had heard before, that the great duke had altered his mind again and would hear no more of the exchange of the lands proposed by Denmark, so that count Lynar has lost all hopes of succeeding in his negotiation, unless the Empress will interpose her authority in the most effectual manner; which, I believe, she will not easily be prevailed upon to do. For her dislike to her successor seems to increase daily; and his appears to be no less with regard to the Empress and this country in general; in so much that some think he would not be very sorry, if he had the liberty to return to Kiel and live there the remainder of his life. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 146.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 12-th April 1751.

Very secret. All in cypher. Sir. I perceive by a letter from m-r Keith that the court of Vienna has entirely approved the answer I gave, by the King's order, to the «*Mémoire Instructif*» communicated here by count Richecourt and the reasonings contained in my letter to m-r Keith of the 8-th of March and in that to you of the same date upon it, and you will have received that letter by an austrian courier, who was to be dispatched with it and with orders to the same purpose to general Bretlack. The reasons set forth for this measure are so fully explained in my letters abovementioned and the incidents which have since happened, viz-t the defection of the elector of Cologne, who (there can be no doubt) has

entered into measures with France and Prussia, and the progress (I am very sorry to say it) which those powers are making in the empire render this proposal of accomodating the differences, both in the north and south, still more eligible, I had almost said, necessary.

The event which has since happened of the death of the king of Sweden, so far from changing His Majesty's opinion in this respect, the King thinks, is an additional reason for it, as perhaps, if the new king continues attached in the manner he was to France and Prussia, he may be able to be of more use to them and the power of Sweden be more considerable, than it was in the disjointed situation that that kingdom has been in during the late reign. But the King thinks that the Empress of Russia should be very careful in the infancy of the new reign in Sweden not to give any jealousy or cause to suspect that the court of Russia has any intention to attack Sweden or disturb the peace of the north; and indeed the new king's declaration seems to be conceived in such strong terms, that, as far as that can be depended upon, it is a new security for the preservation of the present form of government.

There is a thought which the King ordered me to suggest for the consideration of the chancellor Bestuchef. I have some reason to believe that the new king of Sweden is not thoroughly satisfied with the senators who are devoted to the french and prussian interests; that there is some contest for power amongst them, and particularly, that the present king of Sweden shows great countenance to general Lieven, who is, in a manner, a declared enemy to some of the principal senators.

It may not therefore be amiss that the russian and austrian ministers at Stockholm should be instructed to encourage any such differences and, if possible, to detach the new king from one or both of those powers.

In confirmation of the intelligence which has been formerly given to the Empress of Russia of the designs carrying on in favour of the prince of Conti, I am now in great confidence to acquaint you that I have reason to believe that the prince of Conti is not only carrying on those views in Poland, but endeavouring to engage Sweden in his interest, and particularly to secure a body of swedish troops to be paid by France, when they shall be employ'd for that purpose.

There are, also, other intrigues carrying on in Poland, which deserve the attention of Russia and Saxony.

We have reports here of the motions of the Turks, though I do not give any credit to them as we hear nothing of that kind from m-r Porter at Constantinople. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 147.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 2-d April o. s. (13-th April) 1751.

My lord. On Sunday last the mails from England of the 5-th and 8-th March came in; by the first of which I had the great satisfaction to see that the King was so well recovered from his late slight indisposition, as to have appeared the day before in public and was then (God be praised) in perfect health.

It went out of my head to acquaint your grace by the last post that, the Sunday before in the evening, I had a message from the great chancellor to come to court and take the audience I had desired of the Empress, which I did accordingly and in His Majesty's name, as I was ordered by your grace's letter of the 14-th December last, expressed the King's great satisfaction at the conclusion of his accession to the treaty of 1746 and that His Majesty did not doubt, but this work would give great security for the interests of the contracting partys and the general system of Europe, which to rouse and animate Her Imperial Majesty if possible, I added, she supported with so much firmness and dignity. As your grace will have seen by my letters by Lamb that the strongest orders had been sent to count Keyserling in relation to the king of Poland's vote for the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans, I did not, by the great chancellor's advice, say any thing to the empress upon that subject, as it was needless and would have prevailed very little with a princess who gives so little attention to whatever has the least appearance of business.

The Empress received my compliments in a very gracious manner, and her great chancellor answered by her order that any marks of the King's friendship and regard would always be extremely agreeable to her and that I should assure the King of her giving on all occasions proofs of her sincere friendship and regard for His Majesty.

The same day I took my audience, general Bretlack and general Bernes had one, the first to deliver the letter he had kept so long by him notifying the death of the empress dowager, and the other to take his last leave and return thanks for the generous presents he has received, which amount in all to above six thousand pounds. R. 26-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 148.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 16-th April 1751.

Sir. I received yesterday by Lamb, the messenger, your several letters of the 9-th of February and of the 7-th and 12-th of March and that of the 23-d past by the post and have laid them before the King.

As I have, as yet, been able to run over those dispatches but in a cursory manner, I can only, at present, acquaint you, in general, with His Majesty's approbation of your conduct; and must defer sending you the King's orders upon the particular points of business, contained in your letters 'till another opportunity. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 149.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 19-th April 1751.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I have already acknowledged the receipt of your letters of the 9-th of February and the 7-th and 12-th of March by Lamb, the messenger, and that of the 23-d by the post.

I am now to acquaint you that on Tuesday last count Czernichew and m-r Zöhrern, the austrian secretary (count Richecourt being indisposed) put into my hands two declarations, the one signed by the chancellor and vice-chancellor of Russia, and the other by count Bernes, the imperial ambassador at Petersburg, containing the guaranty of His Majesty's german dominions, in case they should be attacked on account of the King's accession to the treaty of 1746. M-r Czernichew and m-r Zöhrern told me, at the same time, that they had orders from their courts to assure me that, though it had not been thought necessary to give a formal ratification of the two acts signed at the same time with the treaty of accession, yet those acts were understood to have the same force, as if they had been ratified and were considered as part of the treaty of accession and equally binding with that treaty.

I told them that His Majesty considered them in the same light and depended upon the punctual execution of these declarations, as a necessary condition of the mutual execution of the treaty of accession, to which they entirely agreed and assured me that their respective courts considered it in that view.

In order to avoid all possibility of mistake in a matter of this importance, I immediately put in writing in the presence of m-r Czernichew and m-r Zöhrern the substance of what had passed between us on this subject, which I read to them, and they expressed their entire satisfaction in it. I send you inclosed a copy of it, which you will communicate to the russian ministers and acquaint them with the contents of this letter.

In the great hurry of business we are in at present, I must defer answering the other points of business contained in your letters, till another opportunity. Like letter (*mutatis mutandis*) to m-r Keith. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

Copy sent to colonel Guy Dickens and m-r Keith April 19-th 1751.

A Newcastle house. Le 17 Avril 1751.

M-r le comte de Czernichew et m-r de Zöhrern (en l'absence de m-r le comte de Riehecourt) ayant présenté au duc de Newcastle deux déclarations signées et cachetées, l'une par m. m. les comtes de Bestouchef et de Woronzow, chancelier et vice-chancelier de Russie, et l'autre par le comte de Bernes, ambassadeur de sa-majesté l'impératrice-reine de Hongrie etc. auprès de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de Russie, ils ont déclaré en même temps que, quoique les deux impératrices, leurs maîtresses, n'avaient pas trouvé nécessaire de faire ratifier ces deux actes, comme n'étant selon les règles, ils étaient pourtant ordonnés d'assurer m-r le duc de Newcastle qu'ils ont et auront la même force, comme si elles les avaient ratifiés et qu'on les regarderait comme faisant partie du traité d'accession et d'avoir la même force et obligation. Le duc de Newcastle leur a répondu que le Roi, son maître, les regardait dans le même sens et s'attend à l'exécution exacte des dites déclarations, les engagements desquelles doivent être regardés comme essentiels à l'accomplissement mutuel de celui du traité de l'accession. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 150.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 9-th April o. s. (20-th April) 1751.

My lord. I should not have troubled your grace with a letter by this post, but that I am unwilling to let two go away without writing.

On Saturday last general count Bernes, the former austrian ambassador, left this place on his return home.

With the said general departed from hence young count Bunau. He came hither with general Arnheim, the saxon minister, whose sister is his mother in law. We were told on this young gentleman's first arrival that he was a lieutenant colonel in the saxon service. But it is now found out, by some intercepted letters of his, that he is a captain in the french service and held a secret correspondence with that court all the time he was here. Before this discovery it was fixed he should go home in company with general Bernes, otherwise this court would certainly have sent him out of the country with some marks of disgrace. Notice was given of this to general Bernes that he might be upon his guard, as to what he should say before this young man upon the journey. R. 4-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 151.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 13-th April o. s. (24-th April) 1751.

My lord. The day before yesterday about noon came in the two mails due from England of the 19-th and 22-d March, by the last of which I received the honour of your grace's letter containing the melancholy account of his royal highness the prince of Wales's death, which unhappy and unexpected event gave the greatest concern not only to all His Majesty's faithfull, servants and subjects here, but to the Empress and all her court, who were the more struck with it, as the news of his royal highness's death and illness came together.

On Wednesday last arrived here an express from m-r Panin, the russian minister at Stockholm, with an account of the death of the king of Sweden, which happened the 25-th of last month. M-r Panin writes that the next day his successor, now king of Sweden, signed a declaration renewing the oath he had taken at his election to maintain and preserve inviolably the present form of government, as established in Sweden in the year 1720. That a copy of this declaration had been delivered to m-r Panin, who was at the same time desired to give the Empress, his mistress, the strongest assurances of the grateful sense the present king had of his great obligations to Her Imperial Majesty and that he begged she would continue to him her friendship and protection. These letters have given great satisfaction to the Empress and her ministers, as they think all apprehensions of any troubles arrising in the north are now removed. R. 9-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 152.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 20-th April o. s. (1-st May) 1751.

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 29-th March with His Majesty's letter to the Empress of Russia, notifying the death of his royal highness the prince of Wales, to deliver which I shall desire an audience of Her Imperial Majesty, as soon as the great dutchess's birth day, which is to-morrow and the Empress's coronation day, which is on Thursday next, are past.

The Empress and her ministers continue to express their great pleasure and satisfaction on account of the strong declaration made by the present king of Sweden of his intentions to maintain the present form of government in that country. And as there is reason to hope that the resolution taken a little before the late king of Sweden's death of sending over to Finland a reinforcement of eight thousand men under pretence of working at the fortifications will be laid aside, I do not doubt, but this court will soon send orders to their troops to withdraw from the frontiers of Finland, by which means all the jealousies which France and Prussia may have conceived of the designs of this court will, we hope, be removed. R. 13-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 153.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 23-d April o. s. (4-th May) 1751.

My lord. On Thursday last arrived here an austrian courier, by whom I received the honour of your grace's letter of the 8-th March with the several inclosures, viz-t: copies of m-r Keith's letter to your grace of the 20-th February n. s., of the answer your grace returned to the «*Mémoire Instructif*», of which count Richecourt had made a verbal communication to your grace, and of the letters which you had wrote to m-r Keith upon this subject.

These letters and papers contain the information and instruction I have been expecting for some time about the measures to be taken to remove the jealousies instilled into the court of France by the king of Prussia with relation to the affairs of the north, to secure the present form of

government in Sweden, the preservation of the peace of the north and the complying without any further difficulty the great point of the election of the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans.

As I had been for some days confined to my house by a great cold, general Bretlack was so kind as to call upon me the day after these dispatches came to my hands; to whom as your grace directed me I made an ample communication of the whole, and he acquainted me at the same time that he had the strongest orders to act in the most perfect concert with me in these important affairs.

General Bretlack approved very much the proposition in your grace's answer (of which a copy had been sent to him from his court) to count Richecourt's «*Mémoire Instructif*» for securing the peace of the north and the present form of government in Sweden by reciprocal declarations, and we think it cannot fail of meeting with the approbation of this court. But the situation of the affairs in the north being entirely changed by the death of the late king of Sweden, general Bretlack is of opinion, in which I have acquiesced, that before we execute the orders we have received, we should know the sentiments of our respective courts upon this event and see what effect it will have upon the courts of France and Prussia. The strong declaration given by the present king of Sweden on his accession to the crown seems to have removed all the jealousies this court had conceived with regard to the supposed design of changing the present form of government in that country; and as the public and authentic manner in which the Empress and her ministers have expressed their entire approbation of this declaration cannot be unknown to France, it is thought that crown will look upon the present dispositions of this court as a sufficient satisfaction and security for the preservation of the peace and tranquillity of these parts.

As this dispatch goes by an austrian courier, whom general Bretlack dispatches to Vienna, I shall make use of this opportunity to transmit to your grace a new paper of *reflections*, which has been put into my hands at the desire of the great chancellor; one article of which serving to prove the present pacific dispositions of this court I shall transcribe it here.

«Ainsi pour prévenir à temps tous les malheurs etc. etc... il ne reste aux puissances maritimes d'autre secours assez puissant que celui de la Russie, laquelle depuis la mort du roi de Suède et l'assurance solennelle que le nouveau roi a confirmée avec serment touchant la conservation inaltérable de la forme du gouvernement suédois telle

qu'elle fut établie l'an 1720, a les mains entièrement libres etc. etc.». R. 24-th May by an austrian courier. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

Réflexions sur les moyens de prévenir les mauvaises suites que pourrait avoir la mort du prince de Galles.

L'expérience de la dernière guerre, laquelle n'a duré si longtemps, à la grande perte des alliés, que parce qu'ils ont négligé de prendre à temps les mesures nécessaires pour s'opposer efficacement à l'ennemi commun, aussi bien que les efforts continuels que la France et ses alliés suivant leur ancienne coutume ne cessent de faire depuis le rétablissement de la paix pour se procurer des nouveaux amis et pour prendre avec eux des mesures dont ils pourront se prévaloir avantageusement dans l'occasion, devraient seuls porter les puissances maritimes d'en faire autant de leur côté pour leur propre sûreté et pour la conservation de l'équilibre en Europe et par conséquent de se concerter sans délai plus intimement avec leurs alliés naturels sur l'avenir. Cependant pour ce qui est de la Russie en particulier, il ne sera pas inutile de montrer par les réflexions suivantes qui sont fondées sur les conjonctures présentes la nécessité pressante, où se trouvent les puissances maritimes, d'entrer incessamment avec cette couronne en des engagements plus étroits.

Quoique tous les vœux des bien intentionnés se réunissent à souhaiter que le Tout-Puissant prolonge les années de Sa Majesté Britannique, la prudence ne laisse pas d'exiger de ce monarque que depuis la mort prématurée de son altesse royale le prince de Galles, qu'il dirige sa principale attention sur la minorité de son successeur, d'autant que pendant le temps d'une minorité il y a, à l'ordinaire, à craindre beaucoup de troubles et en dedans et hors du royaume.

Les mauvaises intentions de la France et de la Prusse sont prouvées non seulement par les exemples antérieurs et par les chicanes que la France fait naître à chaque pas dans la négociation entamée à Paris pour le règlement des limites en Amérique, mais encore par la note injurieuse que le roi de Prusse remit, à la fin de Janvier, au comte de Puebla et que la France ne paraît pas vouloir désapprouver, de même que par le contenu du nouveau traité de subsides conclu entre la France et l'électeur de Cologne, dont on parlera ci-après, de sorte qu'on ne saurait douter que ces deux puissances tâcheront de profiter d'une telle minorité, si l'Angleterre ne le prévient en se mettant d'avantage dans un état de force respectable.

Sur le pied où se trouvent ses forces de terre maintenant, elle n'est pas capable de mettre vingt mille hommes en campagne et quand même on y joindrait les Hanovriens et les troupes allemandes qui sont à sa solde, elle aura toujours de la peine à fournir en tout cinquante mille hommes. Au lieu que la France et la Prusse entretiennent seules au delà de trois cent mille hommes et que la première augmente ses forces de mer à un tel point, que même avec le temps, l'Angleterre aurait à craindre de perdre sa supériorité par mer. Les renforts qu'on pourrait obtenir des princes d'Allemagne ne seraient ni suffisants, ni utiles à l'Angleterre, puisqu'on a reconnu constamment dans les guerres passées qu'après avoir touché les subsides, la plupart de ces princes se mettent peu en peine de remplir leurs engagements et que d'ailleurs le commandement des troupes, qui dépend de tant de maîtres différents, est sujet à mille inconvénients. De plus les puissances maritimes perdent à cette heure les six mille hommes de troupes de Cologne, sur lesquels elles avaient compté et les auront, en échange, pour ennemis, en cas de guerre, en vertu d'un traité de subsides nouvellement conclu à Munich entre la France et l'électeur de Cologne. Elles ne peuvent pas non plus espérer de ramener cet électeur, car non seulement il s'est lié les mains pour quatre ans, mais il s'est laissé obtruder un premier ministre entièrement dévoué à la France et à la Prusse.

Les finances et l'état militaire de la Hollande sont encore trop délabrés pour qu'en cas d'une guerre pendant la minorité, qui est à craindre en Angleterre, cette couronne puisse beaucoup compter sur les secours de la République; d'autant plus qu'elle-même a à appréhender un voisin toujours dangereux dans la personne du roi de Prusse et que la démolition de ses places de barrière, au rétablissement desquelles l'Angleterre ne veut rien contribuer, donnerait à la France le moyen de pénétrer peut-être dès la première campagne jusqu'au centre des Provinces Unies. Au moins, le nouveau traité que la France vient de faire avec l'électeur de Cologne paraît faire connaître clairement ses vues comme sur l'électorat d'Hanovre, ainsi sur les Provinces Unies, lorsqu'à ce qu'on apprend elle y a stipulé nommément que les six mille hommes de troupes de Cologne seraient employés dans la Basse Saxe et sur le Bas Rhin.

Dans de telles circonstances la cour de Vienne serait sans doute assez embarrassée elle-même et ne pourrait secourir les puissances maritimes que d'une petite partie de ses forces, puisque suivant son ancienne maxime la France en faisant la guerre aux puissances maritimes ne manquerait pas d'occuper la maison d'Autriche d'un autre côté, en quoi elle réussirait aisément en Italie par le moyen de l'Espagne, et dans les pays

héréditaires par le roi de Prusse, après que ce prince aurait peut-être préalablement pillé l'électorat d'Hanovre, afin d'en tirer l'argent nécessaire pour l'entretien de son armée.

Ainsi pour prévenir à temps tous ces malheurs et pour contenir pendant le temps d'une minorité en Angleterre la France, principalement la Prusse, il ne reste aux puissances maritimes d'autre secours assez puissant que celui de la Russie, laquelle depuis la mort du roi de Suède et l'assurance solennelle que le nouveau roi a confirmée avec serment touchant la conservation inaltérable de la forme du gouvernement suédois telle qu'elle fut établie l'an 1720, a les mains entièrement libres et peut d'autant plus fortement appuyer ses alliés et la cause commune dont elle a toujours embrassé les intérêts avec un zèle particulier.

L'effet qu'eut le corps de troupes russes qu'on avait mis sur les frontières de la Livonie en conséquence de la convention conclue avec l'Angleterre l'année 1747 d'empêcher le roi de Prusse de remuer de nouveau, de même que la paix à laquelle la France a consenti bientôt après que trente autres mille Russes étaient mis en marche pour secourir les puissances maritimes, sont deux événements qui ont suffisamment fait voir l'utilité de ces sages mesures. On peut donc en conclure sûrement que leur renouvellement dans les circonstances critiques qu'on a détaillées dessus ne serait pas moins avantageux pour l'affermissement de la tranquillité de l'équilibre de l'Europe, savoir si maintenant l'Angleterre et la Hollande voulaient offrir à la Russie (dont on ne peut pas prétendre qu'elle se charge seule du fardeau) des subsides acceptables contre un corps de troupes prêts à marcher à leur secours qu'elle entretiendrait sur les frontières de la Livonie.

Mais comme il semble que les conjonctures qu'on aurait à craindre pendant la minorité d'un roi d'Angleterre exigeraient plus de trente mille hommes de secours et que peut-être soixante mille seront alors à peine suffisants d'obliger la France et la Prusse de renoncer à l'exécution de leurs vues dangereuses; il serait à propos que les puissances maritimes tâchassent de se procurer de la Russie pour six ou sept ans, c'est-à-dire pour autant de temps que la minorité anglaise pourrait durer, quarante mille hommes qui pourraient rester sur les frontières prêts à marcher et vingt mille autres prêts à s'embarquer sur les galères nécessaires pour tenir continuellement le roi de Prusse en échec et en alarme par rapport aux côtes de la Prusse et de la Poméranie. Et comme les galères ont toujours besoin d'être escortées par des vaisseaux de guerre, il faudrait encore se concerter sur cet article.

Les puissances maritimes auront d'autant moins de difficultés de payer des subsides proportionnés pour ce grand armement, si elles considèrent d'un côté la perte irréparable que leur causerait le renversement de l'équilibre de l'Europe, pour la conservation duquel elles ont depuis le règne du roi Guillaume sacrifié généreusement tant de millions d'hommes et d'argent, et que de l'autre côté elles feront réflexion qu'actuellement elles payent peu d'autres subsides et que même celui qu'ils avaient déjà accordé à l'électeur de Cologne leur revient présentement par l'alliance de ce prince avec la France.

Au reste il serait encore très bon que les puissances maritimes songeassent, en même temps qu'elles feraient un traité de subsides avec la Russie, de convenir d'avance par une convention particulière sur tout ce qui regarde la marche actuelle des troupes auxiliaires russes et sur leur entretien, afin que toutes les fois que la nécessité le demandera, elles puissent se mettre en route sans aucune difficulté ni délai. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 154.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 24-th April o. s. (8-th May) 1751.

My lord. On Thursday last general Bretlack having dispatched a courier to his court, I charged him with a letter for your grace, directed to m-r Keith in answer to your grace's dispatches of the 8-th March, which I had the honour to receive a few days before by an austrian courier. In this letter I acquainted your grace that, the situation of the affairs of the north being entirely changed by the death of the late king of Sweden, general Bretlack was of opinion that, before we executed the orders we had received, we should know the sentiments of our respective courts upon this event and see what effect it will have upon the courts of France and Prussia. I likewise made use of that opportunity to transmit a new paper of reflectons which had been put into my hands at the great chancellor's desire. In this paper a third attempt is made to obtain subsidies from the maritime powers by taking into their pay a body of sixty thousand men, the necessity of which they endeavour to prove from the dangerous views and designs of France and Prussia.

Count Lynar seeing no likelihood of succeeding in his negotiation here begins to talk of returning home very soon, and we hear that his successor is actually named.

A few days ago, an express arrived here from Riga with an account of the death of felt-marshal Lacy.

On Tuesday last arrived here from Stockholm colonel Poss, who is sent by the king of Sweden to notify to the Empress the late king's death and his own accession to the crown.

Two days ago the great chancellor sent to me one of his secretaries to let me know that general Keith's mistress, who was supposed to be at Riga, is not there nor expected there, as her sister declares and that she went directly from Berlin to Sweden. R. 20-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 155.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 10-th May 1751.

All in cypher. Sir. The very great hurry of business that we have lately had here has prevented my receiving and sending you His Majesty's orders upon your very voluminous dispatches by Lamb, the messenger, and also my having from count Czernichew a particular account of the orders he has received. I find, however, that there is nothing new or that requires any immediate answer.

I have ordered your letters to be constantly acknowledged from my office. His Majesty was very glad to see, by your letter of the 13-th of April, that the Empress of Russia was perfectly satisfied with the new king of Sweden's declaration for the maintenance of the present form of government; and the reason, there was, to hope that the peace of the north would be preserved. You mention nothing of the transport of eight thousand men from Sweden into Finland nor of the march of twenty thousand Russians, which, it is reported, are going towards Finland. His Majesty hopes that neither of these motions, though they should be both true, will produce any *voyes de fait* or act of hostility of either side. The consequence of which might be very prejudicial and bring on a rupture and, therefore, you will join with general Bretlack in dissuading any measure of that kind.

The ill intentioned Swedes conceive great hopes of the good dispositions of the Turks from the supposed motions of the Tartars towards the frontiers of Russia and the defection of some cossacks and also from a notion they have, which, I am afraid, is but too true, of the great scar-

city of money at present in Russia, though I hear from count Czernichew that the Empress keeps her numerous army very regularly paid. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 156.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 14-th May 1751.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I received yesterday the favour of your letter of the 20-th of April and laid it before the King.

You will have seen that, notwithstanding the declaration of the new king of Sweden and the just satisfaction that it has given both to the Empress of Russia and to all the powers, who wish for the continuance of the peace of the north and the preservation of the present form of government in Sweden, the transport of eight thousand men to Finland, resolved on in the late king of Sweden's time, is actually carrying into execution. But, as that was, probably, undertaken to prevent a surprise upon Finland from the Russians, it is most likely that it is continued with that view only and, therefore, should not be looked upon as sufficient to destroy the hopes which the declaration had given, that there were no designs (at present at least) to make any alteration in the form of government; and His Majesty hopes, it will not induce the Empress of Russia to begin any act of hostility, which would, in the present circumstances, have bad consequences and probably turn to the great disadvantage of *the aggressor*, which in that case the Russians would be thought to be, as the swedish troops would be kept within their own frontiers. Besides with this reinforcement the Swedes will, probably, be able to make such a disposition in Finland, as may make it difficult for the Russians to enter into Swedish Finland, without great risk in the attempt.

There is a hint which the King has ordered me to fling out to you, of which, perhaps, you may make some use. By our accounts, the present king of Sweden has in the notification of his accession expressed his gratitude to the Empress of Russia for the share she had in it. Whether this be sincere or not, one cannot pretend to say. But I have reason to think that the court of France are not quite out of apprehensions that, sooner or later, the court of Petersburg may come to have more influence over the present king, than they could wish. If therefore there is any prospect of that, it ought, certainly, to be encouraged by all possible means.

There is one which may offer. There is a notion (and I believe a true one) that general Lieven has a great independent credit with the king of Sweden and that he is, also, far from well with the principal members of the senate, who are, certainly, jealous of him. It would therefore be right that the austrian and russian ministers should cultivate his acquaintance and lay hold of all opportunities of widening the present differences between him and the french and prussian partisans in Sweden.

You will better judge whether any use can be made of this or not, and you will act accordingly. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 157.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 4-th May o. s. (15-th May) 1751.

My lord. I have nothing to write to your grace worth reading, except it be that the ministers here seem to be a little impatient to hear what effect their two last attempts to get subsidies from the maritime powers have had. In the meantime, they often insinuate to me that it would be of dangerous consequence to proceed to the election of a king of the Romans before such measures were taken, as would keep the king of Prussia in awe, for they take it for granted by the public opposition which his prussian majesty gives to that measure and the shameful defection of the elector of Cologne from the engagements he had entered into with the maritime powers, that some troubles will arise, if France and Prussia do not see His Majesty and his allies are able to support, in the most effectual manner, the justice and validity of the abovementioned election, when made. They think here that the subsidiary engagements, they have proposed, may be a means of securing a lasting peace of twenty years and more, or, should any disturbances arise, of putting an immediate stop to them by crushing at once those who may be the occasion of them.

I delivered a few days ago to the great chancellor a copy of His Majesty's letter notifying the death of his royal highness the prince of Wales and I propose waiting upon his excellency to-morrow to know, when I may hope to have an audience in order to deliver the original. R. 27-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 158.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 11-th May o. s. (22-d May) 1751.

My lord. On Wednesday last two mails came in from England, by which I received the honour of your grace's letters of the 16-th and 19-th April. I was glad to see by the first that Lamb, the messenger, was arrived and that my conduct had met with His Majesty's approbation.

As to the paper your grace sent me in your letter of the 19-th of April containing what passed between your grace, count Czernichew and m-r Zöhrern, in relation to the guaranty of His Majesty's german dominions, I shall not fail to communicate it, as also the contents of your grace's said letter to the russian ministers, as soon as they will give me an opportunity to see them, for the Empress being now at Czarsko Sielo, they are seldom to be met with. Since last Tuesday I have sent three times to the great chancellor desiring he would appoint an hour for me to wait upon him, but he either was at his garden, or just going thither, or asleep. R. 4-th June. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 159.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 15-th May o. s. (29-th May) 1751.

My lord. Since my last (which was of the 11-th instant) I have seen the great chancellor and communicated to him the contents of your grace's letter of the 19-th of April, as also the paper which was inclosed containing the substance of what had passed between your grace, count Czernichew and m-r Zöhrern upon the two acts that had been signed here for the defence of His Majesty's german dominions. And he was very glad to hear that His Majesty was satisfied with the assurances the two above-mentioned ministers had given your grace. That though it had not been thought necessary to give a formal ratification of those acts, yet they were understood to have the same force, as if they had been ratified. The great chancellor told me, he had not yet received any account from count Czernichew of what had passed at your grace's house upon this subject.

When I was with the great chancellor, I enquired about the audience I had desired in order to deliver His Majesty's letter of notification con-

cerning the death of the prince of Wales; and as I perceived, by his discourse, that now the fine season was come, it would be difficult to fix any particular time with the Empress (who was continually moving from one country house to another) I delivered the said letter to the great chancellor. The Swedish minister tells me, he intends to do the same with regard to the letter he has notifying the death of the king of Sweden.

Count Lynar has desired to have his audience of leave and will set out on his return home, as soon as he can obtain it. The great duke has caused a paper to be delivered to him, wherein he not only peremptorily refuses to consent to the exchange of the lands proposed by Denmark, but refers to more favourable times the renewal of all his just claims and demands, which has extremely piqued count Lynar.

We have advice that the reinforcement which had been resolved upon in the late king of Sweden's time of 8.000 men to be sent to Finland, is actually arrived there.

The great chancellor told me that he did not doubt, but this had been done at the instigation of the king of Prussia; but that he would be disappointed if he thought, it would occasion any trouble; for that they would not so much as speak of it to the Swedish ministry, though by this step of the court of Stockholm, it was plain, they must not think of withdrawing their troops from the frontiers. R. 10-th June. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 160.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 31-st May 1751.

All in cypher. Sir. I have received, since my last, your letters of the 23-d and 27-th past and the 4-th instant and have laid them before the King.

As to that which came by the Austrian courier and the paper inclosed in it and what you say upon that subject in your letter of the 4-th of May, I have His Majesty's orders to prepare an answer to the paper abovementioned, which will be conceived in such terms, as must convince the Empress of Russia of His Majesty's real friendship for her and desire to cultivate the most perfect union and concert with her, though the circumstances and situation of things may make it impracticable for the King to comply with what is proposed.

As to what is mentioned of the danger of proceeding to the election of a king of the Romans, whenever we can be sure of a sufficient majority in the electoral college, the election will be as constitutional, as if there was an unanimity there. And, therefore, the court of Petersburg should continue their instances with the king of Poland to procure his consent, who, by his refusal, is doing the business of France and Prussia, which it is as material for the Empress of Russia to prevent, as any other power.

Since the orders sent to general Bretlack and yourself upon the proposal made to France by His Majesty and the empress-queen for securing by reciprocal declarations the peace of the north and the present form of government in Sweden, the court of France have plainly departed from what seemed then to be their disposition, whether from the accession of the new king of Sweden, or from the supposed strength they think, they have gained in the empire, is uncertain; but the King has thereupon determined to drop any further negotiation with France upon those heads, untill that court shall, themselves, desire to renew it; so that it is unnecessary for general Bretlack and you to execute the orders you had received by my letter of the 8-th of March, which His Majesty was very glad to see you had so properly suspended.

And, indeed, any consideration of this kind is now the less necessary, as the court of Petersburg are so well satisfied with the strong declaration made by the king of Sweden for the preservation of the form of government and with the conduct of that prince; and the King hopes that they will have no reason to alter their opinion and present pacific disposition, which you will endeavour upon all occasions to confirm them in.

M-r Hop has acquainted me that m-r Swart has been applied to by some of the grand duke ministers to endeavour to persuade their master to consent to the exchange proposed by count Lynar; but His Majesty does not think it proper that the ministers of the maritime powers should interfere in this affair without either being applied to by the Empress of Russia, or the king of Denmark, or seeing any probability that such a step could be attended with any success.

I am sorry to find that general Keith's mistress is gone to Sweden, as possibly we might, otherwise, have procured some material intelligence from her. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 161.

The colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 25-th May o. s. (5-th June) 1751.

My lord. I have received the honour of your grace's letter of the 26-th April with a copy of His Majesty's most gracious message to both Houses of Parliament and of the dutiful and unanimous return made to it by the joint adress of both Houses. According to your grace's orders I have communicated both the message and adress to the ministers here, who were equally pleased with this great instance of His Majesty's goodness to his people and the strong and moving manner in which both Houses express their sense of the high obligation the nation lies under for this great mark of His Majesty's care and attention for the interest of his royal family and the welfare of all his subjects. And as they are thoroughly sensible here how nearly their interests are connected with His Majesty and his dominions, they pray and hope, as all His Majesty's faithful subjects do, that the provisions proposed to be made may prove in the event unnecessary.

This court goes to-morrow into mourning for four weeks for his late royal highness the prince of Wales.

Colonel Panin, brother of m-r Panin, the russian minister in Sweden, will soon be sent to Stockholm with compliments of congratulation from the Empress of Russia to the king of Sweden upon his accession to the crown.

In eight or ten days a squadron of twelve russian men of war, ten of which are of the line, will go to sea in order to exercise their seamen, as they constantly do every summer.

P. S. Just as I am going to send this to the post, I am honoured with your grace's letter of the 12-th April by the way of Vienna. R. 17-th June. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 162.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 28-th May o. s. (8-th June) 1751.

My lord. I had just time to acknowledge by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 12-th April by the way of Vienna, and all

I shall say upon the contents of it at present is that I shall return an answer to it by a courier which general Bretlack proposes to dispatch thither in a couple of days.

In the meantime, I herewith transmit to your grace the copy of a *note* or declaration which was delivered to me by order of the Empress on Saturday evening last, after I had sent my letters to the post. This paper, I doubt not, will give great satisfaction to His Majesty, as it must convince the powers who had any mistrust of Her Imperial Majesty's pacific dispositions of her sincere intentions not only to preserve the peace and tranquillity of the north, but to cultivate and strengthen the growing friendship and good harmony between her and the king of Sweden. R. 22-d June. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

N o t e.

Les soins salutaires et les représentations amiables que Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies a employés et faits depuis deux ans à la cour de Suède ont uniquement eu pour but la conservation inviolable de la paix et de la tranquillité dont les raisons n'ont pas été ignorées à la cour de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne par les assurances qu'on en a données en confidence, en vertu de l'alliance, tant de bouche que par écrit aux ministres de Sa Majesté qui ont résidé ici. Mais comme sa majesté le roi de Suède, à présent régnant, est venu si amialement à la rencontre des désirs pacifiques de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies et, tant par le zèle et la façon de penser qu'il a employés à cette fin que par l'assurance renouvelée solennellement dans des expressions les plus formelles et les plus fortes, a fait voir qu'il est d'intention de conserver inviolablement la forme du gouvernement qui est établi dans ce royaume et de ne s'en vouloir départir en aucune façon, Sa Majesté Impériale de son côté n'a pas voulu différer d'informer en confidence, en vertu de l'alliance, la cour britannique que l'acte d'assurance de sa majesté le roi de Suède, à présent régnant, et publié d'abord en montant sur le trône et la déclaration que sa majesté a faite ensuite de vouloir entretenir avec Sa Majesté Impériale une étroite et intime amitié, conformément aux traités qui subsistent entre les deux cours, la tranquillisent suffisamment et lui donnent un contentement parfait.

Conformément au véritable désir que Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies a toujours eu et qu'elle conservera toujours tant à l'avenir que pour le passé d'entretenir une bonne amitié avec toutes les puissances, Sa

Majesté s'est proposée de vivre de la manière la plus confidente avec le roi et la couronne de Suède dans l'ancienne amitié de voisinage et dans une étroite intelligence et de la confirmer et cultiver de plus en plus.

On n'a pas voulu manquer d'informer* la cour britannique en confiance, conformément à l'alliance, de cette inaltérable façon de penser et de l'intention de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies, d'autant plus que quelques cours tâchent de s'ingérer, malgré qu'on en ait, de se mêler dans les affaires des deux cours voisines et si étroitement alliées et de donner un sens contraire et proportionné à leurs vues, éloignées de cette intention la plus pure de Sa Majesté Impériale, nonobstant que les hauts alliés soient informés et convaincus du contraire, à savoir que tous les soins et les représentations de Sa Majesté Impériale, comme il est dit ci-dessus, n'ont eu pour but que la conservation inviolable de la tranquillité et de l'équilibre du nord. St.-Petersbourg ce [blank] Mai 1751. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 163.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 30-th May o. s. (10-th June) 1751.

My lord. Since your grace's letter of the 12-th April o. s. by the way of Vienna is come to my hands, I have seen general Bretlack and had a long discourse with him upon the contents of it. The death of the king of Sweden having caused a great alteration in the situation of affairs in these parts we did not, as I have already acquainted your grace, think proper to execute the orders general Bretlack and I had received by the austrian courier, who brought me your grace's letter of the 8-th March, untill we knew the sentiments of our respective courts upon that event. And though we now see both, your grace and count Uhlefeld are for pursuing the project contained in your grace's abovementioned letter of the 8-th March for accomodating the differences both in the north and south, yet since the paper given by order of the Empress to all the ministers of her allys at this court (of which I sent your grace a copy by the last post) declaring her entire satisfaction with regard to the declaration given by the king of Sweden for the maintenance of the present form of government and her desire to cultivate and strengthen the growing friendship between Her Imperial Majesty and that prince, general Bretlack is of opinion that the reasons for such a measure drop of themselves, at least

with regard to these parts; for if the french court is not satisfied with such strong and authentic assurances of Her Imperial Majesty's pacific dispositions, we are at a loss to think what they would be at and what other security they could expect from His Majesty and his allys for the preservation of the peace and tranquillity of the north, unless it be such as must give offence to this court; general Bretlack therefore will wait untill he receives an answer to the dispatches he writes to his court by the austrian courier, who is the bearer of the letter, before he takes any notice to the great chancellor of the late orders that have been sent to him.

By the *note* or declaration which I sent your grace by the last post and of which I here inclose another copy, you will see that the Empress so far from giving any the least cause to suspect her having any intention to disturb the peace of the north, expresses the warmest desire of living in the most perfect friendship with the new king of Swedeni if therefore France and Prussia, notwithstanding such clear professions, think Her Imperial Majesty's intentions require still a guaranty, they should not in our opinion be offended if they were desired to give one first of theirs.

When the great chancellor will give me an opportunity to talk with him (which, I hope, will be soon, now the whitsun holidays are over) I shall not fail to suggest to him the consideration I am commanded with regard to the new king of Sweden's not being satisfied with the senators, who are devoted to the french and prussian interest, and I will take care that the russian minister at Stockholm be instructed to encourage the differences between general Lieven and some of the principal senators and, if possible, to detach the new king from one or both of those powers. Some time ago, a resolution was taken here to remit seventy thousand roubles to m-r Panin to support the credit and interest of the well intentioned party in Sweden at the ensuing diet; but general Bretlack has persuaded the great chancellor to lay that resolution aside and to let the russian minister at Stockholm act the part only of a spectator, while the diet is sitting and engage in no intrigues whatsoever. Such a conduct will, I doubt not, surprise very much the ill intentioned party and perhaps do the chief of them more hurt, than if the russian money was circulating in Sweden; for when France sees no opposition, she will spend the less, and as their necessities there are very great, it will occasion great murmurings and defections from that party. One thing only, I could wish, is that fifteen hundred or two thousand pounds were given between the two courts to senator Akerhielm to enable him to make friends and obtain, if possible,

the marshal's staff. For, when I left Sweden, it was settled that he should be one of the candidates for that post at the next diet.

I shall acquaint the great chancellor, the first time I see him, with what your grace is pleased to write to me concerning the designs carrying on in Sweden and Poland in favour of the prince of Conti, and I doubt not but he will give a proper attention to them, as also to any other intrigues which may be carrying on in Poland. R. 1-st July by an austrian courier to Vienna. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 164.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 1-st June o. s. (12-th June) 1751.

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 10-th of last month; as to the transport of eight thousand men from Sweden into Finland your grace will have seen, by my former letters, that on the death of the late king of Sweden we thought it would not be made and, since it has been, that this court looks upon it with an eye of great indifference. We hear that the court of Denmark did all they could to hinder that of Stockholm from taking this step, but the king of Prussia's superior interest prevailed. What your grace mentions concerning the march of twenty thousand Russians towards Finland is without any foundation. Not one man has stirred from his quarters, since we have had advice of the king of Sweden's death; and there is as little truth in the reports spread of the motions of the Turks or Tartars towards the frontiers of Russia and of the defection of some of the cossacks.

The hopes which the ill intentioned Swedes may conceive from the great scarcity of money, at present, in Russia, are altogether founded on effects which they know that method of application has on their deliberations; nor do I see there is so great a scarcity of it, as they pretend, but let it be more or less, I am very sure this court will make any shifts rather than listen to any offers from France and Prussia. But, had the Swedes conceived any hopes of this court's being of little use to us, if we do not come to a resolution of supplying their wants, I am afraid, they would have been in the right, and now I am mentioning this matter, I shall sincerely confess to your grace that I could wish some notice was taken of the two papers I transmitted to you: the one by Lamb, the messenger, the other by the way of Vienna, for it would not be impossible,

I believe, to prove that, if by complying with their desires we could put the dispatch of business here upon another foot, which we should then have a right to insist on and even make it an article of the convention. One hundred thousand pounds per annum, was it even for twenty years, would be money the best employed (as the affairs of Europe are now circumstanced) of any England has given since the peace of Utrecht.

I had the honour to write to your grace on Thursday last the 30-th of May by an austrian courier, which general Bretlack dispatched to Vienna. R. 24-th June. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 165.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 18-th June 1751.

Sir. The duke of Bedford having resigned the seals as one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, the King was pleased this day to appoint the earl of Holderness to succeed him.

I am to transmit to you a copy of the order, issued from the lord chamberlain's office, relating to the change of the mourning for his late royal highness the prince of Wales, to which you will conform yourself.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging your several letters, the last of which is dated the 18-th past, and of assuring you of the truth and regard with which I am etc. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 166.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 8-th June o. s. (19-th June) 1751.

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 14-th of last month in relation to the transport of the eight thousand men from Sweden into Finland, which had been resolved upon in the late king of Sweden's time. And the consequences you seemed to apprehend might, possibly, follow it; but your grace will have seen, by my late letters, that this court has not taken the least umbrage at this step, and in truth they have no reason to do it, for they have such a superior force there, notwithstanding this reinforcement of eight thousand men, that they need be under no fear of being attacked; and as this

court is resolved not to be the aggressor, I may venture to assure your grace that the peace and tranquillity of these parts are in no danger of being broke, at least on the side of the Empress of Russia; and I believe your grace will be thoroughly persuaded of it, when I tell you that, did it appear even that the present king's declaration on his accession to the crown was not to be depended upon, this court would not seem to show any mistrust of it being too well pleased, as the great chancellor told one of my friends here in confidence, to have this fair and plausible pretence of letting all disputes between the two courts drop and to come off with honor from this affair, which, they are sensible, they took a little too high in the beginning.

The hint your grace is pleased to fling out to me, by order of His Majesty, is true, and both in the present king of Sweden's notification of his accession and in his discourse with m-r Panin he has expressed, in the strongest manner, his gratitude to the Empress for the share she had in it, saying, this event brought fresh to his memory the very great obligations he had to her and begging she would continue to him her favour and protection.

As to the independent credit which your grace is informed general Lieven has gained with the king of Sweden, I could rather wish it was with the queen, for if she has not lost the ascendancy, she had over him, prussian counsels will still prevail; and her superior interest, always, baffle any attempts that may be made to bring the king to another way of thinking; however, as soon as general Bretlack, who is now confined to his house with a sore throat, is recovered, I propose having a conference with him and the great chancellor upon the affairs of Sweden and trying if any scheme can be formed for supporting the interest of general Lieven and the other well intentioned Swedes, so as to detach that court from France and Prussia and without throwing away any money; which we should, certainly, do, if we gave any, before the ruling party had lost their superiority in the diet; and as nothing could more contribute to it, than senator Akerhielm's obtaining the marshal's staff, I am, however, humbly of opinion (as I have already wrote your grace) that the two courts might run the hazard of losing fifteen hundred or two thousand pounds to enable the abovementioned gentleman to make a push for that post. R. 1-st July. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 167.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 25-th June 1751.

All in cypher. Sir. I have received since my last of the 31-st of May your several letters of the 11-th, 18-th, 25-th and 28-th past and the 1-st instant and have laid them all before the King.

His Majesty was extremely pleased with *the note* inclosed in your letter of the 28-th of last month, as you may acquaint the chancellor Bestuchef. The satisfaction the Empress of Russia expresses at the declaration and conduct of the king of Sweden will do honor her and ought to make those ashamed who have endeavour'd to create, in all the courts of Europe, a different notion of Her Imperial Majesty's conduct. And it is no small pleasure to the King to see that the justice His Majesty has done the Czarina in representing the falsity of those imputations, appears now to have been so well founded.

The King was also glad to find that the court of Russia intends to cultivate the friendship of the new king of Sweden. Such a conduct may have the desired effect; at least, it will not fail to alarm and embarrass France and Prussia and, perhaps, make the danish ministers a little more cautious in their measures with those two courts. I shall soon send you an answer in writing to the papers given you by count Bestuchef. I cannot say, it will come up to his expectations, but I hope, it will rather do good than hurt, as it must convince the Empress of Russia of His Majesty's regard and friendship for her and desire to cultivate and improve the strictest union and good correspondence with Her Imperial Majesty. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 168.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 15-th June o. s. (26-th June) 1751.

My lord. Being informed by a letter from sir Charles Hanbury Williams that count Keyserling, the russian minister at Dresden, continues to act the same shuffling part in the execution of the orders he has lately received from hence in relation to the electoral vote of Saxony for the archduke Joseph and etc., as he has done on former occasions, I waited on general Bretlack, a few days ago, to consult with him, what steps were

proper to be taken with this court in order to make that minister either alter his conduct, or have another minister sent in his room, on whose diligence and good intentions the allies of the Empress of Russia might depend. General Bretlack told me, he had the same accounts by the copies of count Starhemberg's letters, which had been transmitted to him from Vienna, and that, as we had agreed to have, jointly, a conference with the great chancellor upon the affairs of Sweden, as soon as he (general Bretlack) should be able to go abroad, we must, also, take that opportunity to talk to him about count Keyserling and the affairs of Saxony, and on this occasion general Bretlack confirmed to me the conjectures I ventured to throw out in my most secret letter, by Lamb, concerning the difficulties which count Keyserling's recall would meet with by the too great confidence the great chancellor had put in him. For, I find, the great chancellor would be glad, count Keyserling would ask his recall himself; and to bring this about, he has thought on an expedient which, he hopes, will have the desired effect. This expedient is to get somebody to insinuate to him that the Empress of Russia intends, soon, to make an alteration amongst her foreign ministers and, in particular, with respect to him and send him, perhaps, to Sweden, which the great chancellor seems to think count Keyserling would never agree to, but immediately ask his recall, rather than leave Saxony, where he is in such great favour and settled, since the exchange he has made with m-r Brühl of the lands he had in Courlaud with some m-r Brühl had in Lusatia. R. 9-th July. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 169.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 22-d June o. s. (3-d July) 1751.

My lord. The great chancellor having been most part of this week at Petershoff, general Bretlack and I have not yet had the conference we proposed to have with him upon the affairs of Sweden and Saxony; but it is settled that we shall go one day next week and spend the evening with him at his garden, where we shall have an opportunity to talk to him at leisure.

By my letters from sir Charles Hanbury Williams I find the insinuations made to m-r Brühl concerning count Keyserling's removal from the court of Dresden begin to work; for notwithstanding the saxon privy

councilors are very much against his polish majesty's acceding to the treaty of 1746, yet m-r Keyserling, in order to put them here in a better humour with him, has so exerted himself, as to get the necessary orders and instructions, signed for the saxon minister at this court, to begin that negotiation; this will not, however, prevent count Keyserling's being recalled, for the whole chancery, here, in general are convinced of the necessity of removing him and sending another minister to that court. I am, just now, informed, the great chancellor is come back from Petershoff, where, after three days stay, he could not get to speak to the Empress, his mistress, nor has she, yet, been prevailed upon to sign the new credentials of m-r Panin, her minister at Stockholm, which have lain upon her table above two months. R. 16-th July. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 170.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 5-th July 1751.

Secret. Sir. I am now to answer your secret letter by Lamb, the messenger, inclosing a paper entitled «*Pensées vagues*», which was put into your hands by m-r Swart, at the request of the chancellor Bestuchef; and also your letter of the 23-d of April, inclosing another paper, called «*Réflexions sur les moyens de prévenir les mauvaises suites, etc.*».

His Majesty having ordered those two papers to be thoroughly considered and being desirous that such an answer should be returned to them, as might convince the court of Russia of His Majesty's affection and regard for the Empress and firm resolution to cultivate the most perfect union and concert with her, and that, though the King from the great load of national debt lately incurred for the service of the common cause, was not in a condition to furnish the subsidy now proposed, His Majesty, however, did entirely agree with the court of Petersburg in the necessity of taking proper preventive measures for the security of the respective interests of the allies and the preservation of the public peace, and that the king's conduct, ever since the conclusion of the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, has been founded upon that principle and directed with that view, for which His Majesty laid the best foundation by carrying on the negotiations for the general peace in concert with his allies and establishing by that means the most perfect harmony and union amongst them. The inclosed answer having been prepared with this intent, I am commanded

by the King to transmit it to you by this messenger. And after you have made yourself perfectly master of the principles upon which it is formed and the view in forming it, you will carry it and read it to the chancellor Bestuchef; and if he presses you to leave a copy of it with him, you will do it upon his promise that he will only show it to the Empress, and particularly not suffer the vice-chancellor, or any person he cannot depend upon to have a sight of it. The answer does so fully explain His Majesty's views and the system, the King intends to follow, that it is unnecessary for me to say anything further upon it, except that His Majesty's sentiments both with regard to the Empress of Russia and the necessity of supporting the present system are so clearly laid down in it, that it must give great satisfaction to the court of Russia.

You will see what is said in the answer relating to Saxony. Count Flemming is expected here in a few days, but the delays he has made in his journey do not show great eagerness in his court to enter into our measures; and the answer returned in form to m-r Keyserling about the accession will not, I suppose, be entirely satisfactory to the Czarina.

However, the Empress must exert her whole weight or, probably, the king of Poland may be gained by France and consequently be obliged to act a dependent part upon Prussia, which, surely, the chancellor Bestuchef will prevent; as he certainly may, if he has a russian minister at Dresden, who will act, as he ought to do; which is very far from being the case of m-r Keyserling, according to sir Charles Hanbury William's reports of his behaviour. I have nothing to add to what I have formerly wrote upon the affairs of Sweden, His Majesty being extremely well pleased with the contents of the note given you and transmitted in your letter of the 30-th of May and with the conduct there laid down by the court of Russia. By Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

Projet de réponse.

On a sérieusement examiné les deux papiers donnés par m-r le chancelier Bestouchef aux mois de Février et d'Avril passés, savoir, celui nommé « *Pensées vagues* » et l'autre « *Réflexions sur les moyens de prévenir les mauvaises suites etc.* », et on ne saurait trop se louer des sentiments généreux, des soins et des attentions que la cour de Russie y fait paraître pour la conservation des libertés de l'Europe et pour le soutien de la cause commune, sentiments dont le prix est d'autant plus relevé qu'ils se trouvent dans une puissance si capable d'effectuer ses bonnes intentions pour

le bien public. La conduite de l'Impératrice de Russie, depuis son avènement au trône de ses illustres ancêtres, a été trop éclatante et trop décidée, pour que l'on puisse douter un moment de ses dispositions magnanimes pour tout ce qui regarde les intérêts de ses alliés; le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne est très sensible à l'amitié qu'elle lui témoigne, en particulier comme roi et comme électeur, et Sa Majesté Impériale peut s'assurer que le Roi recherchera toutes les occasions de lui en marquer sa reconnaissance et un empressement réciproque pour ses intérêts.

On tombe d'accord avec la Russie que les alliés, c'est-à-dire les puissances maritimes et les deux impératrices, ne sauraient donner une attention trop sérieuse aux conjonctures, ni prendre trop de précautions pour la conservation de la paix et pour faire en sorte qu'elle ne dépende pas uniquement de la volonté de ceux qui pourraient bien viser à la rompre, dès qu'ayant lié leur partie ils croiront pouvoir le faire impunément et avec succès.

C'était dans cette vue que non seulement le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne tâcha de donner aux négociations d'Aix la Chapelle pour la paix générale un tel tour, que l'amitié et l'alliance entre les puissances intéressées à la manutention du bon système n'en souffrissent aucune atteinte, mais aussi qu'incessamment après la conclusion de la paix Sa Majesté songeât aux moyens les plus propres pour lier une partie composée de telles puissances tant dans l'empire, qu'ailleurs qui fussent en état de résister aux forces qu'on pourrait mener contre elles et d'obvier ainsi aux inconvénients, qui (comme il est fort bien dit dans les «*Pensées vagues*») ne se firent que trop malheureusement sentir au commencement de la dernière guerre, lorsque les amis de la liberté publique se trouvèrent et dépourvus et désunis, sans appréhensions du mal qui survint et sans concert de système ni de mesures pour y résister. Il faut espérer que ce cas n'existera plus. Et c'est pour n'y pas retomber que le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne a entamé, conjointement avec l'impératrice-reine de Hongrie et de Bohême et les Etats Généraux, des négociations onéreuses même pour gagner les princes les plus considérables de l'empire, afin d'acheminer par là l'élection immédiate de l'archiduc Joseph à la dignité de roi des Romains, par où la grande et unique occasion de la guerre passée, savoir la vacance du trône impérial, aurait pu être entièrement barrée. C'est dans la même intention aussi que le Roi lui-même a accédé au traité défensif de 1746, conclu entre les deux impératrices, dans lequel Sa Majesté s'est flattée que les Etats Généraux et le roi de Pologne, électeur de Saxe, seraient entrés incessamment. Leur exemple aurait probablement été suivi

par d'autres princes considérables, et il s'en serait établi une union et un concert qui non seulement aurait assuré la paix du nord et aurait empêché les attentats de l'ambition pour la troubler de ce côté-là, mais par une puissante diversion à appréhender, en vertu du traité de 1746, aurait pu en imposer à ceux qui se croiraient assez forts pour hasarder une rupture en Allemagne, dans les Pays-Bas et même en Italie. Le Roi a eu, en même temps, la satisfaction de voir que la cour d'Espagne même s'intéressait au succès de ces mesures et que, bien loin de vouloir se joindre aux autres en troublant la paix, elle était plutôt disposée à prêter la main à tout ce qui pourrait la conserver. Les sentiments et la conduite du roi de Sardaigne sont trop bien connus pour que l'on puisse douter, quelle part il prendrait et comment il envisagerait ces mesures de prudence. Il est vrai que, par des accidents imprévus et par la défection inattendue de quelques puissances, l'affaire de l'élection d'un roi des Romains a été suspendue plus longtemps, que l'on ne se serait imaginé. Mais, quoiqu'il en soit, le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne pense qu'il ne faut aucunement la laisser tomber, puisque, par là, nous donnerions des grands avantages aux princes mal intentionnés pour cette mesure, nos véritables amis seraient découragés et cette pomme de discorde demeurerait toujours un sujet d'intrigues dans l'empire et pourrait en troubler la tranquillité lors d'une vacance du trône impérial.

Si le roi de Pologne veut entrer à cet égard dans les vues de l'impératrice-reine et des puissances maritimes et accéder au traité de 1746, nous atteindrons, probablement, à la fin ces deux grands buts, savoir: l'élection d'un roi des Romains et la formation d'une puissante partie entre les puissances maritimes et les deux impératrices; car l'accession de la république au traité de 1746 n'est que suspendue seulement, et elle sera une suite certaine de l'élection. La cour de Russie devrait donc employer tout son crédit et toute son influence à la cour de Dresde pour déterminer le roi de Pologne à donner sa voix et à accéder au dit traité, pendant que Sa Majesté Britannique avancera, de son côté, l'alliance avec la Saxe par tous les moyens qui paraîtront raisonnables, praticables et nécessaires.

Les sentiments et les principes de la cour de Russie sur la situation actuelle des affaires de l'Europe et sur la nécessité indispensable où sont les alliés de prendre, à temps, les mesures convenables pour se garantir à l'avenir contre tout attentat qui pourrait préjudicier, ou à leurs propres intérêts, ou à ceux de la cause commune, ayant été reconnus et adoptés ici, comme on a vu ci-dessus, il reste seulement à remarquer sur les moyens qui sont indiqués pour cet effet dans les papiers susdits.

On n'ignore point en Russie les grands efforts qu'a faits l'Angleterre pendant la dernière guerre pour le soutien de la maison d'Autriche et de l'équilibre de l'Europe, efforts qui, en même temps qu'ils ont assuré, le mieux que les circonstances le permettaient, les intérêts respectifs des alliés, l'union et le concert entre eux et le véritable système de l'Europe par la paix d'Aix la Chapelle, n'ont pas laissé, cependant, d'accabler la Grande-Bretagne d'une augmentation de trente millions sterling de dette; laquelle ayant été contractée uniquement pour le soutien des intérêts de ses alliés, les dits alliés devraient, par justice et par reconnaissance, la ménager d'autant plus soigneusement à l'avenir, afin qu'elle puisse se soulager et se décharger d'une partie de ces dettes pendant la paix et se trouver par là mieux en état de reparaitre sur le théâtre de l'Europe, si malheureusement l'ambition des autres princes faisait rallumer la guerre.

On ne saurait disconvenir de l'utilité de pouvoir tenir sur les frontières de la Russie un corps de quarante mille hommes, comme aussi un autre corps de vingt mille à faire transporter par mer, où le besoin se trouvera. Ce serait, peut-être, trop que de s'attendre que le fardeau d'une telle mesure demeurât tout entier à la Russie; mais un subside proportionné aux frais nécessaires en telle occasion n'est pas du ressort de l'Angleterre dans les circonstances présentes, et particulièrement pendant que les affaires de l'empire demandent quelques attentions qui ne seraient peut-être pas au-dessus de ses forces. En quoi tant la Russie que tous les alliés et toutes les puissances bien intentionnées trouveront leur compte.

Après cet exposé des sentiments et de la situation véritables de la cour de Londres, l'équité et la magnanimité de l'Impératrice de Russie ne permettent pas de douter qu'elle ne reconnaisse l'impuissance totale où est l'Angleterre de fournir, dès à présent, un subside aussi onéreux que celui dont il est question; et qu'on ne considère qu'il est de l'intérêt commun des alliés de se ménager réciproquement, de prendre des mesures qui sont les plus combinables avec les forces d'un chacun et d'employer ce qu'on a de la façon la plus convenable au soutien et à la sûreté du grand objet; et, dans ce cas-là, on ne doute point que la Russie ne dispose tellement ses troupes et son armée nombreuse et puissante qu'elle pourra tenir en bride ceux qui auraient des vues et des objets contraires à la paix et au système des alliés, se reposant toujours sur la fermeté et sur l'amitié du Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, qui ne manquera pas de paraître pour les intérêts communs en toute occasion qui s'offrira, et même de contribuer avec la république des Provinces Unies aux dépenses nécessaires qu'on pourra faire pour le service du public, aussitôt que l'état de ses finances

et le soulagement, qu'un peu de temps pourra y apporter, le permettront.

Au reste, on ne saurait douter ni de l'affection du Roi pour Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies, ni de son zèle pour l'avancement de la cause commune, dont il a donné, et même dernièrement, des preuves si éclatantes. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 171.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 5-th July 1751.

Very secret. Sir. The King has commanded me to acquaint you that His Majesty approves so much your proposal about m-r Akerhielm, that the king is pleased to authorise you to acquaint the chancellor Bestuchef, that His Majesty is willing to give a sum, not exceeding one thousand pounds sterling, to m-r Akerhielm to promote his election to be marshal of the diet, provided the Empress of Russia will advance the same sum, on her part, for that purpose and not otherwise. And His Majesty would have you immediately acquaint m-r Akerhielm with it and settle with the chancellor Bestuchef the time and manner of transmitting the money to Sweden. M-r Akerhielm will see the great confidence the King has in him in not only advancing so considerable a sum for his service, but also in leaving the disposal of it to himself.

I send you in confidence an extract of m-r Porter's last letter (23-d May), by which you will see that our affairs at the Porte are not in so good a way, as they have been and that the french and swedish ministers seem to be gaining ground there. M-r Porter attributes it, in a great measure, to the want of a proper minister there from Russia, who may act in the most perfect concert with him and the minister of the empress-queen. You will therefore press the sending one away immediately; and you will endeavour to get one who is perfectly well intentioned, and not any person, who is sent out of the way because the chancellor Bestuchef may be apprehensive of him, if he stays at home; for an ill disposed man may do much more hurt in Turkey, than he can in Russia. You will particularly take care that he be instructed to act in the utmost confidence with m-r Porter and the austrian minister. The Empress of Russia has been so well satisfied with m-r Porter, that she can have no difficulty in ordering her minister to act in perfect concert with him, but

the great point is that the sending the russian minister should be no longer delayed. If in the many voluminous dispatches, which I have received from you, I may have omitted to send you the King's orders upon any particular point, I will endeavour to supply it in my subsequent letters by the post. I would not, however, any longer delay transmitting to you His Majesty's orders contained in this and any other letter; and I have the satisfaction to assure you that the King is very well pleased with your conduct in the execution of His Majesty's orders. By Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 172.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 2-d July o. s. (13-th July) 1751.

My lord. The Empress and her ministers are so intent on taking all the pleasures which the present fine season will admit of, that there is no fixing them to any business. On Thursday last the Empress came, to town in order to keep the great duke's name day, which was on Saturday last, but has disappeared again; and the great chancellor is running after her to get m-r Panin, the russian minister at Stockholm's, new credentials signed, as, also, the letter for the king of Sweden, which his brother is to carry to Stockholm in answer to that colonel Posse brought hither. After three appointments and disappointments, the said colonel had an opportunity given him, on Saturday last, to take leave of the Empress, so that he proposes to return home in a few days.

Through the negligence of this court in not paying, after repeated solicitations, the expences of the post, erected through Poland to Vienna, the postmaster of Lithuania has broke it up and taken away all the relays from Mittau to Warsaw, which has put the correspondence between the two courts into a deal of confusion. General Bretlack, in particular, is in great pain about some letters he wrote, two posts ago, and which were not cyphered, thinking they would go the usual way through Poland; but, by this post existing no more, they have been sent from Riga through the king of Prussia's dominions, where, he doubts not, but they will have been visited.

Count Lynar, the danish minister, having had some hopes given him that the Empress would employ her mediation in his negotiation with the great duke, talks no more, at present, of taking his audience of leave.

A few days ago, he gave me to understand, as if I was to expect soon His Majesty's orders to forward the success of the measures he is pursuing here. R. 27-th July. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 173.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 9-th July o. s. (20-th July) 1751.

My lord. Since my last, which was of the 2-d instant, the great chancellor is not come to town, being very assiduous in paying his court at Petershoff and waiting for some favourable moment, when he can persuade the Empress, his mistress, to dispatch the great arrear of business, which lyes upon his hands; amongst other things he wants to bring the Empress to some resolution upon a proposal which he has laid before her of removing count Golowkin, the russian ambassador at the Hague, to England, in the room of count Czernichew and count Bestuchef, the russian ambassador at Vienna, to the Hague, in the room of count Golowkin. The Empress has already in some measure consented that count Czernichew shall be made govenor of Revel in the room of the prince of Holstein, who will be provided with another employment. The first insinuations made to count Keyserling through m-r Brühl to engage him to ask his recall not having had the effect, which was expected from them, a new expedient has been fallen upon here by getting the synod to represent to the Empress that, by reason of the many infringements made upon the liberties and immunities of the greek churches, which are tolerated in Lithuania, it is absolutely necessary that Her Imperial Majesty's ministers in Poland should be of the greek religion and consequently a Russian. Therefore, they desire the Empress would accordingly be pleased to remove count Keyserling to some other court and send a Russian in his room. An account has been sent of this to count Sternberg, the austrian minister at Dresden, by an express that he may make a proper use of it with m-r Brühl, and I have been desired to write to sir Charles Hanbury Williams to cooperate with count Sternberg, in whatever he thinks may contribute the most effectually, towards the success of the great chancellor's scheme of obliging count Keyserling to ask his recall. R. 3-d August. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 174.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 16-th July o. s. (27-th July) 1751.

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 18-th past, acquainting me with his grace the duke of Bedford's having resigned the seals, as one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, and that the King had been pleased to appoint the earl of Holderness to succeed him.

Nothing passes here at present worth writing to your grace. A few days ago baron Posse, who had been sent hither with the notification of the late king of Sweden's death and the present king's accession to the crown, set out on his return to Stockholm. During his stay here all possible civilities were shown to him and upon his taking leave the Empress made him a present of one thousand ducats. Colonel Panin set out also from hence, a few days ago, for Stockholm with the Empress's answer to the king of Sweden's letter by baron Posse and new credentials for his brother, who is Her Imperial Majesty's minister at that court.

The Empress continues to reside at Petershoff and most of her ministers are gone to their country houses.

I have conformed myself to the copy (which your grace was pleased to transmit to me in your abovementioned letter) of the order issued from the lord chamberlain's office relating to the change of the mourning for his late royal highness the prince of Wales. R. 9-th August. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 175.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 20-th July o. s. (31-st July) 1751.

My lord. On Wednesday last, we had the mails of the 25-th and 28-th June from England, by which I received the honour of your grace's letter of the first date, and at the same time came to my hands your grace's letter of the 31-st May, which by the cover I perceive was sent by the way of Vienna.

I was glad to see, by your grace's letter of the 31-st May, that the King had approved of my having suspended the execution of the orders,

I had received by your grace's letter of the 8-th March, relating to the proposal made to France by His Majesty and the empress-queen for securing by reciprocal declarations the peace of the north and the present form of government in Sweden. And it is no less pleasure to me to find, by your grace's letter of the 25-th June, that the note or declaration I transmitted to your grace in my letter of the 28-th May has given His Majesty so much satisfaction. This court not only continues in the resolution of cultivating the friendship of the king of Sweden, but, I believe, I may venture to assure your grace that they will be very cautious, how they enter into any new disputes with that court without having previously taken the advice of His Majesty and their allies.

I shall impatiently expect the answer your grace proposes to send me in return to the papers given me by the great chancellor, as I do not care to be very pressing to see him before I have something to say upon that subject; and though it should not come up to his expectation, it will put him in a good humour, when he finds some attention is given to his hints and insinuations.

I have acquainted m-r Swart, the dutch minister, with what your grace has been pleased to write to me, in your letter of the 31-st May, upon the application that had been made to him by the ministers of the great duke to endeavour to persuade their master to consent to the exchange proposed by count Lynar. M-r Swart, as well as I, were of opinion that some application would have been made by Denmark to the maritime powers to have such orders sent to us, but as that court has not done it, it would certainly be very improper for either him or me to interfere in this affair, and the more so, as I plainly perceive, count Lynar uses a great deal of art and cunning in his negotiation and that his court is not at all disposed, as yet, to change their system, though they would be glad to bring their views here to bear by the interposition of His Majesty and his allies. General Bretlack and I take all occasions to suggest to the great chancellor that the two following articles should be the basis of this negotiation; first, that Denmark should make a common cause with this court in case of any attempt to change the present form of government in Sweden, and secondly, that, after the expiration of the treaty of subsidy with France, Denmark should accede to the treaty of 1746 and (as it is their true and natural interest) join, heartily, and sincerely, in the closest union of councils and measures with the two empresses and the maritime powers. R. 12-th August. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 176.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 2-d August 1751.

All in the new cypher. Sir. I have received, since my last, your letter of the 2-d of July and laid it before the King.

His Majesty has commanded me to send you an extract of a letter, I have received from m-r Titley dated the 31-st of last month n. s. «The court of Berlin has long ago proposed a defensive alliance to this court which they have hitherto been unwilling to hearken to. But, now, since the failure of the negotiation with the grand duke of Russia, they find it necessary to consider the proposal with more attention, being obliged to take the best measures they can against the designs which that prince may have to execute, when he comes to the throne. On this occasion they shall be forced, even to deviate from their professed principle of not loading themselves with new guaranties. These matters are really in agitation; but nothing is concluded or resolved upon as yet. The grand marshal told me particularly that France had no hand at all in this negotiation with Prussia, which is scarcely credible, since m-r Le Maire seems now very busy whilst baron Voss does nothing but attend upon him».

«With regard to their affairs at Petersburg, they seem dissatisfied only with the grand duke and speak on a very friendly manner of the Russian ministers. They talk, likewise, in the most grateful terms of the good offices used in their favour by the imperial minister and, lately, by the dutch, but say nothing of colonel Guy Dickens. However, that they might not think us less obliging, than others, I took due care to let them know that my court, supposing the negotiation would come, at last, into the hands of baron Korff, had, previously, ordered me to assist that minister and to employ His Majesty's good offices in promoting an agreement to mutual satisfaction. Count Lynar is not to take leave till the other arrives. In the meantime, he has found means to renew his negotiation, so as not to be without hopes of bringing it, at last, to an happy issue. If this should take place, they will be no longer here under the necessity of flying into the arms of Prussia; which, it is hard to think, they can ever seriously intend, notwithstanding their threatening insinuations to that purpose».

You will see the ill effect that the miscarriage of count Lynar's negotiation is like to have at the court of Denmark; no less, than engaging them in an alliance with Prussia, which his danish majesty and most of

his ministers have hitherto been very much averse to. I find, by this letter, that count Lynar has renewed his negotiation and is not without hopes of success. You see, the danish ministers reproach us for not having assisted them; which, they say, the austrian minister has, always, done, and lately m-r Swart. It is true you were at first directed not to promote the success of it; but, afterwards, His Majesty was pleased to order you to assist m-r Lynar, if the chancellor Bestuchef thought the success of that negotiation might be a means of detaching the king of Denmark from his new friends and allies.

It now appears very plainly that France and Prussia will take great advantage from m-r Lynar's miscarriage. Count Lynar is certainly looked upon, as no friend to those two powers. You will therefore acquaint him that you have orders to assist him; and concert with general Bretlack, in what manner you may be best able to do it and act jointly with him and m-r Swart in it. You may let count Lynar know that you have certain intelligence that the court of France is his enemy and that they are doing everything they can to hinder his coming into the danish ministry. It may not be amiss that you should communicate the substance of this letter to chancellor Bestuchef, who will see His Majesty's view in the orders now sent you.

Count Flemming has been here about ten days. I have had several conferences with him; and I do not despair, but that I shall soon be able to send you a good account of our negotiation. The Empress of Russia will see how desirous His Majesty is to promote the common interest by every measure that depends upon him. I hope soon to hear of the recall of m-r Keyserling. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 177.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 23-d July o. s. (3-d August) 1751.

My lord. Yesterday morning, at two o'clock, arrived here Lamb, the messenger, by whom I received the honour of your grace's dispatches of the 5-th instant, and I shall lose no time in executing the orders contained in them. The great chancellor was to have gone, yesterday, to his country house and, as I have one within an english mile of it, I propose going thither to-morrow, where I hope to have frequent opportunities of seeing him and discoursing with him fully upon all the points of business,

which I have in command from His Majesty. R. 16-th August. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 178.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 30-th July o. s. (10-th August) 1751.

My lord. In my letter of the 23-d instant I informed your grace of the arrival of Lamb, the messenger, with your dispatches of the 5-th instant. The next day, I wrote to the great chancellor, desiring, he would appoint me a day, when I could execute the orders I had received. Upon which he desired me to come and spend the day with him on Sunday last at his country house, which I accordingly did and discoursed him very fully upon all the points of business I had in command. But I must defer untill next post giving your grace an account of what passed between us, as I am going to the great chancellor's again, this day, where general Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, is also invited in order to hold a conference upon the contents of your grace's abovementioned letters. R. 23-d August. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 179.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 3-d August o. s. (14-th August) 1751.

My lord. Your grace will have seen, by my letter by the last post, that I had spent the Sunday before with the great chancellor in the country and that I was just going to do the same, again, and that general Bretlack was also to be there.

I shall now do myself the honour to acquaint your grace that, in my first conference with the great chancellor, I read to him, as I was ordered, the paper inclosed in your grace's secret letter, by Lamb, of the 5-th of July, being the answer to the two papers of reasonings and reflections, which I had transmitted to your grace: the one in March, by Lamb, the messenger, and the other my letter of the 23-d of April, by the way of Vienna.

The great chancellor, not contented to make me read it very slowly and distinctly, got me to explain to him in german such parts of it as

his imperfect knowledge of the french did not let him clearly understand. After I had done he expressed his entire satisfaction with the affection and regard which His Majesty had shown through the whole paper for the Empress, his mistress. He was beginning to point out some places to me, where he thought our court had not rightly understood him in the last paper I transmitted to your grace, particularly where he mentions the maritime powers taking a body of sixty thousand men into their pay; that it was not his meaning that any subsidy should be paid for those troops, untill the case existed, when they were to march; but, cutting short, he said he would make a reply to the paper I was reading to him and hoped he should explain his thoughts in a clearer manner. In the meantime he would have me be persuaded that he was preaching a scheme of oeconomie to us: that France was not idle and yet less sparing of her money to make friends; for that she had, lately (and the court of Dresden could vouch it) not only insinuated a desire of sending a minister hither, if this court would send one to France, but that she was disposed to give this court a subsidy of four hundred thousand ducats per annum, if they would only engage themselves not to furnish their allies any greater succours, than what they are now obliged to do by treaty; and that he, the chancellor, was offered forty thousand ducats for his good offices.

Before we had done with this subject, the chancellor desired I would let him have a copy of the paper I had been reading to him; which I agreed to and delivered to him on Tuesday last upon his promising, as I told him it was my orders, that he would show it only to the Empress and not suffer the vice-chancellor or any persons he could not depend upon to have a sight of it.

The next thing I went upon was the subject of your grace's very secret letter of the 5-th of June, by Lamb.

I began by m-r Akerhielm desiring to know if he had any accounts from m-r Panin of that gentleman's pursuing, at the ensuing diet, the design he had formed, at the conclusion of the last, of setting up for the marshal of the diet's place, acquainting the chancellor at the same time that in that case His Majesty was willing to give a sum not exceeding one thousand pounds to m-r Akerhielm to promote his election, provided the Empress of Russia will advance the same sum, on her part, for that purpose. The great chancellor told me that nothing could to be sure contribute more towards giving another turn to affairs in Sweden, than m-r Akerhielm's being marshal of the diet, but that m-r Panin did not men-

tion one word, in any of his late letters, of such a design existing any more; on the contrary, that he wrote general Lieven was the person, who, every body thought, had the fairest chance for that post. On which occasion, I asked the great chancellor's opinion of that gentleman and acquainted him with the advice your grace had received concerning his not being pleased with some of the leading senators, and the independent interest he was supposed to have with the king. The chancellor said, m-r Panin's letters spoke neither good, nor bad of him, but that they always thought him here a very warm partisan of France. At least, I know, he was so, whilst I was in Sweden and trusted with all the schemes that could advance the interest of that party. It was he who commanded the detachment of guards which beset my house, when Springer had taken refuge there.

To return to m-r Akerhielm the great chancellor said that the Empress, his mistress, would very readily advance one thousand pounds, on her part, to promote m-r Akerhielm's election; but that, neither His Majesty, nor the Empress might throw away their money, he would send orders, the very next day, to m-r Panin by estafette to sound the disposition of m-r Akerhielm and let him, the chancellor, know, as soon as possible, what hopes there were of success, supposing m-r Akerhielm resumed the design of being a candidate for the marshal's staff. These orders are actually gone, as the great chancellor told me, on Tuesday last, but I could not write to m-r Akerhielm by that opportunity, as I am ordered, for an estafette is only an extraordinary post and the letters sent that way, as unsafe as by the ordinary post except they be wrote in cypher. I told the chancellor, on this occasion, that the diet according to all advices, being to meet a fortnight sooner, than was expected, whatever attempts were made in favour of m-r Akerhielm, would, I feared, come too late. The chancellor was of the same opinion and said, it would however convince m-r Akerhielm of His Majesty's and the Empress's good intentions and good will towards him.

This point of business being settled, I discoursed the chancellor next upon the affairs of Turkey and communicated to him the extract your grace had sent me of m-r Porter's last letter. I represented to him the necessity of sending, immediately, a new minister to Constantinople, since it appeared that the want of one was the occasion of our affairs there not being in so good a way, as they have been. I, likewise, told him how careful he ought to be to let the choice fall upon one who is perfectly well intentioned, as an ill disposed man (as the late m-r Nepluief

was) might do more hurt in Turkey, than here. The great chancellor agreed to all this and desired, I would give him a short pro memoria of what I had said to him in writing, which I did not scruple doing, and I know he has, since, sent it to the Empress with his own remarks upon it. There is actually at Constantinople a major on the part of this court, who was sent from the frontier; but he has no character and is only to be there per interim and till a minister comes. Your grace will hardly believe me, when I tell you that the only reason of this delay in sending a new minister to Constantinople is the small debt of about twelve thousand pounds, which this court owes there for a rich silver *Kass* and other things, taken up by their orders for presents to some of the chief ministers of the Porte.

What is above is an account of what passed in my first conference with the great chancellor. In the second (at which general Bretlack assisted) the affairs of Saxony and Denmark were the chief subject of our discourse.

I took notice to the great chancellor of what is said in the paper, of which I left with him a copy relating to Saxony and the endeavours, which this court should use to bring the king of Poland to an immediate resolution of giving his electoral vote to the archduke Joseph and of acceding to the treaty of 1746. Count Keyserling's conduct was likewise animadverted upon in the manner it deserves. To which the chancellor answered that I might assure your grace that the affair of the accession was, now, a thing certain; and that the court of Dresden could not go back from the strong assurances they had lately given here of their intention to bring it to an immediate conclusion. But what may occasion still a little longer delay is that neither here, nor at Dresden, they care general Arnheim should have any hand in this negotiation, who, for that reason, has actually received his letters of revocation, and m-r Funk, the resident, new credentials, as envoy extraordinary, and will soon after m-r Arnheim's departure have full powers sent him to put a finishing hand to this work. That, as to the electoral vote, it would, of course, follow the accession, especially, as according to the accounts they have here. The difference between the demands of the court of Dresden and the offers, made by England, was so small, that m-r Flemming's negotiation could hardly miscarry, on that account, and the great chancellor told us that we were to take no umbrage at the arrival of m-r Durand, the french minister at Dresden, who, as the saxon resident had assured him, in the name of m-r Brühl, was not charged with any thing, that he had not,

even, credentials to the king, to whom he had been presented by the Swedish minister. Pains have been taken, as your grace will have heard from sir Charles Hanbury Williams, to oblige m-r Keyserling to ask for his recall; but I do not find they have had any effect, as yet; on the contrary, he seems to grow angry and to threaten.

Count Lynar's negotiation (which as I have already acquainted your grace, the great chancellor favours very much) was, I believe, one of the chief reasons of his desiring general Bretlack and I should meet together at his house in the country. The great chancellor mentioning count Lynar, as it were accidentally, said he had heard, I had received no orders concerning his affairs with the grand duke. I answered him, I had not, nor could it be expected His Majesty would have sent me any without either being applied to by the Empress of Russia or the king of Denmark. He agreed it could not; and wondering no applications had been made, ordered immediately that m-r Lynar should be desired to come to him, the next day, when he told general Bretlack and me, he would desire count Lynar to dispatch immediately a courier, he has waiting here, to his court to let them know, it was his, the great chancellor's, advice that his danish majesty should take immediately that step not only at our court, but at Vienna and the Hague.

General Bretlack repeated, on this occasion, what we had often told the chancellor before, that the more the court of Denmark had the success of this negotiation at heart, the more we should insist on their coming into their true and natural system, which, the chancellor agreed, was right and promised things should not be concluded on any other foot. R. 27-th August. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 180.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 10-th August o. s. (21-st August) 1751.

My lord. On Tuesday I was again with the great chancellor at his country house; but as there was a great deal of company, it being his lady's birthday, I had no opportunity to talk to him about any business however by some loose and general discourse, which dropt. I find they begin to think here that, at the next diet in Sweden, all the declarations made by the present king, at his accession, will be explained away. What foundation they have for these suspicions, I know not, unless it be the

little dependance which is to be had on any promises and assurances, that are given, at that court, as long as the present ruling party has the majority at the diet. On the return of the estafette, which the great chancellor lately dispatched to Stockholm, I shall have matter as I am given to understand to redispach Lamb, the messenger, to your grace. R. 6-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 181.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 27-th August 1751.

All in the new cypher. Sir. I have received your letters of the 20-th, 23-d and 30-th past and have laid them before the King.

I am glad to find that Lamb was arrived and that you had had one conference with the chancellor upon the contents of his dispatches and was, soon, to have another. I hope by the disposition you mention the chancellor Bestuchef to be in that those dispatches will not have been unsatisfactory, though they may not come up at present to what they wish.

The King was glad to find that count Lynar had renewed his negotiation and I hope with a prospect of success. I may in confidence acquaint you that France and Prussia are extremely apprehensive of it; and, therefore, it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should assist count Lynar to the utmost of your power and acquaint him that you have received repeated orders for that purpose. If this point can be carried it may raise count Lynar's credit at his court, which is what His Majesty would be very glad of, as knowing this minister's good intentions and how much France and Prussia are determined to exclude him, if possible.

It would, also, have a good effect with the king of Denmark and might, by degrees, produce some change in the conduct and system of that court, especially, if the ensuing diet in Sweden should take any step that should tend to an alteration of their form of government.

The grand duke of Russia is represented, still, to be extremely averse to this measure; but, if the Empress persists in it and (as is pretended) both the chancellor and vice-chancellor are for it, and it is espoused, as it will now be, by you and the austrian and dutch ministers, it is possible that the grand duke's aversion to it may be got the better of. His strong declarations against it and seeming threats towards Denmark may fling his danish majesty absolutely into the hands of Sweden, France and

Prussia and induce him, at last, to enter into the quadruple alliance, which is so much desired by the courts of Versailles and Berlin.

I have good reason to think that marshal Löwendahl is far from being satisfied with his situation in France or that the French are much disposed towards him. As you have formerly mentioned the want of officers in the russian service capable to be at the head of their armies, it is possible an advantageous offer to m-r de Löwendahl might engage him to return to the russian service, and His Majesty thinks it would be a good acquisition.

Since writing what is above, I have received your letter of the 3-d instant, and though I have not had an opportunity of receiving any orders from the King upon it, I am persuaded His Majesty will be very glad to find that the chancellor Bestuchef received, in so right a manner, the answer I had sent you by the King's order, seemed pleased with it and was determined to make a reply to rectify some mistake he apprehended there was, as to the real meaning of his former paper. I shall be impatient for this reply and wish it may be so reasonable an one, that it may be practicable for us to agree to it. M-r Bestuchef sees by the present answer that His Majesty has the best disposition to enter into the strictest union and friendship with the Empress of Russia and is far from differing in opinion, as to the real interests of the two courts or the powers whom we ought to cultivate, or those with whom we ought to be upon our guard.

I am so glad to find m-r Bestuchef approved the proposal relating to m-r Akerhielm. If it should not have its effect, it would, however, convince that honest minister and all his friends that they are not abandoned by the King and the Czarina.

There are, certainly, great dissensions rising at Stockholm. It is thought count Tessin will lay down.

Good use may be made of these differences between the ill intentioned, and m-r Panin should be directed to endeavour to turn them to the best advantage.

As His Majesty has no minister in Sweden, I should be glad to have constant accounts from you of the reports made by m-r Panin of the situation of things there. You will continue to press the sending a minister to Turkey in whom the chancellor can confide.

I wonder you did not think yourself authorized by many of my letters to assist count Lynar in his negotiation. It appears plainly to be of the greatest importance to promote the success of this negotiation; and,

therefore, you will do your utmost towards it and engage general Bretlack and m-r Swart to do the same.

If the condition proposed by general Bretlack and you (viz-t, that the court of Denmark should adhere to the true and natural system) could be obtained, it would be a great work indeed. But, perhaps, though that should not be brought about at first, it may come in time, when his danish majesty sees, he owes the success of count Lynar's negotiation to the King and his allies.

I have, actually, by the Kings order, sent a project of a treaty, near three weeks ago, to Dresden, whereby His Majesty agrees to the subsidy asked by count Flemming, but insists on the electoral vote and the accession to the treaty of 1746. I apprehend no difficulty, but about the stipulation of troops. The court of Saxony is so unreasonable, as to expect a great subsidy, and not so much as to engage for any number of troops whatever. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 182.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 17-th August o. s. (28-th August) 1751.

My lord. I find I shall redispach Lamb, the messenger, to your grace a great deal sooner, than I expected. General Bretlack, m-r Swart and I dined yesterday with the great chancellor at his country house, where, after dinner, he led us all three into his closet and delivered to us a reply to the answer returned by His Majesty's order to the two papers of reflections, which I transmitted to your grace in March and April last. In this reply a great deal of friendship and regard is shown for His Majesty and a very warm zeal for the support of the common cause; but they insist strongly on their first demand. The great chancellor told me he would be ready with his dispatches for the Hague and London by Tuesday next and that, if I then sent for the necessary passports, they should be delivered to me; so that, as Lamb will leave this place that evening or next day, I shall give your grace no farther trouble by this post. R. 9-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 20-th August o. s. (31-st August) 1751.

Secret. My lord. I am now to redispach Lamb, the messenger, to your grace with an answer to the letters you honoured me with by him of the 5-th July.

The paper inclosed in your grace's secret letter of the abovementioned date, viz-t, the answer to the two papers of reflections which I transmitted to you in March and April last, I not only read to the great chancellor, as your grace will have seen by my letter of the 3-d instant, but, as I had liberty to do, gave him a copy of it upon his assuring me he would not show it to any person he could not depend upon. I also acquainted your grace in my said letter with the short remarks which the great chancellor had made upon the first reading of the abovementioned answer; now I here inclose to your grace his farther thoughts and reflections upon the same paper, which are to serve as a full reply, but as he repeated several times to general Bretlack, m-r Swart and me, this reply did not come from him in his ministerial capacity, but as from a friend who wished to see the liberties of Europe and the respective interests of the Empress, his mistress, and her allys settled upon such a solid foundation, as neither the malice envy or ambition of other powers could shake. To obtain this end your grace will observe that the great chancellor continues in the opinion that the concurrence of the maritime powers in the principles laid down in the paper called «*Réflexions sur les moyens de prévenir les mauvaises suites etc. etc.*» is the only effectual means.

It were indeed to be wished that this court would as they might, if they pleased, act a part more consistent with their power and dignity. All the funds appropriated for the support of their numerous army, their fleet and other colleges answer so fully, that so far from being deficient, there are often at the end of the year considerable savings, so that with a little management the extraordinary expence of keeping on the frontiers the army now there would fall very easy and light upon them; but the misfortune is that the funds for the support of the court (though as I am credibly informed near two millions of roubles per annum) fall every year short, to make up which and to supply the Empreses necessities the savings made in other branches of the revenue are frequently called for, and how to find a remedy to this is beyond the ability of any minister here, unless it be by foreign subsidies.

The chancellor dwells much upon that part of the answer your grace sent me, where the necessity of taking proper preventive measures is acknowledged and wonders that we should plead the load of our national debts, as an excuse for not granting so small a subsidy as that desired for the keeping of the russian troops on the frontiers, when it apparently is the chief, if not the only means of paying off those debts, by securing a lasting peace. They have not been so clear with me as to tell me how much they expected, but I have reason to believe that if the convention was made to last as long as His Majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746, they would be contented with sixty thousand pounds per annum; and as this subsidy need not commence before May next, the necessary dispositions for the support of those troops being already made 'till then, it would only be five years, which in all would make three hundred thousand pounds.

As to Saxony, the chancellor continues to assure me, the affair of the accession will soon be brought to its perfection; I foresee however a little longer delay by a willfull neglect, I am afraid, of the court of Dresden who it seems have not yet returned an answer to the court of Vienna, though they were invited to accede to the treaty of 1746 by the empress-queen, as well as the Empress of Russia. To rectify this, I am therefore desired to send this messenger through Dresden and write to sir Charles Hanbury Williams to desire m-r Brühl that this formality may not only be no longer deferred, but either by the austrian minister at Dresden or by the saxon minister at Vienna the court of Vienna may be forthwith required to send full powers to general Bretlack, the austrian ambassador at this court. This messenger is also the bearer of a rescript from the Empress to count Keyserling, wherein he is ordered to make the court of Dresden sensible of the irregularity of their conduct and great want of attention to the empress-queen on this occasion. R. 17-th September by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

Eclaircissements pour servir de réplique à la réponse aux deux pièces, nommées «Pensées vagues» et l'autre «Réflexions sur les moyens de prévenir les mauvaises suites etc.».

La justice que l'on a rendue en Angleterre à la façon de penser de la cour de Russie sur la situation présente des affaires de l'Europe et sur la nécessité indispensable où se trouvent les alliés de prendre à temps les mesures convenables pour assurer la tranquillité publique contre les attentats de ceux qui voudraient la troubler au préjudice de la cause commune

et de la Grande-Bretagne en particulier ne saurait qu'être fort approuvée de tous les bien intentionnés.

On reconnaît de même de la part de la Russie que, tant pendant le cours de la dernière guerre, que depuis le rétablissement de la paix par le traité d'Aix la Chapelle, Sa Majesté Britannique s'est employée avec zèle et une générosité incomparable pour la conservation de l'équilibre et du repos de l'Europe.

Mais on croit être très fondé d'avancer qu'afin d'obtenir pour l'avenir ces deux buts salutaires, il ne reste à la Grande-Bretagne d'autre moyen que celui qui lui a été indiqué dans les «*Réflexions sur les moyens de prévenir les mauvaises suites etc.*». Ce que l'on va prouver plus au long par les éclaircissements suivants qui feront en même temps connaître que les mesures proposées seront peu onéreuses et en échange infiniment utiles à cette couronne.

Sa Majesté Britannique, depuis la conclusion du traité d'Aix la Chapelle, a pensé parvenir à consolider la paix et à maintenir l'équilibre de l'Europe par l'élection immédiate de l'archiduc Joseph à la dignité de roi des Romains, par ses liaisons avec les princes d'Allemagne et tant par son accession, que par celles qui devaient s'en suivre, au traité défensif de 1746 conclu entre les deux impératrices. Tout l'univers est informé avec quelle ardeur le roi de Prusse, aidé de la France, a jusqu'à présent contrecarré le premier de ces objets et combien on est encore éloigné de voir amener à une fin désirée la dite élection, d'autant plus qu'outre les électeurs de Cologne et Palatin, la France a gagné depuis peu les cours de Wolfenbüttel, Saxe-Gotha, Wurtemberg, Bareuth et Deux-Ponts, au lieu que l'Angleterre n'a actuellement en Allemagne, à l'exception de l'électeur de Bavière, presque aucun prince attaché à ses intérêts.

Il est vrai qu'en conséquence des soins que Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies s'est donnés, il y a toute apparence que la Saxe ne tardera pas d'accéder au traité de 1746 et qu'elle entrera même incessamment avec Sa Majesté Britannique en des engagements plus particuliers; mais on laisse à décider à ce monarque éclairé si un accroissement de force, si peu considérable, est suffisant pour contrebalancer les forces réunies de la France et de la Prusse avec les susdits princes de l'empire. Il est indubitable que Sa Majesté en reconnaîtra l'insuffisance.

De l'autre côté, d'où les puissances maritimes pourront-elles dorénavant tirer les forces nécessaires pour les opposer à ceux qui voudraient rompre la paix, si ce n'est de la Russie? Puisque tous les princes allemands de quelque considération ont pris des engagements avec la France et que

L'on a déjà fait voir dans les « *Réflexions sur les moyens de prévenir etc.* » que les autres alliés de la Grande-Bretagne ne manqueraient pas, en cas de rupture, d'être occupés chez eux.

Le cas du commencement de la dernière guerre, que l'on espère qui n'existera plus, ne pourrait donc qu'exister trop tôt, si l'on ne se sert du seul moyen qui reste pour réprimer l'ambition des princes inquiets qui ayant un fort parti de lié s'imagineraient être assez puissants pour rompre impunément la paix, quand bon il leur semblerait.

Les anciennes mauvaises intentions de la France et de la Prusse ne se sont-elles pas manifestées depuis quelques mois plus que jamais par leurs menées communes en Allemagne, par les subsides dont la première de ces couronnes distribue actuellement un plus grand nombre aux princes de l'empire, qu'elle n'a fait au milieu de la dernière guerre, par les gros emprunts que, depuis la mort du prince de Galles, la même couronne a faits et par ses autres préparatifs par terre et surtout par mer qu'elle continue sans relâche.

Ainsi n'est-il pas indispensablement nécessaire que dès à présent et sans différer jusqu'à l'extrémité où l'on s'est trouvé lors du commencement de la dernière guerre, les puissances maritimes songent à s'assurer par des subsides d'un corps de troupes russes assez considérable pour qu'il soit en état d'arrêter les mauvais desseins de ceux qui voudraient troubler de nouveau la tranquillité publique, afin de renverser peut-être pendant la minorité, si malheureusement il en arrivait une en Angleterre, l'équilibre de l'Europe?

Quoi qu'on ne disconvienne pas que vu les efforts qu'a faits la Grande-Bretagne pendant la dernière guerre les dettes nationales n'y aient augmenté et qu'il ne lui faille du repos pour se refaire; cependant on peut hardiment avancer que l'unique moyen de conserver ce repos, c'est que cette couronne pense très sérieusement à se fortifier tellement au dehors qu'aucun de ses envieux n'ose remuer; car alors, et seulement alors, elle peut se flatter d'avoir tout le loisir de payer ses dettes, sans qu'elle doive appréhender qu'elles augmentent par le peu de subsides qu'elle fournirait pour se procurer un aussi grand bien que l'est une paix durable.

Si, au contraire, par un esprit d'épargne mal entendu, on néglige à prendre à temps des arrangements si sages, on jouira peut-être encore une année de la paix et on sauvera par là, à la vérité, cette année quelques centaines de milliers de livres sterling, mais l'année d'après la guerre venant à éclore, puisqu'on ne l'aurait pas prévenue en se mettant d'avance avec peu de frais dans un état de force respectable, on dépensera des mil-

lions sans que l'on puisse prévoir comment, malgré toutes ces dépenses, on s'en tirera. A cette occasion il est bon de se souvenir que si les puissances maritimes n'avaient pas différé l'année 1746, après l'heureuse campagne en Italie, la conclusion du traité des subsides pour la marche de 30 m. Russes, elles seraient sorties sans doute deux années plutôt de l'embarras de la dernière guerre et avec infiniment moins de perte et de dépenses en conservant Berg-op-Zoom et toute la Flandre hollandaise, de même que plusieurs millions de livres sterling.

Il est donc également de la prudence et de l'intérêt des puissances maritimes de ne pas tarder d'offrir à la Russie des subsides pour un corps de troupes qu'elle entretiendrait sur les frontières de la Livonie, prêt à voler à leur secours et capable d'imposer aux perturbateurs du repos de l'Europe. Si le nombre de 60 m. hommes, dont on a cru que ce corps devrait être composé, paraît trop fort, on n'a qu'à convenir de 30 m. hommes ou de tel nombre que les puissances maritimes jugeront suffisant avec la clause, qu'en cas que ceux-ci fussent obligés de se mettre en marche (comme ils s'y tiendraient toujours prêts au premier ordre, si ce qui regarde leur marche actuelle aura été d'abord réglé suivant qu'il a été proposé), de les remplacer d'un pareil nombre aux mêmes conditions. Si l'on ne juge pas à propos d'étendre le terme de la convention jusqu'à la fin de la minorité qui pourrait survenir en Angleterre, on n'a qu'à stipuler pour trois, quatre à cinq ans, selon qu'on le croira nécessaire.

Et comme la république des Provinces Unies et l'électorat de Hanovre n'ont pas moins à craindre des vues ambitieuses de leurs voisins qu'ils ne sont que trop à portée d'entreprendre contre eux, au moins par un coup de main, il ne faut pas douter qu'ils ne concourent avec joie aux mesures que l'Angleterre voudra prendre avec la Russie pour cet effet. Dans ce cas-là la Hollande pourrait supporter un tiers du subside en question et le Hanovre un dixième, en sorte qu'il resterait à la charge de l'Angleterre moins de deux tiers par an; ce qui est si peu de chose que ce serait faire un tort essentiel à cette couronne que de vouloir la *ménager* pour une somme si modique en égard aux suites funestes que pourrait avoir un tel *ménagement*, si les envieux s'en prévalaient pour lui tomber inopinément sur les bras et l'engageaient dans une nouvelle guerre, pendant laquelle loin de payer les anciennes dettes, la Grande-Bretagne serait obligée de contracter des nouvelles, d'autant plus grosses qu'elle aurait attendu une certaine extrémité.

Mais on est trop persuadé de la pénétration et de la sagesse du gouvernement britannique pour douter qu'il ne soit très convaincu de la vé-

rité des faits et de la solidité des raisons que l'on vient d'exposer et on a, par conséquent, tout lieu d'espérer qu'elles produiront l'effet désiré au grand avantage de la Grande-Bretagne en particulier et de la bonne cause en général, pour l'avancement de laquelle la Russie ne saurait s'intéresser plus sincèrement ni plus efficacement qu'elle ferait par les moyens qui ont été proposés tant dans les réflexions souvent alléguées, que dans l'écrit présent.

Si cependant, contre toute attente, la Grande-Bretagne conduite par un certain esprit d'épargne continuait à décliner la conclusion d'un tel engagement avec la Russie, elle ne doit pas trouver mauvais que cette couronne pour épargner de son côté les grosses sommes qu'elle a jusqu'ici employées pour l'entretien de ses troupes en Livonie et Courlande, en fasse retirer vingt à trente mille hommes de ces frontières, afin de les distribuer dans l'intérieur de ses états. où elles lui coûteront infiniment moins.

Mais il est aisé à prévoir que par ce moyen le bon effet que les alliés ont ressenti jusqu'ici des mêmes troupes russes placées sur les frontières, cessera tout d'un coup au grand dommage de la cause commune. Mais comme d'un côté leur entretien y vient plus cher à la Russie, que les subsides accordés par la convention de 1747 ne se montaient pas et que de l'autre part cette puissance n'a de son côté point d'attaque à craindre du roi de Prusse, lequel une armée de Cosaques et de Calmuques peut seule tenir en appréhension et respect, elle a toute la raison du monde de ne pas vouloir plus longtemps supporter ces frais, aussitôt que l'Angleterre par la part qu'elle refuserait d'y prendre les jugera inutiles. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 184.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 20-th August o. s. (31-st August) 1751.

Very secret. My lord. I have nothing to add to what I had the honour to write to your grace in my letter of the 3-d instant concerning m-r Akerhielm, the great chancellor not having yet received an answer to the orders he sent to m-r Panin by estafette, upon my acquainting him with His Majesty's gracious intentions towards that gentleman in order to promote his election to be marshal of the diet. We continue here of opinion that these offers will come too late and that the ruling party in Sweden has already secured a majority in the house of nobles for general Lieven.

The last time I was with the chancellor he told me that the memoria I had put into his hands, urging the necessity of sending immediately a proper minister to the Porte, had had a very good effect and that I might assure your grace one should soon be named and such as m-r Porter, His Majesty's ambassador, and the minister of the empress-queen would be entirely satisfied with.

The Empress according to the great chancellor's informations having let drop amongst some of her favorite ladys, as if she intended to go to Moscow, as soon as the sledging season is set in, I am required to beg of your grace to be so kind as to tell count Czernichew that such a report has reached your ears and from the approaching meeting of the diet in Sweden or any other proper arguments, that may occur to you, represent the unseasonableness of such a journey in the present situation of the affairs in the north, when a diet is on the point of sitting in Sweden, where in all probability matters will be debated, which will deserve her most serious attention and require her quickest resolutions.

I am likewise desired by the chancellor to caution your grace not to show or speak one word to count Czernichew about the paper of *Eclaircissements* etc. inclosed in my other letter. The chancellor told me your grace had given count Czernichew a copy of the «*Réponse aux deux papiers etc.*», which I had received by Lamb. That by good fortune he had made no use of it, but in a letter to him the great chancellor, however, as nobody but the Empress, his mistress, and himself were acquainted with these transactions, he begged leave to renew his request that your grace would never speak to count Czernichew about any thing of a secret nature, before you perceived by his orders and instructions that he was acquainted with it.

The Empress is come to no resolution as yet upon the proposal made by the great chancellor of removing count Golowkin to England in the room of count Czernichew, but he has still hopes that it will meet with her approbation, Her Imperial Majesty is expected in town on the 29-th instant to fix here. R. 17-th September by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 185.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 31-st August o. s. (11-th September) 1751.

My lord. Since the departure of Lamb, the messenger, m-r Funk, the saxon resident, has been with me and told me in confidence that he

had received, by an express from his court, the necessary instructions and full powers to conclude the long depending affair of his polish majesty's accession to the treaty of seventeen hundred and forty six, and as the chief points are already settled between the two courts and that we doubt not but full powers will be sent to general Bretlack, as soon as the court of Dresden has notified to that of Vienna the resolution they are come to, this work cannot meet with much longer delay. The Empress is now in town and general Arnheim will have his audience of leave tomorrow. In justice to Lamb, the messenger, I must acquaint your grace that, though my letters by him are dated the 20-th, I could not dispatch him from hence before the 25-th instant in the afternoon. R. 24-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 186.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 10-th September o. s. (21-st September) 1751.

My lord. Since my letter of the 31-st August nothing has passed here worth giving your grace the trouble of a letter nor should I do it now, only I would not let three posts go away without writing. All last week was taken up in paying our court to the Empress and the royal family on their return to town and in partaking of the feasts and rejoicings made on Thursday last, the 5-th instant, which was Her Imperial Majesty's names day; on which occasion she was pleased to confer on the following gentlemen the order of St. Andrew, viz-t: count Rasumowsky, the hetman of Ukraine, general Buturlin, count Woronzow, the vice-chancellor, prince Jussupow, general and president of the college of commerce and general Apraxin, president of the college of war. Her Imperial Majesty created, at the same time, a great number of other gentlemen, knights of the order of St. Alexander Newsky.

On Sunday the 1-st instant general Arnheim, the saxon minister, had his audience of leave and this morning he set out on his return home. M-r Funk, the saxon resident, is now waiting to know the Empress's pleasure with regard to the day he is to have his first audience and present his credentials, as envoy extraordinary.

A few days ago, I received by the way of Dresden His Majesty's letter to the Empress of Russia notifying the birth of the princess of which

her royal highness, the princess of Wales, was lately delivered; which letter I shall take care to present in the usual manner.

P. S. Just as I am sending this to the post, I receive the honour of your grace's letter of the 2-d August, what is the reason of its having been so long in making its way I am not able to judge till it is decyphered. R. 4-th October. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 187.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 14-th September o. s. (25-th September) 1751.

My lord. I had just time to acquaint your grace on Tuesday last that I had received the honour of your grace's letter of the 2-d August, which, since it is decyphered, came, I suppose, by the way of Vienna and was the occasion of its not coming to my hands in due course with other letters of that date from England. The next evening, as I happened to sup with the great chancellor at general Bretlack's, I took an opportunity, though not a very proper time or place, to talk of business (there being a great deal of company) to inform them both of the orders I had received concerning count Lynar's negotiation.

The chancellor seemed pleased that I had such orders, but desired I would not speak of them to count Lynar, till he should tell me to do it, for that he and the other ministers of the chancery were now busy in drawing up an answer to some queries, the Empress had sent to them concerning this negotiation; and as soon as this answer was ready, he would consider of the time, when it would be the most proper for general Bretlack, m-r Swart and me to assist count Lynar and in what manner. The chancellor said he would desire me, in a day or two, to come to him that we might talk more fully upon this subject, but I have not heard from him as yet. In the report count Lynar has made to his court of the state of his negotiation, he is not, as I find, by the extract your grace sent me of m-r Titley's letter very well informed, who are his best friends here; for though he is not pleased to make any mention of me, yet both general Bretlack and m-r Swart will, I believe, readily own that they were at first very much prejudiced against count Lynar's negotiation and that it was I who brought them into another way of thinking upon it, as a means of detaching the king of Denmark from his new friends and allies, if rightly managed and conducted. The threats thrown

out to m-r Titley at Copenhagen, as if, in case of count Lynar's miscar-rying in his negotiation, they should be obliged to throw themselves into the arms of Prussia, are not to be minded. They have too much at heart and see too clearly the advantage of putting an end to all disputes between the house of Holstein and them to take a step which would not only render it impracticable, but give this court a pretence to renew and support the great duke's claims and pretensions. As a proof that this is the way of thinking of the court of Denmark, I must let your grace know that count Lynar has orders to offer the great dutchess a pension of 12.000 roubles a year during her life and to pay all her debts, which amount, at least, to 80.000 roubles, if she will prevail on her husband to agree to the exchange proposed; but count Lynar has been persuaded, hitherto, not to execute these orders, some ill consequences being apprehended from them by giving this princess a notion that she can have an influence over her husband in state affairs.

The journey which we apprehended the Empress designed to take to Moscow is, God be thanked, laid aside, Her Imperial Majesty having declared publicly her intention that she would not go thither this year.

P. S. Just as I am going to send this to the post I receive the honour of your grace's letter of the 27-th August. R. 7-th October. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 188.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 27-th September 1751.

All in the new cypher. Sir. I am to acknowledge the favour of your letters of the 20-th of August by Lamb, the messenger, and of the 31-st by the post. I have laid them all before the King and have the pleasure to assure you of His Majesty's entire approbation of your conduct.

I have not yet received the King's commands upon your letters by Lamb, but hope very soon to do it.

You will have heard from Dresden that sir Charles Hanbury Williams and m-r Calkoen had signed a treaty, *sub spe rati*, with count Brühl. By that treaty His Majesty and the States agree to give the subsidy demanded by the king of Poland, and for the time proposed, viz-t 48.000 per annum for four years. All that was desired in return was a positive assurance of the electoral vote for the king of the Romans and

a stipulation for 6.000 men to be paid by the maritime powers in case of a rupture.

The promise of the electoral vote is only given verbally by his polish majesty; but that verbal promise is clogged with a condition that may render it of no effect: viz-t *«pourvu que le tout se fasse selon les lois et les constitutions de l'Empire»*. And these are the very words suggested and made use of by the king of Prussia to defeat the whole, so that, though the king has immediately dispatched the ratifications, His Majesty has ordered sir Charles Williams to insist upon such an explanation of those doubtful words, as may secure the vote.

And as to the troops, though the treaty itself only stipulates that they should be hired of Saxony in case either Great Britain, or Holland were attacked (which is a great restriction upon the first proposal: viz-t that of a rupture in Europe), yet count Brühl has contrived to make even that to depend upon a future convention, upon which also sir Charles Hanbury Williams is to require an explanation.

Count Flemming is persuaded his court will give us satisfaction upon these two points; and, in that case, this great affair is happily concluded. But, considering the uncertainty and duplicity of the saxon ministers, it is not impossible that they may refuse it, and in that case (of which you will be informed by sir Charles Hanbury Williams), it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should explain this whole affair to the chancellor Bestuchef and show that the blame is not only singly to be laid on the court of Dresden, but also that, by this refusal, they show they never intended really to perform what was required of them; for both France and Prussia have at times agreed not to oppose the election upon this foot, because they know those words would be so interpreted by them, as to make the election impracticable. Sir Charles Hanbury Williams will have informed you of the extraordinary behaviour of count Keyserling upon the orders he received relating to the accession of Saxony to the treaty of 1746. I really suspect count Brühl may have a view to delay the accession by not returning an answer to the court of Vienna or accompanying that answer with some impracticable demand.

If so: the only way to disappoint such a view is for general Bretlack to have a full power to accept the accession of the king of Poland (for which m-r Funk, the saxon minister, has received his full power), without waiting for an answer in form to the invitation made two years ago by the court of Vienna. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 189.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 21-st September o. s. (2-d October) 1751.

My lord. By the postscript of my letter of the 14-th instant your grace will have seen that I had received the honour of your grace's letter of the 27-th August; the next day I wrote a letter to the great chancellor, acquainting him that I had received some orders from my court which required my speaking to him as soon as possible, upon which he appointed me to come to him the Tuesday following at noon, when I told him that having received repeated orders to assist count Lynar to the utmost of my power in his negotiation, I could defer no longer acquainting that minister with it and hoped he would have no objection to it. The great chancellor said, he now approved of it entirely and that I might tell count Lynar that it was his, the chancellor's fault, if I had not communicated to him sooner the orders I had received, as he had desired to speak to me, before I did it; and that a slight indisposition had prevented his seeing me sooner. Accordingly I went directly from the chancellor's to count Lynar's to whom I made this communication and took care to let him know that I had received repeated orders to be of all the assistance I could to him, and the reasons, why I did not acquaint him sooner; upon which he returned me many thanks and said he would not fail to give his court an account of what I had said to him by that evening's post, who would have a very great sense of His Majesty's kindness. I had, afterwards, some discourse with count Lynar upon the state of his negotiation, and I find he has no great hopes of its being brought to a conclusion, before he leaves this court, but seems not to doubt of its succeeding in time by the assistance of His Majesty and his allies. The great chancellor tells me that the chancery's answer to the Empresses questions is ready and that they have insisted on it, as an *ultimatum* on the court of Denmark's changing their system and adhering to their true and natural allies and that, indeed, this was the only inducement which could make the Empress have the success of this negotiation so much at heart, as to take any pains to persuade the grand duke to give his consent to it. I shall own to your grace did not think myself sufficiently authorised before the receipt of your letters of the 2-d and 20-th of August to be of any public assistance to count Lynar in his negotiation, as I find I must now be by the method the chancellor would

have us take, which is to present a memorial signed by general Bretlack, m-r Swart and me in case the representations made by the chancery should not have the desired effect.

Having acquainted the chancellor that, as His Majesty had no minister in Sweden, your grace would be glad to have regular accounts from me of the reports made by m-r Panin of the situation of things there, he promised to let me have, from time to time, extracts of m-r Panin's secret relations and gave orders accordingly in my presence to one of his secretaries. He told me that m-r Panin had wrote him, in his last, that it was impossible to get m-r Akerhielm chose marshal of this diet. His secretary had orders, at the same time, to send me an extract of this letter, but I have not yet received it. I mentioned to the chancellor the dissensions which your grace had an account were arising at Stockholm, between the ill intentioned party and that m-r Panin should be ordered to turn them to the best advantage; but the chancellor seemed not to know much of these differences and told me m-r Panin did, indeed, talk of some, but in a very loose and general manner and as not deserving much attention, before we see what turn affairs will take at the diet, where that party may be united again through their natural inclination to do mischief; for they are all alike, what they call here, in plain french: *une troupe de scélérats*.

Having renewed my instances, as I am directed by your grace's letter of the 27-th past o. s., to have a minister sent to Turkey, in whom the chancellor can confide, I find it is as good as settled, that m-r Alsufief, a counselor of the chancery and who was talked of several months ago shall go thither. He is not a person whom the chancellor looks upon, as his friend, but general Bretlack and several others, who know him, think he is very fit and will do very well in that post.

I did not acquaint the chancellor with what your grace says in your letter of the 27-th past o. s. concerning marshal Lövendahl, being willing to speak first to general Bretlack, who, I remembered, had a commission from the marshal's own sister in his passage through Dresden hither to try to get him again into this service. I have since heard from general Bretlack that he has spoke about it several times to the chancellor, but his unwillingness to disoblige general Apraxin has prevented hitherto his laying such a proposal before the Empress, who, general Bretlack believes, would readily agree to it, if she knew marshal Lövendahl had any such thoughts. General Bretlack and I are agree that he should speak again to the great chancellor about the said marshal and let him know that I

had, also, orders to do the same. General Apraxin is a well intentioned honest, worthy gentleman and very able and fit for the post he is in of president of the college of war and of the commissariat, but in everybody's opinion he would be very much out of his sphere, if placed at the head of an army.

I did not let the great chancellor be unacquainted with the situation of affairs between our court and that of Dresden and that His Majesty had agreed to the subsidy asked by m-r Flemming, which gave him a great deal of pleasure; but I must do him the justice to say that he was downright angry, when he heard that the court of Saxony was so unreasonable, as to make any difficulty about entering into the engagement for a number of troops and told me he would speak very plainly to the saxon resident here upon such an extraordinary proceeding of his court. By the orders the saxon resident has lately received concerning the accession, I find his court will accede in the same manner His Majesty has done upon the footing of their former engagements; they likewise desire a secret declaration for the security and defence of their electoral dominions, in case they should be attacked upon that account, insisting farther that wherever the *casus foederis* exists, the generals commanding in chief the troops on the frontiers should march to their assistance on the first requisition made on the part of the court of Saxony, and without waiting for orders from hence, which clause, I believe, they will hardly agree to here. R. 14-th October. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 190.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 28-th September o. s. (9-th October) 1751.

My lord. A few days ago, as I was taking the air, I accidentally met the great chancellor who was doing the same; upon which we stopt and getting out of our coaches walked together for above a mile and talked over again the affairs depending at this court. He told me that, though his first intention was to lay before the Empress the chancery's answer (which he had already acquainted me was ready) to her questions concerning count Lynar's negotiation, before His Majesty and his allies passed any offices in this affair; yet, that it might appear as if the success of it was chiefly owing to His Majesty and his allies. He was now of opinion that it would be best to lay, at one and the same time, be-

fore his mistress both our representations and the chancery's answer to her questions; therefore, the chancellor desired, I would lose no time in seeing general Bretlack and m-r Swart and concert with them a proper memorial to be delivered on this occasion, which I have accordingly done and general Bretlack, who went into the country for a couple of days, offered to draw one up during his stay there upon some hints count Lynar had given us and that he would communicate this memorial to us, on his return to town.

I took this opportunity to speak to the chancellor about marshal Lövendahl and upon some discourse which I knew general Bretlack had with him, the day before, upon the same subject. I found him so well disposed, that he desired me to write to him a letter which he might lay before his mistress and mention therein the advice, your grace had received of that general's dissatisfaction with his situation in France and of a possibility of engaging him to enter again into this service, if an advantageous offer was made to him. I complied, the next day, with the chancellor's request; but this morning he sent for me in a great hurry and returned me my letter, saying that it had been translated in order to be laid before the Empress, but very unluckily just as he was going to do it, he had found, by intercepted letters, all in marshal Lövendahl's own hand writing, that he was engaged in a dangerous intrigue with some people here for the advancement of the french and prussian interests at this court. The chancellor recommended to me, in the strongest manner, to keep this advice very secret, none being acquainted with it, as yet, besides himself.

In my letter of the 3-d August I informed your grace of the insinuations that had been made by France, through the court of Dresden to this of their desire of renewing a friendly correspondence and sending hither a minister, if the Empress would, on her part, send one to France. Though no answer was returned to these insinuations, yet the chancellor received one day, last week, a letter dated at Hamburg from m-r Guymont, a french minister, very well known by his negotiations at several courts in Italy and Germany.

In this letter m-r Guymont tells the chancellor that being so near as Hamburg to this place, he should be glad, if he thought it would not be unacceptable to pay his court to so great a princess, as the Empress; of whose eminent qualities he had heard so much etc. The chancellor immediately laid this letter before the Empress, wherein m-r Guymont having, in the beginning, given her only the title of Czarish Majesty, she

was so much offended at all of it, that she ordered the chancellor not to answer it himself, but to let one of his secretaries do it and acquaint him, in a dry manner, that, as there were no ordinances here forbidding strangers to come into the Empress's dominions, no reason could be seen for him, or any body else, to ask that liberty. I am promised copies of both these letters, which I shall transmit to your grace by the first safe opportunity.

When I was with the chancellor to day at noon, he put into my hands the extracts of two of m-r Panin's letters, but I must defer, till next post, making any use of them, as I must give a new turn to the contents, least they should be the means of getting the key of my cypher. R. 23-d October. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 191.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 1-st October o. s. (12-th October) 1751.

My lord. In my letter by the last post I had the honour to inform your grace that the great chancellor had put into my hands two extracts of their minister's letters at Stockholm. I shall now acquaint your grace with the contents of those dispatches, which I have given another turn to and transposed in such a manner (though the sense and matter be the same), as will give them no opportunity, here, of getting the key of my cypher, supposing they should open my letters, as they do those of all the other foreign ministers at this court.

M-r Panin's first letter is dated the 25-th of August and relates, chiefly, to senator Akerhielm. He says that the overture made by m-r Guy Dickens, the british minister at Petersburg, concerning the King, his master's, intention of furnishing one thousand pounds towards procuring m-r Akerhielm the marshal's staff, was useless and unseasonable, as the little time which remained to the meeting of the diet showed of itself the impossibility of succeeding in such an attempt, besides that for six months that senator had, constantly, resided upon his estate, which was at a great distance from Stockholm; that it was, indeed, true that considering m-r Akerhielm's great talents and known steadiness and resolution he was unquestionably the person, in all Sweden, whom the ruling party feared the most and consequently the fittest and properest to be employed with any appearance of success, when a favourable opportunity offered. M-r Panin

runs next into a great complaint against m-r Guy Dickens, saying that that minister must have been very negligent in his representations to his court, since he left that of Stockholm, which was now going four years, otherwise His Britannick Majesty and his ministers could not possibly have waited so long as five weeks before the meeting of the diet to come to a resolution of assisting and supporting that worthy patriot, whose present disgrace and disagreeable situation are entirely owing to his attachment to England. M-r Panin, therefore, proposes that, though the abovementioned 1.000 pounds can be of no use towards getting Akerhielm chosen marshal of this diet, yet that that sum should be given him, as a gratification for his past services and to enable him to make friends and support his interest at the ensuing diet; that this would be doing no more, than what the Empress of Russia had done, since m-r Guy Dickens had left Sweden, which he hoped would meet with the less objection, as it could not be denied, but that the obligations of gratitude towards m-r Akerhielm ought to be as great, if not greater, on the side of England, than on that of Russia. After these complaints of our neglect of m-r Akerhielm, m-r Panin comes to young baron Gedda, whose situation is so cruel, he says, that the honor and justice of England and m-r Guy Dickens's honor require some immediate relief should be given to him. That for these two years past, young Gedda had not received one farthing of the pension of two hundred pounds per annum, which m-r Guy Dickens, just before he left England to go to Petersburg, had assured him should be paid him, and that, had it not been for a present of 1.000 roubles which the Empress had made him, he must have wanted shoes, his father having entirely forsaken him, thinking that the least England can do for his son's running the hazard of meeting the fate which doctor Blackwell did, would be to provide him with cloaths and meat and drink.

M-r Panin's second letter is of the 13-th of September and short, but so very confused, that in several places I do not rightly understand it; I have however made a shift to pick out of it what follows.

That no great good was to be expected from the divisions, which had happened amongst the ruling party, as the chiefs of them, namely, the queen and all the family of Lieven, on one side, and the senate on the other, being entirely devoted to France, that crown is always able, when she pleases, to reunite and bring them under the same colours; that things might, however, take quite another turn, if the maritime powers had, at this time, ministers at Stockholm, who were active and provided with effectual means, as well as instructions for that purpose. M-r Panin

acknowledges, at the same time, that it was better to see two partys, though both ill intentioned, thus jarring together, than one ruling party, which should carry every thing before it without any opposition; and that it was plainly the interest of the Empress, his mistress, and her allies constantly to maintain and foment divisions in Sweden, though no other advantage should arise from it than the keeping them in continual disputes, which could not fail of throwing their domestic affairs into the greatest confusion. To prove this, m-r Panin says that, if once the court party should be able to consolidate itself and that of the senate maintained, still, its superiority, that circumstance would have a very good effect; for the court party, having the king at their head, would not, easily, submit to the senate, but rather try to strengthen themselves, even at the expense of France and Prussia, and that, in like manner, the senate seeing the court party was for diminishing their authority would hardly come to an agreement with them upon those terms. This paragraph, as I have observed above, is not clear to me, as m-r Panin says, a little before, that the queen and the senate are devoted to France, unless by the party, which has the king at their head, m-r Panin means a distinct party from y queen and senates.

General Bretlack, m-r Swart and I are to meet after to-morrow to put a finishing hand to the memorial, we are to present upon count Lynar's negotiation.

A few days ago arrived here baron Matsan, the new danish minister. Received 25-th October. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 192.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 8-th October o. s. (19-th October) 1751.

My lord. The fine weather having kept general Bretlack a few days longer in the country, than he proposed, we did not meet before Sunday last about the memorial, we are to present concerning count Lynar's negotiation, but then we not only put a finishing hand to it, but signed it and are now waiting for a message from the great chancellor (who is a little indisposed) to know, when we shall ask for the conference, in which we are to deliver it (as he desired) in form to him and the vice-chancellor. As general Bretlack proposes to send a courier to his court in eight or ten days, I shall make use of that opportunity to transmit to your

grace a copy of the said memorial, as also of the Empress's queries to the chancery and their answers in relation to the proposals made by the court of Denmark for accomodating all differences with the grand duke.

The last letters from Stockholm brought us an account that the diet, which met on the 16-th of last month having proceeded on the 19-th to the election of a marshal, count Hening Gyllenbourg had been chose by a great majority and that this had been done by the interest of the senate, with which, we are informed, the french ambassador, seeing their superiority, has thought proper to join in opposition to the king and queen and their party. The great chancellor's illness is the occasion of my not having yet extracts of the last letters he received from Stockholm, but I hope to get them by the next post.

M-r Funk, the saxon resident, has delivered to the chancellor a copy of his new credentials, as envoy extraordinary, but no day is yet fixed for his audience of the Empress. R. 4-th November. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 193.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 12-th October o. s. (23-d October) 1751.

My lord. Upon an intimation given us the evening before by the great chancellor, general Bretlack, m-r Swart and I sent on Wednesday morning last to know, when it would suit his convenience that we should wait on him, in order to execute some commands we had received from our respective courts. The chancellor sent us word, he could not see us that day, but would let us soon know, when we might come to him. The next day in the afternoon I had a visit from general Bretlack, who told me he had just received a message from the chancellor, acquainting him that, as he had too openly shown that he favoured count Lynar's negotiation, he began to apprehend that his enemies would take an occasion, from the memorial we were to present, to make the Empress believe, it was a thing of his own doing and contrivance, unless she was some way or other prepared that we had orders to give in such a memorial; therefore the great chancellor desired general Bretlack, m-r Swart and I would write to our respective courts to acquaint the russian ministers residing there, how much they had at heart the success of this negotiation, letting them know at the same time that they had sent us orders accor-

dingly and to be of all the assistance, we could, to count Lynar. Your grace is also desired, when you speak to count Czernichew, to injoin him, in a particular manner, to make a report of it in his dispatch to the chancery; in general I have not seen count Lynar since this message from the chancellor, but I doubt not, but he will fret very much at this new delay, as he begun to entertain great hopes of concluding this important affair, before he left this place. General Bretlack acquainted me farther, at the chancellor's desire, that they had advice here that count Loss, the saxon ambassador at Paris, had been spoke to and desired, in a very pressing manner, to manage matters so that, by the intervention of his court, a french minister might be sent hither and one from this court to France, and they seem here to be of opinion that the court of Versailles will not wait for an answer, but take an occasion from the birth of the prince, of which the dauphiness was lately delivered, to dispatch a minister with a letter to the Empress notifying that event.

Your grace will have seen in my letter by the last post that m-r Funk, the saxon resident, had not yet been admitted to an audience of the Empress in order to deliver his new credentials, as envoy extraordinary. I must now acquaint your grace that, partly, through a personal dislike the Empress has taken to that gentleman, and partly, by the ill offices of the great chancellor's enemy's, who know the great confidence he places in m-r Funk, Her Imperial Majesty makes a difficulty of receiving him in his new character under pretence that he had formerly been in this service as secretary to count Bestuchef, now ambassador at Vienna, and that, knowing her chancellor's weak side, m-r Funk gets out of him what he pleases. The last is a great objection and what the chancellor's enemies dwell upon very much, for, as to the first, though he has been in the service, he is a saxon by birth, and there is a precedent in m-r Lefort, who had also been in this service and was, afterwards, made envoy from Saxony. It is however hoped that these difficulties will be overcome and that the Empress will be made sensible that, as she received him, as resident, she cannot well refuse him, as envoy.

Either, by reason of the great chancellor's indisposition (which continues still, though very slight), or through his natural indolence, I have not yet been able to get the extracts of m-r Panin's last letter's from Stockholm. There cannot, indeed, be any thing very material in them, unless it be that of the *Bank-Men*, who, together with the secret committee of their naming, will, in all probability, be as great tools of France and Prussia, as their marshal is, upon whom your grace may remember, I

put a negative in the year seventeen hundred forty three, by His Majesty's order, when they had a design of sending him minister to England.

I am with the most profound respect etc. R. 4-th November. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 194.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 19-th October o. s. (30-th October) 1751.

My lord. Since my last which was of the 12-th I have seen the great chancellor, who sent for me to communicate to me a secret letter, he had received from count Keyserling full of complaints against sir Charles Hanbury Williams; but all the facts, he alleges, being notoriously false, as general Bretlack and I have proved, we hope this ill judged step of count Keyserling will enable us to have him recalled sooner, than we expected. General Bretlack told the great chancellor plainly on this occasion that if they did not immediately come to that resolution, the courts of London and Vienna had nothing else to do in his opinion, but to recall their ministers and leave the shuffling court of Dresden and their shuffling count Keyserling to themselves and to manage matters, as they pleased. Count Keyserling's complaint against sir Charles Hanbury Williams is chiefly founded on sir Charles's answer to count Keyserling's letter upon the Empress's orders which Lamb, the messenger, carried him from hence to engage the court of Dresden to return an answer to that of Vienna about the affair of the accession; which letter sir Charles Hanbury Williams having, I doubt not, sent your grace a copy of, it is needless for me to mention the contents of it. When I was with the great chancellor he acquainted me, farther, that from the strong desire France had shown to have a minister here, he thought that court would have taken an occasion from the birth of the duke of Burgundy to send one hither, but that the last post from Stockholm had brought a letter from his most christian majesty to the Empress notifying in the most polite and obliging terms that event, that this letter had been delivered by the french ambassador to m-r Panin and accompanied, with the strongest declarations of his most christian majesty's desire to see a friendly correspondence renewed between the two courts.

One day last week, the person with whom marshal Löwendahl entertained the illicit correspondence I mentioned in one of my former letters,

was taken up and has since been examined several times before the court of chancery; but I am not yet informed of the discoveries he may have made. This person is a subject of this country born in the Ukraine. Some years ago he was secretary to m-r Lazinski, the russian minister at Vienna, but left him for some discontent and went to Warsaw and engaged with the french resident at that court, where count Löwendahl found him last summer in his journey to Poland, and engaged him to come hither in order to set on foot the intrigues for which he is now blown.

The day before yesterday count Lynar had his audience of leave of the Empress and his successor took at the same time his first audience, where he delivered his credentials, but I would not have your grace think that the negotiation count Lynar was charged with, is from hence in danger of miscarrying. It will be carried on by a secret correspondence between the great chancellor and him and, when every thing is ripe, count Lynar, as he told me himself, will return hither with the character of ambassador and put the finishing hand to this important affair.

I have no news to send your grace from Sweden. The chancellor gave orders, in my presence, when I was last with him, that extracts of m-r Panin's last letters should be sent to me, as soon as they were decyphered, but I have no received any yet. R. 11-th November. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 195.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 26-th October o. s. (6-th November) 1751.

My lord. I have received your grace's letter of the 27-th of September, acquainting me that my dispatches of the 20-th of August, by Lamb, the messenger, were come to your hands, and that my conduct had met with His Majesty's entire approbation; which gives me the greatest satisfaction. As soon as I hear from sir Charles Hanbury Williams, concerning the satisfaction he was to desire the court of Saxony to give upon the two points His Majesty objected to in the subsidiary treaty, he had signed with m-r Brühl, I shall not fail to acquaint the great chancellor with the true state of that affair, and in case it should (though brought so far) miscarry, make him sensible that the blame is singly to be laid on the court of Dresden.

We begin to perceive here, as well as your grace, that the delay of

the court of Saxony in not returning an answer to the invitation, made to them by the court of Vienna to accede to the treaty of 1746, is with a design to accompany it with some extraordinary, if not impracticable demand. Very lately the saxon resident showed general Bretlack and me a secret rescript he had received from his court, in which he is ordered to dispose this court to use their good offices to bring about a double marriage between the courts of Vienna and Dresden, and, supposing this could not be done, to procure the court of Dresden some other equivalent advantages or conveniencys.

In this rescript it is said that m-r Keith had already received His Majesty's orders to that purpose. General Bretlack (whom I have discoursed with several times upon these demands of the court of Dresden) tells me, he is sure his court will not give the least ear to them, or ever consent to a marriage with the house of Saxony or Bavaria, as it would be furnishing them with a new pretence to invade some time or other the austrian dominions. I find, likewise, by general Bretlack that this court will not easily be persuaded to send him a full power to accept the accession of the king of Poland, before an answer be returned to the empress-queen's invitation, and that the notification sir Charles Hanbury Williams gave count Sternberg with m-r Brühl's leave will not be thought a regular one. To these and the like shuffling proceedings we shall always be exposed with the court of Dresden, as I told the chancellor a few days ago, as long as they had not there a minister who would execute literally the orders that were sent to him and not pursue his own private views and designs, as was the case of count Keyserling and who (from the conversation I had with him, as I past through Dresden in my way hither), I plainly saw, was at the bottom of the intrigues carrying on to bring hither a french minister, though he knew the chief object of this mission could be only his, the chancellor's, ruin. The chancellor, both then and since, by general Bretlack has given me the strongest assurances that count Keyserling should be removed, before it was long.

The Empress has agreed to give resident Funk an audience and receive his credentials, as envoy. But orders went to count Keyserling, by the last post, to desire another minister might soon be sent in his room. The great step of m-r Funk's admission being however gained, we have hopes that the Empress will be persuaded not to insist on his recall, if the court of Dresden shows a little firmness in the nomination they have made. We should be very sorry to see m-r Funk go from hence, as he is certainly not only well intentioned, but very useful by the easy and

constant access which he has to the great chancellor, though I fear that this attack made against him by the chancellor's enemies will be a hindrance to it for the future. R. 25-th November. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 196.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 2-d November o. s. (13-th November) 1751.

My lord. Since my last, which was of the 26-th October, I have had a communication of m-r Panin's secret letters of the 11-th October from Stockholm. He says therein that count Tessin appeared inflexibly bent on laying down his post of president of the chancery, at least that the king had not been able to prevail upon him, hitherto to alter his resolution, that the reasonings upon it were many, but that the most general opinion was that count Tessin seeing clearer than any other person at that court into the turn affairs are likely to take, he would be glad to retire and leave the whole weight of them upon the shoulders of the senators Hopken and Palmstierna, while he, count Tessin, made it his chief application to serve France, the best he could, in all affairs, which should come before the present diet, where that crown's interest was concerned.

With regard to the three senators, lately made, m-r Panin says that the french party had used their utmost endeavours to oblige the king to fill up two of the vacancies with m-r Flemming, the envoy in Denmark, and the court chancellor Hamilton, at which the king was so much provoked, that he had sworn to felt-marshal Düring that he would never be reconciled with that party, and m-r Panin adds that the felt-marshal did not let slip that opportunity of increasing his swedish majesty's anger and resentment. That, immediately after this discourse, the King having sent for the speakers of the three principal orders, told them that he was obliged to the states for the resolution, they had come to, to make a distinct presentation of three candidates for each vacancy in the senate, but desired this article might be better observed on other occasions, than it had been on this, that the king might not be so much confined, in his choice, but more at liberty to consider of the merit and capacity of the candidates proposed.

Without sending your grace the list of the candidates I shall acquaint

you that the senators named by the king were: president Löwenhelm, colonel Springport and the court marshal Stronberg to the great dissatisfaction of their party in the senate. For, though all the candidates proposed were creatures of theirs, yet the king took care to chuse only those which he knew, they favoured the least; but colonel Springport having declined that post to put an end to the importunities used in favour of m-r Flemming and Hamilton, the king thought proper to declare for baron Scheffer.

M-r Panin says that what deserved to be taken notice of was that above twenty persons, all of good families, refused to be candidates for a seat in the senate, and that the only one who gave himself any trouble about it, that could be called a gentleman, was the envoy Flemming.

Not only the king of Sweden's conduct on this occasion, but the resolution and steadiness he has shown on several others, and, in particular, at the late promotion of major generals had made, as m-r Panin writes hither, deep, though different impressions in people's minds.

The senate did all they could to get colonel Springport raised to the rank of major general under pretence that he had been named a senator, though he had declined acting as such, but the king answered that there was a great deal of difference between the qualifications required in a senator and those of a general, that therefore he could not overlook the merit and services of colonel Müller and accordingly made him a major general in spite of the ruling party, who had persecuted him for a long time.

In one of m-r Panin's letters he takes notice of a discourse which m-r Henning Gyllenbourg, marshal of the diet, held to baron Sonderholm, a person very much esteemed for his merit and capacity, but who affects to be thought a friend of Gyllenbourg. Gyllenbourg speaking to him one day about the senators that had been made, not only expressed his dislike of them, but said he perceived plainly, how ill he personally stood with the king, adding in great confidence that he, as well as several others, had been persuaded hitherto of the solidity of the system, which had been adopted in Sweden for several years past, but that he begun, at present, to be no more so sanguine and that in four or five weeks he, baron Sonderholm, should be more particularly informed of his thoughts upon the present situation of affairs.

According to m-r Panin's letter, the french ambassador continues to favour and support the party in the senate, which is against the court and in such an open and ostentatious manner, as has very much piqued

both the king and queen and which has been remarked by their majesties behaviour towards him in public. Amongst other reproaches, the queen told him, he should have been ashamed to have got a list of senators presented to the king, who were all of his own chusing.

In such a situation m-r Panin thinks, it would not be impossible to detach the king from France, if he had not so many ill intentioned persons about him and if the queen, his consorts attachment to her brother's interests was not another obstacle to it. There are, therefore, some schemes in agitation tending to separate the interests of Prussia from those of France, and general Lieven, who is named to go to Berlin, is charged, as it is thought, with some overtures of this kind, for it is hardly to be believed that one of the chief of the court party would undertake such a journey, at a time the diet is sitting, only to carry back the order which the late king was invested with, which the court of Sweden pretend is the chief subject of his errand. It is much more probable, m-r Panin observes, that his commission has something of greater consequence in view and he thinks it must be to make the king of Prussia approve of his sister's behaviour towards the french party and to try, if it could not be possible, to preserve his prussian majesty's friendship without submitting to the dictates of the french ambassador and his party in Sweden.

By the last post we had the melancholy news of the death of his serene highness the prince stadtholder of Holland. R. 25-th November. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 197.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 9-th November o. s. (20-th November) 1751.

My lord. There is little or nothing passes here at present worth writing to your grace. The Empress who had made some excursions into the country, whilst her winter palace was repairing, is returned to town again and fixed here for the winter, but her presence has not hitherto given any new life or dispatch to business. M-r Funk, the saxon resident, has not yet had his first audience, as envoy, nor is it known when Her Imperial Majesty will be in the humour to grant it.

In the meantime and for want of general Bretlack being provided with proper powers and instructions, the draught of his polish majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746 lays quite dormant. In a visit which m-r

Funk made me a few days ago, he read to me a letter he had from m-r Brühl, by which I find that the court of Dresden's not having yet returned an answer to that of Vienna about the accession proceeds from a pique. M-r Brühl complaining that for four or five years past the saxon minister had not been able to obtain an answer to several memorials and representations he had presented or made by his polish majesty's order and that, when the court of Vienna wanted anything of that of Saxony, their custom was to apply to this court, from whom they obtained rescripts to the russian minister at Dresden, which were more like imperial ukasses, than instructions, as if the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, and a russian minister were upon an equal foot; that the court of Saxony would therefore follow the example of that of Vienna and let the austrian minister be acquainted by the way of and through the court of Petersburg with their desires and intentions. I thanked the saxon minister for the communication he had made me, but, at the same time, could not help expressing to him my surprise and concern that an affair of such great importance, as his polish majesty's accession, should be thus delayed by reason of such trifling punctilios.

I have had no accounts yet from sir Charles Hanbury Williams of His Majesty's ratifications of the treaty, lately concluded at Dresden, having been exchanged; from whence we infer that he must find some difficulty in bringing the saxon minister to be clear and explicit with respect to the two points His Majesty had desired to have explained. R. 2-d December. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 198.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 16-th November o. s. (27-th November) 1751.

My lord. Since my last which was of the 9-th instant this court has received letters from m-r Panin, their minister in Sweden, of the 25-th October o. s.; but they do not contain anything material. Amongst other things he writes that all the representations made to count Tessin by the secret committee and by many of the court and senate partisans to prevail on him to lay aside the resolution of resigning his post of president of the chancery continued to be ineffectual; but general Bretlack told me yesterday that the swedish minister here had received advice by letters of the same date that count Tessin had, at last, been graciously

pleased to lend an ear to the repeated entreaties of the nation and consented to continue in his post, so that all that gentleman has been doing, since the beginning of this diet, was only a farce, like that he played at the last diet, in which he has, no doubt, some particular view, though the chief, I believe, is to gratify his vanity, of which he has no small share. M-r Panin writes farther that the sudden and much to be lamented death of the prince of Orange had given new vigour to the french system in Sweden and that the french ambassador in talking of that event to the king had been so indiscreet, as to give his swedish majesty to understand, as if there was reason to believe his serene highness had been poisoned.

General Bretlack has not yet dispatched the courier he intended to send to Vienna, but he assures me he will certainly do it towards the latter end of next week; so that I shall give your grace no farther trouble by this post, as I shall charge him with some letters and packets, which all to sealing lie ready for your grace.

I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 18-th past o. s. upon the death of the prince of Orange, all our accounts directly from the Hague confirm what your grace was pleased to write me, viz-t: that there is reason to hope that, notwithstanding this melancholy event, every thing there will go on quietly and without the least confusion. R. 9-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 199.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 29-th November 1751.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I have received your several letters, the last of which is dated the 2-d instant and have laid them regularly before the King, and I shall very soon have His Majesty's orders to write fully to you upon the points of business, which may be contained in them.

The last advices from Stockholm are very material and you will acquaint the chancellor Bestuchef that the King does not doubt, but m-r Panin will be directed to be very attentive in taking any advantage that may arise from the disputes between the two parties in Sweden, which, if rightly managed, it is hoped, may be productive of good effects.

You will have heard from sir Charles Hanbury Williams that all difficulties having been happily removed, the ratifications of the treaty of

Dresden have been exchanged between His Majesty's minister and those of the States General and the king of Poland, so that that affair is now entirely concluded, and I hope the accession to the treaty of 1746 will be over before you can receive this letter. You may tell general Bretlack that it is of more consequence, than he may imagine, for the king of Prussia lays great stress upon the parties that shall accede to that treaty. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 200.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 26-th November o. s. (7-th December) 1751.

My lord. Nothing passes here worth giving your grace the trouble of a letter, only I would not let three posts go away without writing.

The day before yesterday being the great dutchess's namesday, it was kept at court, where there was a great ball and supper in the evening; and yesterday being the anniversary of the Empress's accession Her Imperial Majesty received the usual compliments on that occasion and in the evening being dressed in her regimentals, all the officers and private men of her own company, to the number of 360, had the honour to kiss her hand and afterwards to sup with Her Imperial Majesty. The ministers of state, the great officers of the crown, the principal ladies of the court and the foreign ministers were entertained at another table by the great duke and dutchess.

General Bretlack's courier is still here being detained by the great chancellor, whose letters, as usual, are not yet ready. R. 20-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 201.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 30-th November o. s. (11-th December) 1751.

My lord. I make use of the opportunity of a courier whom general Bretlack is dispatching to Vienna to transmit to your grace several papers, which I have mentioned in some of my former dispatches.

№ 1 is the querys which have been examined in the colledge of foreign affairs by order of the Empress in relation to the negotiation that

is on foot between the court of Denmark and the great duke for terminating all differences and disputes about Sleswick and Holstein.

Nº 2 is the answer returned by the college of foreign affairs to the abovementioned queries.

Nº 3 is a german *pro memoria* which has been signed, but is not delivered as yet by general Bretlack, m-r Swart and I recommending the success of count Lynar's negotiation in the name of our respective courts.

Nº 4 is a french translation of the abovementioned *pro memoria*.

The count Lynar is not likely to bring this negotiation to perfection before he leaves this court; yet we are not without hopes that between this and next summer, when count Lynar talks of coming hither again, the Empress will be prevailed upon to use proper and effectual means to persuade the great duke to agree to the offers made by Denmark. And to this end, it remains fixed that as soon as the russian ministers at London, Vienna and the Hague have been spoken to in the manner, which has been desired, general Bretlack, m-r Swart and I will present our *pro memoria* after having altered the date of it.

Your grace has likewise here inclosed under Nº 5 and 6 copys of the letter which I told you m-r Guymont, the french minister, had wrote to the great chancellor and of the answer returned thereto by m-r Wolkof, a secretary of the chancery, by order of the Empress. Upon which answer we see by the newspapers that m-r Guymont has laid aside the thoughts of coming to this court and is returned to Paris. R. 24-th January 1752. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. Nº 63.

Nº 1. Sa Majesté Impériale a ordonné qu'il lui fût fait un rapport succinct de la négociation qui est sur le tapis entre le Danemark et le grand-duc et qu'on y ajoutât son sentiment.

Pour exécuter cet ordre avec d'autant plus d'exactitude, il paraît être nécessaire de fixer avant toutes choses les points sur lesquels cette affaire roule principalement. On s'en rapporte à la pénétration et décision de Sa Majesté Impériale si, en répondant d'une manière courte et précise aux questions suivantes, l'affaire en recevrait un jour suffisant.

On met d'abord pour base que Sa Majesté Impériale soit intentionnée de combiner là-dedans l'utilité et l'avantage du grand-duc avec l'intérêt propre de son Empire.

Selon ce principe les questions suivantes paraissent suffisantes pour y exposer le fait:

Question 1-re.

S'il est de l'intérêt de la Russie de conserver l'amitié avec le Danemark?

Question 2-de.

Si l'on peut espérer que l'harmonie entre la Russie et le Danemark sera sincère et stable, tant que les différends par rapport au duché de Schleswig restent indécis?

Question 3-me.

Si la Russie retirera quelque'avantage du recouvrement du Schleswig pour le grand-duc et surtout

Question 4-me.

Si l'on pourrait espérer avec quelque vraisemblance qu'une pareille expédition aurait jamais un bon succès?

Question 5-me.

Si en prenant les choses comme elles sont, l'échange projeté des pays serait avantageux ou préjudiciable au grand-duc?

Question 6-me.

Si les conditions à faire seraient avantageuses au grand-duc et si sans une pareille convention son altesse impériale peut espérer de payer ses dettes, ou s'il y a un autre moyen de se soustraire aux désagréments qui en résultent?

Question 7-me.

En cas qu'il fût trouvé que la dite convention soit utile à la Russie et au grand-duc, ou même nécessaire, si alors l'affaire doit être regardée comme assez importante pour que Sa Majesté Impériale employât les représentations les plus pressantes pour ôter et dissiper les préjugés dont le grand-duc pourrait être prévenu sans fondement? P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

Nº 2. Courte et succincte réponse aux questions examinées par ordre de Sa Majesté Impériale touchant la négociation avec le Danemark.

Ad questionem 1-m.

L'amitié avec le Danemark est sans doute d'une grande utilité et même nécessaire à la Russie, parce que:

1) tant que la Russie sera en possession des provinces conquises, elle ne pourra pas se reposer sur la sincérité de l'amitié de la Suède.

2) L'on ne saurait mieux tenir en bride la Suède, ni s'opposer plus efficacement à ses vues dangereuses, que lorsque la Russie s'entendra bien avec les voisins de l'autre côté.

3) L'intérêt principal du Danemark est d'empêcher que la Suède ne devienne plus puissante soit en recouvrant les provinces perdues, soit en rétablissant la souveraineté, et comme on ne peut mieux juger des intentions d'une cour que par ses intérêts, la Russie par conséquent peut avec une entière confiance se reposer sur la sincérité de celles de la cour de Danemark à l'égard de la Suède.

4) C'est par les mêmes raisons que l'Empereur Pierre le Grand a toujours cultivé l'amitié avec le Danemark et l'a regardé comme très utile à son Empire.

5) Si à l'occasion d'une vacance au trône en Pologne ou même en Allemagne, il devait y naître des troubles, l'amitié avec le Danemark serait non seulement d'une grande utilité à la Russie elle-même, mais aussi à ses alliés, puisque les puissances ennemies seraient empêchées de grossir leur parti par la Suède qui n'oserait se remuer sans être assurée du Danemark, ni par l'accession même du Danemark; c'est aussi pour quoi

6) Les fidèles alliés de la Russie, comme par exemple la cour de Vienne et les puissances maritimes, n'ont rien tant à cœur que de consolider et assurer l'amitié de la Russie avec le Danemark par un accommodement entre cette cour et le grand-duc.

Ad questionem 2-m.

On ne peut pas compter sur la sincérité de l'amitié de la cour de Danemark, tant que les différends par rapport au duché de Schleswig restent indécis, parce que:

1) Le Danemark ne voudra jamais rien contribuer aux avantages et intérêts de la Russie, tant qu'il aura lieu de croire que le souverain futur de cet Empire soit son ennemi caché.

2) Le grand-duc ayant tout d'un coup rompu cette négociation et s'étant réservé pour un autre temps son droit, a assez donné à connaître que son intention est d'employer un jour la force pour soutenir ce droit prétendu.

3) Tout cela s'étant passé sous les yeux de Sa Majesté Impériale, on doit naturellement s'attendre que la cour de Danemark pensera à d'autres moyens de pourvoir à sa sûreté et comme la Suède et la Prusse sont les puissances les plus propres à cela, elle sera obligée (quelque répugnance qu'elle y trouvât d'ailleurs) d'entrer dans des engagements avec ces deux cours pour se précautionner contre l'avenir, ce qui ferait perdre à la Russie l'avantage qu'elle peut tirer de la bonne harmonie avec le Danemark, comme on l'a montré clairement dans la réponse à la première question.

Ad questionem 3-m.

La Russie ne tirera aucun avantage du recouvrement du Schleswig, mais en recevra plutôt du dommage, parce que:

1) Personne ne se met en frais de s'emparer d'un pays pour le perdre ensuite.

2) Par conséquent et pour empêcher que cette conquête ne fût perdue, il faudrait toujours y entretenir un corps de 20.000 hommes pour le moins, ce corps dans un pays aussi serré que le Schleswig ne trouverait ni assez de place pour pouvoir prendre ses quartiers commodément, ni aucuns moyens d'établir des églises pour l'exercice de sa religion sans compter les autres inconvénients, auxquelles il serait exposé; on peut bien juger après cela que l'entretien d'un pareil corps coûterait plus que tout le pays de Schleswig ne rend de revenu.

3) On s'attirerait la jalousie des princes d'Allemagne, de plusieurs autres puissances et même celle des alliés de la Russie et

4) Comme par là l'on affaiblirait et éloignerait de soi un allié naturel comme le Danemark, le système de la Russie souffrirait un préjudice notable.

Ad questionem 4-m.

Le succès d'une expédition pour recouvrer le pays de Schleswig serait fort douteux, parce que:

1) Le transport des troupes par mer serait sujet à beaucoup de dangers, et par terre il rencontrerait les plus grandes difficultés à l'égard des princes par le territoire desquels il les faudrait faire passer.

2) Les troupes et les recrues qu'on serait obligé d'y envoyer tous les ans, vu la distance de quelques centaines de lieues, seraient exposées aux plus grandes fatigues, ne trouveraient pas la subsistance nécessaire dans le pays et courraient risque d'être menées à la boucherie.

3) Les puissances qui ont garanti au roi de Danemark la possession du Schleswig et dont l'intérêt ne permet pas que la Russie fasse des conquêtes de l'autre côté de la Baltique, se déclareraient sans doute pour le Danemark et l'assisteraient de toutes leurs forces.

4) Cette assistance serait accordée d'autant plus infailliblement que tout le monde serait obligé de convenir que le bon droit est pour le Danemark, après que le duc Charles-Frédéric eut approuvé et ratifié, lorsqu'il fut majeur, tout ce que son tuteur avait entrepris pendant la minorité du dit duc contre le Danemark en faveur de la Suède et que par conséquent la guerre dans laquelle la première s'est emparée du Schleswig a été juste, légitime et même nécessaire.

5) Une pareille expédition, où il faudrait envoyer si loin un corps de troupes si considérable dégarnirait notablement les frontières de la Russie, et il est à croire que les ennemis de cet Empire, qui n'ont pas osé remuer tant que la Russie a conservé ensemble toutes ses forces, en profiteraient pour tenter quelque chose contre elle, ce qui exposerait à un danger évident les provinces conquises qui coûtent tant de sang à la nation, dont la conquête lui fait un honneur extrême dans le monde et dont dépend uniquement l'influence que l'Empire de Russie a dans les affaires de l'Europe.

Ad questionem 5-m.

L'échange projeté est plus avantageux au grand-duc que nuisible, parce que:

1) On met pour fondement qu'une restitution volontaire du Schleswig ne se peut ni se doit pas espérer et puisqu'il n'est pas possible ou au moins probable qu'on le puisse reprendre par la force, comme on vient de le montrer.

2) Il vaut toujours mieux en obtenant un autre pays de tout autant d'importance et revenu, que celui qu'on donne d'y gagner encore une somme considérable, que de risquer de n'obtenir rien du tout.

3) Si le duché de Schleswig n'est pas uni au Holstein, ce dernier à certains égards, n'est d'aucune utilité pour le grand-duc, et...

4) A cause de la régence qui est commune et de la situation des

pays qui sont entremêlés, la possession en est plutôt onéreuse et un sujet continuel de contestation et de fâcheries.

5) En projetant l'échange des pays susmentionnés on s'est engagé de faire ériger le nouveau pays en duché et d'arranger toute chose d'une manière que le grand-duc, bien loin d'y perdre la moindre chose, s'améliorera plutôt à plusieurs égards.

Ad questionem 6-m.

Les conditions d'une pareille convention sont tout-à-fait avantageuses au grand-duc, parce que:

1) Le dit échange est l'unique moyen qui mettra le grand-duc en état d'acquitter ses dettes, qui sans cela et parce que la dépense, comme il est notoire, surpasse quelques mille écus le revenu annuel s'augmenteraient nécessairement tous les ans et rendraient les circonstances, où il se trouve, à l'égard de son pays de Holstein de jour en jour plus fâcheuses.

2) En ne voulant point se prêter au dit échange, les importunités des créanciers viendraient à leur comble et deviendraient à la fin intolérables, et parce que l'empereur ne pourra pas se refuser à la longue de leur faire justice, il en résultera des saisies et d'autres remèdes exécutoires qui seront aussi désagréables que peu honorables à la Russie même.

3) Si le grand-duc par exemple recevait du dit échange un surplus de 2 millions de risdalers, il pourrait non seulement acquitter, selon l'exposé que ses propres ministres en ont fait, toutes ses dettes soit en rabattant quelque chose sur les sommes de chaque créancier, soit en le leur assignant simplement et mettre fin par là aux différends avec la cour de Vienne; mais encore il s'assurerait la possession d'un pays libre de toute dette et qui outre l'entretien de son état civil et militaire lui rapporterait tous les ans plus de cent cinquante mille écus, dont il pourrait disposer comme bon lui semblerait.

Ad questionem 7-m.

En répondant à cette question il faut considérer que:

1) Puisque Sa Majesté Impériale a déclaré le grand-duc son successeur, le bonheur qui en doit revenir à ses peuples et qu'elle a eu en vue de leur procurer par là resterait en quelque façon imparfait, si le grand-duc de son côté ne voulait pas se regarder comme tel et y conformer ses vues et sa façon de penser.

2) Que Sa Majesté Impériale ne saurait rien faire qui marquât plus,

combien elle a à cœur le repos de son Empire et la félicité de ses sujets, qu'en éloignant tout ce qui pourrait engager un jour le grand-duc de sacrifier à un petit intérêt particulier et imaginaire le grand, le véritable et le public intérêt de l'Empire.

3) Que rien au monde ne sera plus propre à mettre en repos les fidèles sujets de la Russie, que lorsqu'ils se verront dispensés de s'exposer un jour pour des intérêts qui n'ont aucun rapport avec la Russie.

4) Quand on met en balance, d'un côté, la répugnance que le grand-duc témoigne avoir pour un accommodement, ce qui ne saurait provenir que des préjugés de sa première éducation, et que, de l'autre côté, on considère l'intérêt de l'Empire de Russie, celui de ses alliés, les avantages qui reviendraient au grand-duc d'un pareil accommodement, combien des vues contraires lui seraient nuisibles et l'impossibilité qu'il y a de les faire réussir, ces derniers objets sont très importants pour ne pas emporter la balance et convaincre Sa Majesté Impériale qu'elle ne saurait rien faire qui fût plus glorieux pour elle et plus utile à son Empire, que d'user des représentations les plus fortes et les plus pressantes pour déterminer le grand-duc d'entendre à un accommodement qui lui est avantageux de toutes les façons, et d'autant plus que son altesse impériale, lorsque l'âge, le temps et les circonstances auront achevé à lui ouvrir les yeux là-dessus, regardera lui-même un pareil accommodement, comme un bonheur dont il sera redevable aux soins généreux et maternels de Sa Majesté Impériale et dont il lui saura un gré infini, aussi bien que les fidèles sujets de la Russie, dont le repos serait assuré par toute l'Europe, et surtout les fidèles alliés de la Russie y trouveraient un sujet de joie et de contentement, puisque le maintien du repos et de la tranquillité publique est le principal et le plus cher de leurs objets. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 3. Pro Memoria (traduction).

La cour impériale romaine et royale, de même que la cour britannique et les états généraux des Provinces Unies ayant été informés de la négociation, entamée sous la haute médiation de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies pour terminer les différends qui, depuis bien des années subsistent entre sa majesté le roi de Danemark et son altesse impériale le grand-duc en qualité de duc de Holstein, moyennant des offres que la couronne de Danemark a faites de vouloir échanger la partie ducale de Holstein contre les deux comtés d'Oldenbourg et de Delmenhorst, lesquelles on tâcherait de faire ériger par sa majesté l'empereur en principauté, comme

aussi de vouloir payer un équivalent en argent comptant; cette nouvelle n'a pu que leur être d'autant plus agréable qu'un pareil accommodement contribuerait non seulement à conserver la tranquillité publique, mais aussi à l'affermir encore d'avantage pour l'avenir.

Il est notoire, combien l'affaire de Schleswig a occasionné de troubles et de guerres et combien les puissances bien intentionnées, et nommément la cour impériale de Russie se sont données de peines pour maintenir le repos public et principalement celui du nord, comme aussi pour se concerter ensemble, afin de trouver un expédient propre à lever la discorde de deux grandes maisons unies par les liens du sang et à rétablir entre elles l'ancienne amitié et bonne intelligence.

Or, quoique, depuis le temps que son altesse impériale le grand-duc a été appelé à la succession du trône de Russie, on puisse espérer avec plus de fondement que par le passé que la tranquillité du nord sera conservée, on ne saurait pourtant jamais être sans inquiétude sur ce sujet, tandis que les différends touchant le Schleswig subsistent sans être composés à l'amiable, et comme, d'un côté, une guerre, qui tôt ou tard s'allumerait à l'occasion de ces différends, ne pourrait manquer d'être fort préjudiciable tant à l'intérêt de l'Empire de Russie, qu'à celui de ses fidèles alliés, d'un autre côté, il n'est que trop probable aussi que la couronne de Danemark se prêtera, en attendant, toujours aux vues dangereuses et vastes des puissances opposées et qu'elle ne pourra être attirée dans les intérêts de la cause commune qu'après la conclusion d'un accommodement.

Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies ayant, suivant sa grande sagesse et pénétration, reconnu l'importance de ces considérations à tel effet qu'à sa gloire éternelle, elle a témoigné de la disposition de vouloir coopérer à une heureuse fin de cette négociation, commencée sous ses auspices, s'étant engagée ci-devant par le traité de 1746 d'employer à cet égard ses bons offices, les soins louables que Sa Majesté Impériale a employés auprès de son altesse impériale le grand-duc ont non seulement produit le bon effet qu'on est déjà parvenu à l'échange mutuel des pleinpouvoirs respectifs, mais il a aussi été apporté de la part de la cour de Danemark tant de facilité à la perfection de cet ouvrage, qu'on a fait à son altesse impériale le grand-duc l'offre de sommes très considérables, moyennant lesquelles sa dite altesse impériale pourrait sortir tout à la fois de cet état obéré dont son pays est accablé.

En conséquence de ce que dessus les susdites trois cours alliées, par un effet de leur bonne et sincère intention, ont jugé à propos que leurs soussignés ambassadeur extraordinaire et ministres plénipotentiaires respec-

tifs fissent, confidentiellement et d'une manière conforme aux lois d'une étroite alliance, les représentations nécessaires pour qu'il plût à Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies d'exhorter son altesse impériale le grand-duc à continuer et à perfectionner cette affaire dont le succès tend principalement à l'utilité de l'Empire de Russie.

Son altesse impériale le grand-duc étant outre cela trop éclairé pour ne pas reconnaître elle-même que, d'un côté, la communion établie dans le gouvernement du duché de Holstein serait toujours une source perpétuelle de disputes et de désunion et que, d'un autre côté, sa majesté l'empereur, comme juge suprême, ne saurait suivant les lois fondamentales de l'empire se dispenser d'accorder aux créanciers de son altesse impériale le grand-duc la poursuite de leurs droits et de laisser le libre cours à la justice, les trois cours alliées sont unaniment d'opinion que les réflexions importantes, qui résultent de ces circonstances, fourniront à Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies un nouveau motif de faire en sorte que, cette négociation entre la couronne de Danemark et son altesse impériale ayant été commencée sous sa haute médiation, sortisse bientôt une heureuse fin à la satisfaction réciproque.

Les soussignés ambassadeur extraordinaire et ministres plénipotentiaires ont reçu de leurs cours respectives les ordres exprès de faire connaître au haut ministère impérial de Russie les considérations importantes, ci-dessus alléguées, pour vouloir bien en faire très humblement rapport à Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies.

Et comme les soussignés ont en même temps été chargés de concourir sans délai à tout ce qui pourrait avancer une heureuse fin de cet accommodement, il ne leur reste plus rien que de recommander cette affaire importante d'une manière d'autant plus empressée que les suites préjudiciables qui en résulteraient, si la négociation n'eût pas le succès désiré, ne sauraient échapper à la pénétration du haut ministère impérial de Russie, vu qu'alors sa majesté le roi de Danemark ne portant plus ses vues de ce côté-ci s'attacherait entièrement à l'intérêt des puissances opposées. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 4. Copie d'une lettre de m-r Guymont au comte A. Bestouchef.

Bonn. Ce 18 Juillet 1751.

Monsieur. Je prends la liberté de m'adresser directement à votre excellence pour obtenir de Sa Majesté Czarienne la permission d'aller voir une cour si brillante et admirer des vertus qui font à cette princesse une si

haute réputation dans le monde. Je n'ai pas moins d'empressement de connaître un ministre dont le mérite et les rares qualités ajoutent encore à l'éloge d'une aussi grande souveraine. La commission d'envoyé extraordinaire et de ministre plénipotentiaire de France que j'avais auprès de la république de Gênes étant terminée depuis plus d'un an, sa majesté m'a permis de voyager en Allemagne. Mon unique but est de connaître les cours étrangères, et comme celle de Pétersbourg a toujours fixé ma principale attention, je compte prendre congé de l'électeur de Cologne aujourd'hui, parcourir encore quelques électorats, passer par Hanovre et me rendre en suite à Hambourg vers le dix ou le douze du mois prochain, afin de profiter de la belle saison pour m'embarquer. J'attendrai dans cette dernière ville la réponse de votre excellence qu'elle peut adresser au ministre de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies ou à celui de France, nommé m-r de Champeau, qui y réside. Le détail que je fais à votre excellence prouve assez que mon voyage n'a d'autre objet que d'acquérir de nouvelles connaissances pour mon avantage personnel. Elle en sera entièrement convaincue, si elle me procure l'honneur de lui faire ma cour et de l'assurer de vive voix de toute ma vénération et du respect infini avec lequel je suis etc. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 5. Copie d'un avis du secrétaire D. Wolkof à m-r Guymont.

St.-Petersbourg, le 31 Août 1751.

Son excellence monseigneur le grand-chancelier, conseiller privé actuel, sénateur, directeur général des postes, chevalier de l'ordre de saint André et de plusieurs autres, comte de Bestouchef-Rumin, ayant reçu la lettre que m-r Guymont, ci-devant ministre plénipotentiaire et envoyé extraordinaire de sa majesté le roi de France auprès de la république de Gênes, a écrite à sa dite excellence de Bonn, le 18-e Juillet passé, m'a ordonné de lui marquer en réponse que l'entrée de cet Empire étant toujours ouverte à tout honnête homme qui voudrait venir voir cette cour impériale, il semble que m-r Guymont s'est donné une peine inutile d'écrire la dite lettre pour en avoir la permission de Sa Majesté, notre auguste souveraine et Impératrice, titre que m-r Guymont ne devait point négliger vu que le roi, son maître, aussi bien que toutes les autres cours ne le refusent jamais à cette grande princesse. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 202.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 30-th November o. s. (11-th December) 1751.

Secret. My lord. Our friend, the great chancellor, has been under a little cloud for about a couple of months, but it is now almost blown over and would have been so much sooner, if he had not taken it in his head to be in the pouts with his mistress and to keep away from her, as he does generally every time, she says or does anything that is not to his liking. The beginning of this little disgrace was occasioned by an errant trifle, a paragraph in the gazette of this town, where mention being made of the knight of St. Alexander which the Empress had created on her namesday in September last, the two Shuwalofs happened to be named last, which they made a crime of to the great chancellor, who has the direction of that gazette, as if it had been done by his express order out of the personal hatred he bears to them. The Empress was made to believe it and chid the great chancellor in public, which he took very ill and did not go near the Empress for a long time. Soon after two other opportunities offered, which his enemies did not let slip of doing him ill offices with his mistress. The one was resident Funk's being made envoy; the other, the letters which the russian ministers at several courts wrote hither upon the report of the Empress's having taken the resolution to go to Moscow. The chancellor's enemies told the Empress, as indeed it was but too true, that both m-r Funk's new credentials and these letters wrote from foreign courts to dissuade Her Imperial Majesty from going to Moscow were the effects of the chancellor's intrigues, and she was so piqued at the means used to prevent her journey to Moscow, that she declared publicly that, though it never had been her design to go thither this year, yet now she would, to learn her chancellor that she would not be the dupe of his little artifice, however nothing being prepared for such a journey, it cannot be this year; but she will certainly undertake it the next, and I believe it will be very difficult for the chancellor to hinder it, as the diet in Sweden will probably be broke up, and that there is advice that the palace, which has been building these several years at Kiow in Ukraine, where the Empress longs much to go, will be finished and fit for her reception next summer. The persons who are more immediately about the Empress and of all her parties of pleasure, have already been in committees of ways and means, how to find the necessary funds to answer

the expence of this journey. Amongst other expedients they have suggested that, if the diet in Sweden breaks up quietly and without making any alteration in the present form of government, there will be no occasion to keep so great a body of troops on the frontiers, and that they may return to their old quarters in the inward and cheapest parts of the Empire, by which means there will be very great savings. How we shall ward against such a resolution, is difficult to tell, if before March next some hopes are not given here that the maritime powers are inclined to make this article a little lighter to them. I have already told your grace that, were it not for the bad economy at court, the funds for the army are more than sufficient to answer the expence of keeping them on the frontiers or any other contingencies, but the necessities of the court must be supplied and they are many and great; for, if the french proverb be true that it will cost a coachman his whip, if he be in love with a countess, what must it cost a countess, if she be in love with half a dozen coachmen at a time. It is, therefore, necessary, my lord, we should seriously consider, how far the continuance of the russian troops, especially upon the frontiers of Prussia, can be of use and service to the common cause and tends to the preservation of the peace and tranquillity of the north. The treaty lately made with Dresden was that court entirely to be depended upon can be but of little help without this and it will be of still less, if some advices they have here be true; which are that before the conclusion of the abovementioned treaty the court of Saxony had obtained leave of France to enter into such engagements and that, since they have been taken, the court of Versailles have been told, by m-r Brühl, that they were not to take any umbrage at that treaty, for every article was couched in such a manner, as left it in his polish majesty's power to give any interpretation to it, he pleased. R. 24-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 203.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 13-th December 1751.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I have received since my last the favour of your letters of the 9-th and 16-th of November.

I have wrote to m-r Keith by the King's order and also to sir Charles Hanbury Williams upon the trifling punctilios, that prevent the accession

of the king of Poland to the treaty of 1746. It is amazing that the court of Vienna will stand upon such formalities, when they must certainly retard and may possibly prevent an accession, which in the present circumstances is of great importance to the alliance.

To do justice to the court of Dresden all the accounts that I have received from sir Charles Hanbury Williams, since the conclusion of our treaty and the exchange of the ratifications, give the strongest assurances of the king of Poland's satisfaction in the part he has taken and of his resolution to adhere to it, and I am willing to hope that we shall hear no more of the weak, double conduct which they have lately held towards France. Count Flemming is set out on his return to Dresden. His intentions are so good and his knowledge of the present situation and disposition of the several powers of Europe such, that I am persuaded he will be of great service in fixing the king of Poland in his present way of thinking.

You will thank the chancellor Bestuchef for the communication of the advices they receive from Sweden. It is, I find, agreed from all quarters that the two parties there give great uneasiness to each other. It is pretended that the king's party has carried some points against the senate. These disputes will I hope produce some good. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 204.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 7-th December o. s. (18-th December) 1751

My lord. Since my dispatches by an austrian courier of the 30-th November, I have nothing worth troubling your grace with only to let you know that m-r Funk has, at last, had his first audience of the Empress, as envoy. The great chancellor has, likewise, gained another victory over his enemies in prevailing on the Empress not to send the rescript, which she ordered to be prepared, several weeks ago, and which lies ready to be signed to count Keyserling, directing him to insist on the court of Dresden's appointing another minister to come hither in the room of m-r Funk.

The affair of the court of Dresden's accession to the treaty of 1746 seems to be quite dropt, general Bretlack having received no full power, nor expecting any, as he tells me, untill an answer be returned to the empress-queen's invitation to the king of Poland. R. 3-d January. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 205.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 27-th December 1751.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I have received the favour of your letter of the 26-th November and laid it before the King.

I am sorry to find that general Bretlack's courier was still detained, as I am afraid the accession of Saxony to the treaty of 1746 will not be completed, till general Bretlack has an answer from his court.

I have received an account from a very good hand that the Empress of Russia talks constantly of abdicating her crown and government and has even gone so far as to say, she would do it before twelfth day next, though the King hopes these are only discourses. Yet that event would be too interesting and too unfortunate for His Majesty not to have some uneasiness, even at the report of it. It is also said that Her Imperial Majesty's dislike to business is now grown to such a heighth, that even her favorites dare not mention any business to her; and that singers, dancers and domestic servants have commissions in the army, which (if true) must greatly weaken the Czarina's credit and lower the power of the russian Empire. I should hope these reports cannot be true in their extent; but, however, you will let me know for His Majesty's information, what foundation there is for them. You will take no notice to anybody of our having received these accounts. By all our advices the two parties in Sweden, viz-t: that of the court and that of the senate, are at as great a difference as ever. It is suspected that the king of Sweden is supported underhand by Russia, though I am afraid there is no foundation for that suspicion. I do suppose m-r Panin is directed to do all in his power to keep up and promote these differences. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 206.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 17-th December o. s. (28-th December) 1751.

My lord. It is a pain to me when a post day comes, as nothing has been doing here for some time past worth a place in the most common newspaper; and in all probably we shall continue in this situation, now the diversions of the carnival are going to begin. To-morrow the Empress's

birth day is to be kept with great magnificence at court, and immediately after, as it has been already notified to us, there will be balls, plays, operas and masquerades, that are to last untill lent.

The day before yesterday general Bretlack received a courier from Vienna; I have not seen his excellency since, but baron Malzan, the danish minister, who called upon me yesterday told me that the same courier brought him a letter from m-r Bachof, the danish minister at Vienna, in which he informs him that general Bretlack would receive orders, by that courier, to forward, all he could, the success of the negotiation between the court of Denmark and the great-duke.

On Tuesday last count Lybar, the late danish minister at this court, left this place on his return home.

I have received the honour of your grace's letter of the 15-th November with His Majesty's most gracious speech to both Houses of Parliament, the address of the House of Lords and the minutes of that of the House of Commons inclosed. R. 11-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

№ 207.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 28-th December o. s. 1751 (8-th January 1752).

My lord. On Wednesday evening last, two of the four mails due from England came in, when I received the honour of your grace's letters of the 26-th and 29-th of November, by the first of which, as also by a letter which m-r Jones wrote to me of the 29-th November, by your grace's order, I saw with infinite satisfaction that his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, about whom we were here in great uneasiness and fears, was so well recovered, that there was great reason to hope he would very soon be restored to his former good state of health.

I shall be careful to let the great chancellor, the first time I see him, His Majesty's thoughts upon the advices from Stockholm, which I transmitted to your grace in my letter of the 2-d November. As to the orders His Majesty hopes have been sent to m-r Panin to be very attentive in taking any advantage that may arise from the disputes between the two partys, I know such orders are gone to him from hence long since, but now the letters are obliged to go north about by Torneo or by Denmark, this court has no letters from m-r Panin, of late, which contain any thing material.

I am sorry to acquaint your grace that the affair of his polish majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746 is in the same situation and seems to be quite dropt; nor do I see how it will be brought in agitation again, unless the court of Saxony returns the answer expected by the empress-queen, or that the court of Vienna passes by this omission and sends full powers to general Bretlack. I find general Bretlack very much piqued at the court of Dresden and of opinion that it will be rather a burthen, than a help to the two empresses and their allies. He also exclaims much against the demands of the court of Saxony, as to what relates to a marriage between the eldest archdutchess and his polish majesty's second son. The court of Saxony will, I doubt not, give over that thought, when they hear, as I am given to understand, that she is already contracted to her uncle, prince Charles of Lorraine. But, as to the article relating to Poland, though general Bretlack seems to be as much against it, as the other, saying the court of Vienna will run no more the hazard of being stripped of part of their dominions to continue that crown in the house of Saxony; I do not see that the house of Austria will be exposed to any such danger, if what the saxon minister, here, tells me be true, which is that all his court expects, on that head, is that the two empresses and the powers who have or shall accede to the treaty of 1746 will engage themselves to employ their good offices, as far as the constitution and liberties of the republic of Poland will allow, to bring the election to fall at the next vacancy of that crown on prince Xavier, their polish majesties second son.

I expect with great impatience the orders which your grace tells me you will soon send me upon my dispatches, by Lamb, of the 2-d November.

Just as I am going to close this letter, I receive one from m-r Titley with the most melancholy and afflicting news of the death of the queen of Denmark: God Almighty, in His great goodness, grant that our royal master may bear up under this new tryal with his known constancy and fortitude. R. 24-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1751. № 63.

1752.

№ 208.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 4-th January o. s. (15-th January) 1752.

My lord. Since my last, which was of the 28-th December, having received a letter from sir Charles Hanbury Williams, wherein he assured me that m-r Brühl had long since declared in form to count Sternberg that the court of Dresden was ready and willing to accede to the treaty of 1746, I waited two days ago, on general Bretlack, who is confined to his bed by a fit of the gout, to know what information he had had concerning that matter, and to my great surprise he told me that he had none at all, either from his court, or from count Sternberg, though he had received a letter from the latter, by the last post, of the same date, as that of sir Charles Hanbury Williams's to me. From general Bretlack I went to m-r Funk, the saxon minister, who is likewise indisposed and confined to his house; and I found he knew, as little, as general Bretlack of any such declaration, as sir Charles Hanbury Williams mentions having been made to count Sternberg and seemed to be of opinion that it was a mistake, and that what m-r Brühl said must be understood of the declaration which, by his leave, sir Charles Hanbury Williams made, about two months ago, to count Sternberg. But m-r Funk told me that he believed that the court of Vienna had received by this time such an answer, as would satisfy them and make them delay no longer sending full powers to general Bretlack, for that about three months ago he had wrote, at the great chancellor's desire, in the strongest manner to m-r Brühl to give the court of Vienna a proper satisfaction upon that head and retard no longer, by any trifling punctilio, the conclusion of a work of such great importance.

As I find by sir Charles Hanbury Williams's letter that the advices

I sent your grace, in my secret letter of the 30-th November last, by the way of Vienna, of the little disgrace in which the great chancellor was for a short time fallen with the Empress, makes a noise at Dresden, it is proper I should acquaint your grace, lest things should be represented in another light from other parts, that the chancellor never stood better or was in greater favor, than he is at present with his mistress; and if he continues to follow the advice of his friends, as he has done of late, we doubt not but his credit will increase more and more. But I shall write more fully to your grace upon this subject and others by another austrian courier whom general Bretlack proposes to dispatch towards the latter end of next week.

I must likewise caution your grace against another report that has been spread and is entirely groundless, which is, as if the Empress entertained some thoughts of abdicating. R. 28-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 209.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 11-th January o. s. (22-d January) 1752.

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 13-th December, by which I was glad to see your grace had wrote, by the King's orders, to m-r Keith and sir Charles Hanbury Williams upon the trifling punctilios that prevent the king of Poland's accession to the treaty of 1746. M-r Funk, the saxon minister, tells me that he expects now, every post, to have an account that count Sternberg, the austrian minister at Dresden, had been acquainted in a proper manner with his polish majesty's intention to accede to the abovementioned treaty and desired to give notice thereof to his court, that they may send the necessary powers and instructions to their ambassador here. By an other letter which m-r Funk showed me from m-r Brühl to him, I find some of his polish majesty's ministers were for insisting on the release of the duke of Courland, as a condition sine qua non of his majesty's accession, but m-r Brühl says that his polish majesty to show his sincere inclination to concur in the measures of the two empresses and their allies, would not do it, or make any other demand that could retard the conclusion of the work in hand. R. 4-th February. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 210.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 18-th January o. s. (29-th January) 1752.

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 24-th December upon the melancholy event of the death of that most excellent princess the queen of Denmark. On which account and the great affliction this loss must have given to the King, all His Majesty's faithfull servants and subjects cannot but be very deeply affected. Your grace having inclosed to me the London Gazette containing the order for the mourning upon this melancholy occasion, I immediately conformed myself thereto. This court went into mourning upon the same occasion on Wednesday last.

The Empress, as I have been told in great secrecy, has formed a resolution to steal away from this residence and her ministers, and go to Moscow. And some people are very much afraid, it will be put in execution in a week or ten days. To conceal her design she has ordered the senate to issue out six thousand roubles to repair the road between this and a cloyster, whither she pretends, she will go on a pilgrimage next lent. This cloyster is about three hundred wersts from hence; but, as it lies on the left of the road to Moscow, it gives room to suspect that her real intention is to go thither and not to the cloyster. R. 10-th February. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 211.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 25-th January o. s. (3-d February) 1752.

My lord. The courier whom general Bretlack had so long proposed to dispatch to Vienna being now, as he assures me, to set out in a couple of days at farthest, I do myself the honour to write to your grace, by this opportunity, as I acquainted you in some of my former letters, I would do.

The advice I sent you, in my secret letter of the 30-th November, by the last austrian courier who went from hence, of the little disgrace which the great chancellor had laid under for some time with the Empress, his mistress, having, as I find, made a little noise at some courts, I

think it is necessary I should let your grace know that this little cloud is, not only, blown over, but, in the eye of the whole court and to the great mortification of all his enemies, he stands at present in as great favour and credit with his mistress, as ever. By consequence the little mortifications he met with, on this occasion, have proved very lucky, for it gave his friends an opportunity of speaking to him, very plainly, of his faults. They told him that the cause he supported was not only just, but entirely consistent with the interests of the Empress and her Empire and that the little indirect methods which he took to bring his mistress to consent to some particular points or to hurt his enemys, did it not only harm but would, sooner or later, if he did not leave off that way of proceeding, turn to his dishonor and, perhaps, to his ruin. The chancellor received this advice in a very friendly manner and has ever since conformed his conduct thereto. He is now constant and assiduous in paying his court and avoids with care making any direct or indirect insinuations against his enemies, till he has clear proofs of their misbehaviour, and then he will, as he has been advised, lay them before his mistress in their presence.

About two months after I dispatched Lamb, the messenger, from hence the last time, the great chancellor begun to hold to me some discourses which I did not give very great attention to just then, but, within these six weeks, he not being contented with renewing them, but m-r Gross, the late russian minister at Berlin, and others having held the same to me, and, as I am thoroughly persuaded, though they will not tell me so, by his order, I think it my duty to make a report of them to your grace.

I have told you that there was reason to fear we were not thoroughly sensible in England of the danger to which the common cause, the liberties of Germany and the ballance of power in Europe were exposed by the sudden aggrandisement of the house of Brandenburg.

That, setting aside the house of Austria who, certainly, had a very formidable army and more numerous, than ever it had on foot, none of the other powers, whose interest it was to guard against the evils which Europe was threatened with, were in a condition or prepared to oppose any sudden attack. That the army in Holland was in a poor weak condition since the peace and that the state of the land forces in England was so well known, that it was needless to mention it.

On the other hand, that, since the conclusion of the peace at Aix la Chapelle, the king of Prussia had found means to persuade the court of France to give subsidies to almost all the most considerable princes of

Germany, whilst, at the same time, he himself kept a very formidable army and took care to have it very constantly and regularly recruited. That whoever was, therefore, a little acquainted with the genius and temper of this prince and had any the least idea of the most respectable court of Europe and of what was transacting, they could not be at a loss to judge of the views of France in distributing so much money in Germany and of the use that is to be made of the numerous and formidable army of Prussia.

From what goes before I was left to judge, if the rules of prudence did not require to take, in time, such measures, as might be a guard and security against the ill designs of France, and especially, of the king of Prussia, who, unfortunately, had actually such an influence over the french ministers, that he did with them what he pleased.

That, in the month of September last, we seemed to be persuaded of these truths in England: that when the news of the late lord marshal's being sent to Paris by the king of Prussia and of some of the Embden's ships being put to sea came to London, it raised such an indignation and resentment, as made the generality of people, there, acknowledge the necessity of securing a body of thirty thousand Russians; that it was even given out orders had been sent to m-r Guy Dickens for that purpose; but that, eight days after, this great, though just, anger alated and instead of taking effectual and, unfortunately, too necessary measures to be in some state of defence and not to be surprised, we took pains to deceive ourselves and to find out groundless reasons for eluding the necessity of commencing, in good earnest, to put ourselves in a respectable posture and, by that means, preserving peace or showing, we had teeth to bite to whom soever should form any design of breaking it.

I desired, here, to be acquainted with the abovementioned groundless reasons which they, at first, refused, thinking I must have received an account directly from your grace; but, upon my protesting, I had not, they were pleased to communicate them to me, as they stand in the nine articles that follow. First, that the danger was not so great, as it was imagined. 2-dly, that France was not in a condition to commence a war and that Prussia alone could do nothing. 3-dly, that France itself would not willingly see the king of Prussia grow more powerful, therefore she would prevent his undertaking any thing. 4-thly, that, was a war actually beginning, it would then be time enough for the maritime powers to take some russian troops into their pay. 5-thly, that no solid dependance could be had on the Russians longer, than the present Empress lived, for there was

reason to fear that, after her death, every thing in this great Empire would return and fall into it's primitive nothing. 6-thy, that the Russians were, naturally, enemies to all other nations, as a proof of which they had discarded all their foreign generals, amongst which was general Keith, of whom the king of Prussia knew how to make a very good use; that it was, therefore, necessary, they should be provided with a good general, before the maritime powers thought of taking their troops. 7-th, that the house of Austria was in so formidable a situation, as to be able, alone, to withstand the first attack, and in the meantime the maritime powers would have time to put themselves in a proper posture to assist their allies. 8-th, that the march of the russian troops was so slow, that no effectual assistance could be expected from them in time, and lastly. 9-th, that, in time of peace, it was not the custom in England to give subsidies.

Upon these nine articles, which they pretend, here, contain the reasons alledged in England for not securing a body of russian troops, they have had some warm and little angry expostulations with me.

They have told me and continue to tell me, whenever the occasion offers, that whoever is not governed by false prejudices, must agree in the little weight and solidity of these reasons, since they are apparently founded on a spirit of wrong understood economy carried to the greatest excess, which may prove very fatal to the common cause; that a war being once begun, it would not perhaps be in the power of several millions of pounds sterling to repair the losses which would have been made by the allies not being provided in time for that purpose. English guineas alone without men would make but a very indifferent figure in the field.

I was asked in a very peevish manner to return an answer to the two following questions: first, who will undertake to assure my court that the empress-queen will bear, in the beginning of a war, the sole burthen of it? It was not sure she would always be the first attacked, and will she after the fruitless remonstrance she has so often made run the hazard of seeing her dominions ruined and perhaps of losing part of them, till the maritime powers have determind, whether it is necessary or not to put themselves in a condition to come to her assistance? Secondly, what security have they in England that they will always have it in their power to dispose of a body of thirty odd thousand Russians, whenever they shall think fit to ask for them? That it was a great doubt, if a negotiation of that kind were it actually set on foot, would now succeed. We might call to mind if we would, what difficulty such a negotiation met with in the year 1747, though the great chancellor was then in the highest degree

of favor. That should the clergy have the least notion of such a thing being in agitation, they would infallibly oppose it with all their credit and power, which unfortunately were but too great with the Empress, who listened daily more and more to their representations. That the great chancellor's enemies would join with the clergy and both together throw more obstacles in our way, than we were aware of especially, as they begin to think here that the court of St. James's have a notion that they may treat this court, as if it were an elector of Cologne or any other little prince of Germany, who was in want of money.

I did not think proper to return any answer to these questions, but turned off the discourse, saying I waited for orders and instructions from England, and then I should be more exactly informed of the true sentiments of my court, which, let them be what they would with respect to other matters, were, I was sure, hearty and sincere for cultivating the most perfect and lasting friendship with this court. Whether the above-mentioned articles which give so much offence here be genuine or not, I shall humbly beg leave to make a few remarks upon some of them. As to the want of good generals here, which is taken notice of in the 6-th article, it may be but too true; and they are very sensible they have not a sufficient number of able generals for such a number of armies, as they have on foot. But in choosing the best among those they have, they will find more than they want to command an army of sixty or seventy thousand men, which is the greatest force the allies can stand in need of; besides that, should the maritime powers think proper to enter into a subsidiary treaty with this court, they will, to be sure, take care to name not only the regiments which are to compose the corps they shall take into their service, but also the general officers, who are to command it.

With regard to the use such a body of troops may be of, it is true, as it is mentioned in the 8-th article, their great distance makes their march very tedious and slow, and for any remote operation might not perhaps arrive in time, if very early measures and precautions were not taken; but it must be agreed that such a body of troops would be of infinite use and service to the common cause, if it was made to act against the king of Prussia, in case that prince should undertake any thing against his neighbours or the liberties of Germany; this corps would only have 8-th hours march from the frontiers of the duchy of Courland to Memel. Königsberg is a place of little defence and which they would soon make themselves masters of. Then they would be masters of all Prussia, from whence they would have a free and easy entrance into Pomerania. If any thing

could be a cheque to the king of Prussia's ambitions designs, the apprehension of such a powerfull diversion would certainly be so and prevent his attacking either His Majesty, or the empress-queen's dominions; whereas by neglecting the securing such a body of troops in time, the common cause may greatly suffer, as the enemys of it may be encouraged to put in execution their ill designs. R. 25-th February. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 212.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 25-th January o. s. (3-d February) 1752.

Apart. My lord. I herewith transmit to your grace a third promemoria, which has been sent to me by the college of foreign affairs, concerning the ship the «Providentia», as I have already acquainted your grace that I am entirely ignorant of the particulars of this affair, as it happened during the late war and before my arrival here. I must renew my request that your grace will be pleased to send me such an answer as may put an end to any further complaints or representations upon this subject. R. 25-th February. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

Promemoria concerning the ship «Providentia».

St.-Petersbourg, le 3 Janvier 1752

L'envoyé extraordinaire et ministre plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne monsieur de Guy Dickens se souviendra, sans doute, de la note qui lui a été remise en date du 17 Janvier 1751 et par laquelle on l'a prié de vouloir bien s'employer auprès de sa cour, afin que l'affaire touchant le vaisseau «*Providentia*», après avoir été traînée si longtemps, fût enfin terminée.

Après des représentations si souvent réitérées on espérait indubitablement que les rapports envoyés à ce sujet par monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire et ministre plénipotentiaire à sa cour produiraient l'effet désiré et finiraient, sans aucun autre délai, l'affaire susmentionnée à la satisfaction des sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies.

Mais c'est avec beaucoup de surprise que l'on voit par les relations du comte de Czernichew, ministre de Sa Majesté Impériale à la cour de la Grande-Bretagne, que malgré ses fréquentes représentations on laisse

cette affaire dans l'oubli, au grand préjudice et même à la ruine totale de ceux d'entre les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale qui y sont intéressés.

Cela donne lieu de croire que toutes les représentations qui ont été faites jusqu'ici à ce sujet, soit par la voie de monsieur le ministre plénipotentiaire, soit à la cour de la Grande-Bretagne par le dit comte de Czernichew n'ont été prises en aucune considération et ne sauraient faire finir un délai auquel on s'était d'autant moins attendu, que la manière aisée dont on s'est toujours prêté ici à satisfaire en toutes choses aux demandes de la Grande-Bretagne, méritait assurément un retour réciproque et un peu plus de complaisance.

Tant de démarches infructueuses obligent le ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies à prier de nouveau monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire de vouloir bien, par de représentations efficaces, faire en sorte que sa cour, prêtant enfin plus d'attention que jusqu'ici à de si fréquentes et si justes demandes de la part de celle-ci, fasse changer l'arrêt prononcé au sujet de cette affaire dans le conseil royal en un autre qui, étant plus conforme à l'équité, puisse en même temps dédommager les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale de leurs pertes et dommages, condescendance qui sera regardée par cette cour comme une preuve de l'amitié de celle de la Grande-Bretagne et lui servira d'exemple dans les occasions de même nature. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

Promemoria donné au comte Hindford concernant le vaisseau «La Providence» (copie).

Le ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies a déjà informé son excellence monsieur l'ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne lord comte de Hindford, moyennant le promemoria qu'il lui a fait remettre en date du 29 de Février de l'année précédente des griefs d'un nommé Wewel, sujet de Sa Majesté Impériale et marchand établi à Riga, contre le procédé injuste d'un armateur anglais qui pendant le cours de la dernière guerre s'est emparé de son vaisseau, nommé «*Providentia*», allant avec sa cargaison en France.

Après les éclaircissements que l'on a donnés dans le dit promemoria tant pour prouver le droit que ce marchand a de réclamer son vaisseau, que pour mettre au jour toute l'irrégularité du procédé de l'armateur anglais, si contraire à la teneur du traité de commerce subsistant entre les deux nations, et après toutes les démarches que le comte de Czernichew, mi-

nistre de Sa Majesté Impériale auprès de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, a faites à cet égard en conformité des ordres de sa cour, on s'était flatté ici que l'amirauté ou tel autre collège, du ressort duquel le jugement des affaires de cette nature pourrait être en Angleterre, ne tarderait guère de faire rendre au susdit marchand de Riga Wewel toute la justice qui lui est due en lui restituant son vaisseau, aussi bien que la cargaison dont il avait été chargé, à plus forte raison que son excellence le duc de Newcastle a donné à Hanovre au comte de Czernichew, avant le retour du Roi pour l'Angleterre, des promesses positives que cette affaire serait promptement terminée.

Mais c'est avec bien du regret que l'on a appris depuis par les rapports du dit comte de Czernichew que l'affaire en question, bien loin d'être terminée, ne faisait au contraire que traîner en longueur par des objections et difficultés que l'on faisait naître continuellement.

Comme cependant le propriétaire du vaisseau et de la cargaison souffre par ces délais une perte et un dommage fort considérables, sans qu'il l'ait mérité par quelque faute de sa part, le ministère impérial de Russie en réitérant ses instances précédentes, prie son excellence monsieur l'ambassadeur de vouloir bien effectuer auprès de sa cour par ses représentations les plus favorables, pour que l'on fasse mettre incessamment fin à cette affaire dont l'indécision n'est déjà que trop ruineuse à la partie intéressée et afin que bonne justice lui soit rendue. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 213.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 28-th January o. s. (6-th February) 1752.

My lord. I received, on Wednesday last, the honour of your grace's letter of the 27-th December, but being busy last Saturday in writing a pretty long dispatch to your grace by an austrian courier, who, I since hear, set out the next day for Vienna, I had not time to answer it by that post.

Your grace will have seen, by one of my former letters, that I cautioned you against the report which, I find, has reached your grace's ears of the Empress of Russia's having some thoughts of abdicating her crown; I was told the same thing about the time, when some people, I know, wrote such a piece of news from hence; but, upon enquiry, I found it had a very slight foundation; for some years past the Empress has been

building, in this town, a very large convent for ladies; and very often, when she talks of it or goes to see how that work advances, she says that, when she is threescore, she may perhaps go into it, herself. But should Her Imperial Majesty live to that age, as very probably she will and longer, I believe she will be, as little in the humour then, as she is now, of turning nun. I am as much surprised at another intelligence your grace has received, viz-t: that singers, dancers and domestic servants have commissions in the army. Since I came here, there has not been any one instance of such persons being employed in a military capacity. They have, here, a foundation which does not yield to any in Europe for the education of youth and what is called the *cadets corps*. The number which is constantly kept there is between three and four hundred, the greater part of whom are, chiefly, of the best families in the Empire. They have there, not only a complete military education from the age of ten to seventeen or eighteen, but learn foreign languages, as french and german. It is from this corps of cadets, that the vacancies in the army are filled up, and, I can truly say, I never saw anywhere a prettier corps of subalterns, captains and field officers than they have here; it were to be wished they had in proportion as many good generals to command the fine and numerous army they have.

I have not seen the great chancellor in private these six weeks past, he being invisible to every body, so that I have nothing new to write your grace from Sweden, except it be that, according to some advices, which general Bretlack has received, it is found out (as he tells me) that the two partys in Sweden, viz-t: that of the court and that of the senate, which seemed to be so bitter against and to give so much uneasiness to one another, had a secret understanding and that all their dispute was nothing else, but a concerted game.

In a visit which m-r Funk, the saxon envoy, made me yesterday evening, he told me, he should in a couple of posts, at farthest, be able to acquaint me that all the punctilios which retarded the affair of his polish majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746 were dropt, on the side of his court. R. 22-d February. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 214.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 11-th February 1752.

All in the new cypher. Sir. Though I have not time to send you an answer, by this post, to the several points contained in your last letters, I could not, however, avoid acquainting you with the great concern which the contents of your last letter of the 18-th January, which I received last night, have given the King. His Majesty was in hopes from what you lately wrote that there was no foundation for the report of the czarina's intended journey to Moscow, and much less, of her design to abdicate her crown. I must own, that letter makes the King fear for both; and I shall be very impatient for your next. If the Empress persists in this resolution of going to Moscow and that, in this clandestine manner, without the knowledge of her ministers, the consequences must be utter ruin to herself and her interests; and I should not be surprised to hear, afterwards, that she has put her other supposed intention in execution and has abdicated her crown. You will talk, very seriously, to the chancellor Bestuchef upon this subject. These flights, though got the better of afterwards by his credit, greatly weaken the weight and power of the Russian Empire and will render it less formidable to their enemies or useful to their friends.

I hope, soon, to hear some more particulars from you and what provision, if any, is taken in case of accidents. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 215.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 4-th February o. s. (15-th February) 1752.

My lord. Since my letter of the 28-th past, which is my last, I find by what count Czernichew writes hither that your grace imagined I was not well, as you had received no letters from me for three or four posts, the reason of which, as your grace will have since learned, was my letter of the 30-th November by an austrian courier being so slow in making it's way. This courier, we heard from Vienna, fell sick on the road and did not arrive there till the 5-th of January o. s. I hope that the austrian

courier, by whom I sent a pretty long dispatch to your grace dated the 25-th of January, will make more diligence. Count Czernichew wrote, at the same time, that your grace appeared to be desirous of having some swedish news from me. I have had a message from the great chancellor desiring I would caution your grace not to let count Czernichew know, it was he who furnished me with any. Not only on this, but on several other occasions I have perceived our friend the great chancellor is grown very timorous, since the last rebuff he met with from his mistress, which I am sure he need not be, if he will follow the advice of his friends and act with Her Imperial Majesty openly and candidly. As a proof of which I shall acquaint your grace that the Empress is at last come to the resolution of recalling count Keyserling from Dresden and count Bestuchef from Vienna; and letters of revocation will be sent to both these ministers by the next post without fail, as general Bretlack assured me two days ago and desired me, at the same time, to write this agreeable piece of news to your grace with his compliments. M-r Gross, who was at the court of Berlin, is to go to Dresden, but I am not yet informed who is to reside at Vienna in the room of count Bestuchef. Though these changes have been in agitation above these six weeks, I am sure, nobody here, except the Empress, the great chancellor, general Bretlack and myself are informed of them, which should give the great chancellor a great deal of satisfaction, as it shows plainly that the Empress talks of no business to his enemies, though she admits them into her partys of pleasure. After the posts of Vienna and Dresden are filled with persons in whom the Empress and he may put an entire confidence, that of London will come under consideration, the design of removing count Golowkin thither not being dropt. R. 25-th February. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 216.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 11-th February o. s. (22-d February) 1752.

My lord. I have nothing worth writing to your grace from hence. The last week and this, according to the custom here, no business was done in any of the colleges; however general Bretlack told me, a few days ago, as he dined with me, that, though he had not seen the great chancellor since our last meeting, yet he did not doubt, but the letters of revocation for count Bestuchef and count Keyserling had been signed

and sent to them by the last post; but as he had not as yet given advice of this affair to count Sternberg, he begged of me then (as he had done before) that I would not write any thing about it, neither to sir Charles Hanbury Williams, that m-r Keyserling may not, by any canal whatsoever, come to the knowledge of the resolution which the Empress had taken with respect to him, before he receives his revocation.

M-r Alsufief, whom this court had some thoughts, a few months ago, of sending to Constantinople to fill up the post of late m-r Nepluef, has been appointed vice master of the ceremonies in the room of m-r Weselowsky, who had desired his demission on account of his age and infirmities. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 217.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 28-th February 1752.

All in the new cypher. Sir. I received on Tuesday last your letter of the 25-th of January, which went by an austrian courier to Viennua, and I have His Majesty's orders to make some observations to you upon the contents of it; which will comprehend many of the material points in your former letters, which are unanswered.

The King was glad to see that the little disgrace which the chancellor Bestuchef had been under was entirely removed and that he was, at present, in as great credit and favor with the Empress, his mistress, as ever and that he had taken the advice of his friends and had entirely altered his manner and behaviour. But His Majesty was extremely surprised to find, by one of your late letters, that you had not had an opportunity of having a confidential discourse with that minister in six weeks, which makes all sort of correspondence upon material business impracticable.

The King took notice of the discourses which had been held to you by the chancellor and by his direction to induce His Majesty to give a subsidy to Russia for a body of troops to be at the King's disposal. The reasons pretended to have been received from hence against it are, I believe, chiefly of their own invention in order to confute them; and many of them were never thought of here, though there is great weight in any arguments that are drawn from the present uncertainty and instability of the russian government and from the difficulty of negotiating any

thing with a court, where the sovereign is not to be applied to upon business, even by her own ministers, above once in three months, and where, consequently, a measure which may be to be executed in eight and forty hours may, possibly, not be proposed till the time for putting it in execution is over; and I must own that, though the chancellor Bestuchef's intentions are acknowledged to be extremely good, yet the account you give of your being six weeks without seeing him upon business and the apprehension of the czarina's sudden departure for Moscow and, by that means, withdrawing herself from her ministers and her business, possibly with a view (as has been reported) to a still farther retirement, is enough to discourage any disposition that there might have been to a closer engagement with our court; and His Majesty would have you take an opportunity of talking seriously to the chancellor Bestuchef upon the difficulty of doing any thing with them, where there is so much uncertainty, such unaccountable delays and such a rioted aversion to all sort of business, and m-r Bestuchef must see and feel, how the weight and influence of the Russian Empire is weakened and lowered by it. His Majesty would be very glad to have a satisfactory answer upon this head.

The King is, by no means, a stranger to the ambitious views of the king of Prussia; and His Majesty has seen, upon many occasions, that his prussian majesty had too much influence over the french councils. All the King's measures are founded upon the great principle of forming a system for the preservation of the public peace. In this view His Majesty has been for connecting his allies, renewing and confirming the most perfect friendship and union between the maritime powers, the two empresses and some of the most considerable electors and princes of the empire, but that singly upon the foot of preserving the peace, and without giving any just cause of offence to any power whatever. It is in this view that the King acceded to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses, that His Majesty is promoting the election of the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans and that the King, in conjunction with the republic of Holland, has concluded the late treaties with the electors of Bavaria and Saxony. His Majesty is truly sensible of the weight of the Empress of Russia in this scale, which, if it was not for some weaknesses that I have hinted at above, would still be much more considerable than it is; the King doubts not, but in all events the Empress of Russia will perform her defensive engagements with His Majesty and the empress-queen; and I have been told, in great confidence and from a very good hand, that the court of Russia now receive a considerable subsidy (amounting, I sup-

pose, to about three hundred thousand crowns) for keeping in readiness a body of troops consisting of 40 or 50.000 men for the service of the empress-queen.

It is very true, the chancellor Bestuchef has given you many papers and many things have been flung out in discourse to induce His Majesty to give a subsidy to Russia, but they have all been so vague and so different, one from the other, that no certain judgment could be made upon them. To the best of my remembrance, the 1-st demand was a subsidy of 300.000 pounds per annum. In a subsequent letter you say, you are persuaded that 50.000 pounds would be sufficient, and indeed I have not sent you any answer to these loose proposals. I do not at all know what His Majesty may finally think proper to do, or what the situation of Europe may require, or the circumstances of this country bear, or the disposition of the republic of Holland be; but, till the chancellor Bestuchef will speak out plainly and declare what number of troops they can have in readiness and for what uses they shall be employed and what subsidy they will demand it is impossible for the King to form any judgment, upon what is so often flung out, or consequently to return any answer to it. When once a clear proposal is made, His Majesty will then consider what is proper for him to do.

The King, from his constant attention to the interest of the common cause, has been pleased to send the earl of Hindford to Vienna fully informed of His Majesty's thoughts upon all the material points now depending, and instructed to learn those of the emperor and empress-queen. His lordships great object will be to bring on, as soon as possible, the election of a king of the Romans, upon which the tranquillity of the empire and, indeed, the general peace of Europe so much depends.

You will, during the earl of Hindford's stay at Vienna, correspond with him and send him such accounts as you shall think it for His Majesty's service that he should be informed of.

The approbation which the court of Russia gave to the proposal of the election of the archduke to be king of the Romans, the endeavours they used to bring the king of Poland into it and the instances that they made that the King would give his polish majesty a subsidy for that purpose (which His Majesty has been since pleased to do) can leave no doubt of their sentiments upon that measure.

As the King proposes to set out for his german dominions some time in the easter week and as I shall have the honor to attend His Majesty there, I must desire that you would direct your answer to this letter to me at Hanover.

I have just received your letter of the 4-th of February and have sent it to the King, but have not had time to receive His Majesty's orders upon it.

I beg you would make my compliments to general Bretlack and return him my thanks for the good news, he has sent me of the changes which are to be in the russian ministers at Vienna and Dresden. There cannot be a better choice than that of m-r Gross. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 218.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 22-d February o. s. (4-th March) 1752.

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 24-th January, by which I find that my letters of the 30-th November last are come to hand. I hope soon to hear that my dispatch of the 25-th January has also made it's way.

The advice your grace has been pleased to send me of the great majority by which the saxon treaty had been approved in the House of Commons has given great pleasure and satisfaction to this court, and they do not doubt that any other measures His Majesty may think proper to take for the preservation of the peace and the support of the system of the Empire, in which the good of his own kingdoms are so nearly concerned, will meet with the same approbation by both Houses of Parliament.

As your grace is thoroughly acquainted how slow and tedious the dispatch of business is here, you will not be surprised when I tell you that count Keyserling's letters of revocation have not yet been sent to him, but it is no less certain that that minister will be soon removed from Dresden. A few days ago the Empress declared it publicly at table, so that nothing remains to be done, but to find a minute, when she will be in the humour to sign the papers that lay upon her table, which, amounting to the number of fifteen, including those which relate to count Bestuchef's recall from Vienna, is a very fatiguing piece of work for Her Imperial Majesty. Count Keyserling receives with his letter of revocation credentials to go and relieve count Bestuchef at Vienna, where he can do no mischief, should he accept of this commission, but it is thought he will not, as he must be sensible from whence, chiefly, comes this blow which removes him from Dresden and his dear friend count Brühl.

M-r Funk, the saxon minister, having acquainted me that he should dispatch a messenger to his court in a few days, I shall make use of that opportunity to write again fully to your grace upon the situation of affairs here, and particularly in Sweden, where things begin to have a very favorable aspect, if some advices which have been communicated to me this day may be depended on; for it appears, as if his swedish majesty grew tired with the dependance in which the french and prussian faction kept him and that he was desirous to bring the ancient senators, as m. m. Akerhielm, Bielk, count Bonde etc. etc. into the senate again. M-r Panin, the russian minister, has been even spoke to about this design by the king's order and sounded to know, how far his swedish majesty may depend on the Empress's friendship and assistance to carry it into execution. R. 23-d March. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 219.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 29-th February o. s. (13-th March) 1752.

My lord. Though I am told from day to day that the saxon courier, whom I mentioned to your grace in my letter of the 22-d instant, will soon set out, yet, knowing by experience, what trifling pretences delay the dispatch of business here, I chose to transmit to your grace, by the post, the swedish intelligences that have been lately communicated to me and which are, as follows:

That the disunion and feuds between the court party and the senate being almost carried to the highest pitch, a favourable opportunity seemed now to offer of getting the king out of the hands of France and Prussia, as that prince grew daily more indifferent with regard to those courts, since the french ambassador, the marquis d'Havrincourt, had so openly declared himself in favour of the senators.

That general Ungern, marshal of the last diet, finding to his great mortification that his pains to cool the heats and animosities between the parties, had only served to raise the arrogance and presumption of his enemies, was now come to the resolution of keeping no farther measures with them and had even swore, by his honour, that he would labour, to the utmost of his power, to bring about a thorough change in the situation of affairs; that, to this end, he had actually begun to set his engines to work; that colonel Stakelberg, a great friend of his, son to the old

feldmarshal of that name and a person who is not only extremely well affected to the common cause, but, farther, in the favour and confidence of the king, was pitched upon to make the first overtures to m-r Panin and that there could be no room to doubt, but it was with the king's approbation and by his order that the colonel, being come to the above-mentioned minister, began his discourse by telling him that he had long deplored the melancholy situation of his country and that of the honest well intentioned Swedes, who groaned under the heaviest oppression from the great dependance into which the present ministry had thrown their country with regard to some foreign powers; that his swedish majesty began not only to be sensible of it, but to feel it by the little regard that was shown to his person and authority; that his swedish majesty, even, frankly owned that he had been duped and imposed upon in a cruel manner by the senators, but, at the same time, seeing no means, yet, of shaking off their yoke, he was not able, of himself, to form a clear judgment of the situation of affairs, nor consequently to drive out of his head all the false notions and prejudices which they had put into it with regard to the management of affairs, whether foreign, or domestic; that another obstacle thereto was that both the king and the queen lent a little too much an ear to general Lieven and his sister, who have joined themselves to the court party, but only with a view to their private interests and to be better able to serve France, to whom they are entirely devoted; nevertheless, that the getting the king out of their hands and those of France grew, daily, a thing more feasible, as he, colonel Stakelberg and a great number of other persons in his way of thinking, had the good fortune to advance in his swedish majesty's favour and confidence; but, at the same time, they all foresaw very well that this work could not be brought to perfection without a thorough change in their political system; that, with this view and intention, colonel Stakelberg said, he had been deputed, by the friends and well wishers to the common cause, to the abovementioned minister to desire to know his sentiments upon the change that was projected and that he would begin by telling him that, in their opinion, the first thing to be done was to bring the old well intentioned senators into the senate again. But that, in this case, it was necessary, his swedish majesty should know, if the Empress of Russia, forgetting what is past, would restore to him her friendship; for that such a change could not be brought about without the assistance of some foreign power.

M-r Panin, in answer to this, having made a short recapitulation

of what had passed between the two courts since the election of his swedish majesty, gave colonel Stakelberg to understand that the Empress of Russia would be glad of all opportunities the king would give her of, convincing him that she had sincerely at heart his happiness and prosperity and of her desire of cultivating a perfect friendship and harmony between the two crowns. M-r Panin explained, also, to colonel Stakelberg all the tricks and stratagems count Tessin had used to alienate the king's affection from the Empress and which count Tessin could not but disapprove himself, were it not for his blind obedience to France. To conclude m-r Panin, being persuaded that a report would be made to the king of all he had said to colonel Stakelberg, did all he could to open his swedish majesty's eyes and make him sensible that count Tessin's schemes and designs were entirely inconsistent with his true and natural interests. M-r Panin went, even, so far as to promise the Empress would advance the king a considerable sum of money, if she thought he could, by any means, bring the sooner about the changes he wished. These advices farther say that colonel Stakelberg was gone to see senator Akerhielm, at his country house, in order to prepare him to take again his seat in the senate, as soon as he should be required to do so.

I must take notice to your grace that I find m-r Panin a little obscure in the account he gives of the court party in Sweden; the only french partisan who is in that party, according to m-r Panin's letters, is general Lieven and, as it plainly appears, with a view to support the interest of France, the others, as felt marshal During, general Ungern, general Müller, colonel Stakelberg etc. etc. were always considered as well intentioned Swedes, though some of them, seeing they could not stem the torrent of french delusion, have yielded to the times and bent the knee to Baal, so that these disputes do not appear to me so much a disunion between the ruling parties, as a struggle between them and some of the well intentioned Swedes, who have found means to gain the king's confidence and give him jealousy of the french senators and of the incroachments they would make upon his authority.

I have, at last, the pleasure to acquaint your grace that, yesterday sennight, the Empress signed all the papers relating to count Bestuchef's and count Keyserling's recall from the courts of Vienna and Dresden, as, also, the credentials and instructions for m-r Gross, who is to relieve count Keyserling; but, through our friend the great chancellor's known laziness and indolence, these dispatches have not been yet sent away. R. 23-d March. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 220.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 7-th March o. s. (18-th March) 1752.

My lord. I received, by the last post, the honour of your grace's letter of the 11-th February, wherein I am sorry to see the advice I sent your grace in mine of the 18-th January last, in relation to the Empress's intended journey to Moscow, had given His Majesty some concern; I am glad therefore that I can now inform your grace that I gave too easy credit to this secret piece of intelligence, which, I have since found, had no better foundation, than her Imperial Majesty's design of abdicating her throne, but there are people here who catch at every word that princess lets drop at table or amongst her confidants, and, for want of other matters, write it to their courts, though they know, by experience, how subjects change and how little anything that is said in these table conversations is to be depended upon. Her Imperial Majesty's intended journey to Moscow or rather pilgrimage to the cloister, I mentioned in my letter of the 18-th January, is entirely laid aside, for a calculation being made of the expence of repairing the roads that lead thither, instead of six thousand which the Empress had ordered, it was found they would amount to fifty two thousand rubles, which are thought too great a sum to be thrown away in such a jaunt which, as all others of this kind, have some object of pleasure in view and not anything serious, as business or thoughts of abdication. In my letter of the 28-th of January, I acquainted your grace with the true foundation of what had been wrote concerning the Empress's supposed design of abdicating. Not one word is spoke about it more at present, nor do I believe any more such reports will reach your grace's ears. The Empress has too clear an understanding not to foresee the consequences of such a step, and that the first act of her successor's authority, let him be who he will, would be to lock her up in a cloister for the remainder of her life.

Count Bestuchef's and count Keyserling's letters of revocation have been at last dispatched to them by two different couriers; the one to Vienna, the other to Dresden. M-r Gross set out also the evening before last from hence on his journey to Dresden, for which place he is to make all the diligence he can in order to relieve m-r Keyserling, who is to go and relieve count Bestuchef at Vienna. The great chancellor for reasons I have hinted in some of my secret letters, has not only procured to him

the character of ambassador, but the order of St. Andrew and an additional salary of three thousand rubles per annum; yet the general opinion here is that count Keyserling will not accept of this post, but desire his dismissal and go into the service of Saxony.

The great chancellor has new domestic uneasinesses: Briestein, who is married to his daughter in law, has turned her off. He accuses her of adultery and has begun a suit against her in order to be divorced; and as she has flown to her father in law's house for protection, Briestein is gone over to the chancellor's enemies, who take occasion from hence to inspire the Empress with very bad notions of the chancellor, his wife and all his family. These things have so much fretted the chancellor, that he is fallen sick and has kept his bed these two days past.

A complaint has been made here by the swedish minister by order of his court that the clergy of a neutral district in Finland, the limits not being yet settled, had, by order of the commanding officer, required the peasants of the said district to pay to the Empress's custom officers the eight years which they are in arrear of their contributions, since the conclusion of the peace. The swedish minister has been told that this court was unacquainted with any such order having been given, but that they would enquire into it and in the meantime he might assure his court of Her Imperial Majesty's readiness to redress all grievances or complaints that had any foundation and to show, on all occasions, her desire to cultivate a good neighbourhood and sincere friendship with the king and kingdom of Sweden. R. 30-th March. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 221.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 14-th March o. s. (25-th March) 1752.

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 18-th February, containing His Majesty's orders with regard to the changes to be made in the mourning for the late queen of Denmark, which immediately conformed myself to.

The removal of count Keyserling from the court of Dresden and the recall of count Bestuchef from that of Vienna is subject to many speculations here, as the great chancellor did not seem to appear in these changes and that the Empress kept her intentions secret, untill the orders were signed. Several people, and even some foreign ministers here, I find,

are of opinion that they are owing to the decline of the great chancellor's credit and to the intrigues of a prussian faction. M-r Funk, the saxon minister, in particular, is very much in this way of thinking and, I doubt not, represents things in that light to his court, in which, I am sorry to say, he listens a little too much to his private resentment; for, having positively assured his court he would prevent m-r Keyserling's removal from Dresden, he cannot conceal, how much he is piqued at this resolution's having been kept secret from him, as, likewise, at the nomination of m-r Gross, which he had, also, orders to oppose to the utmost of his power. It is given out that the chancellor's enemies have brought about count Bestuchef's recall from Vienna, in order to bring him hither and to set him at the head of a party against his brother, as it is known they stand very ill together; but this has so little foundation, that the vice-chancellor knows from count Bestuchef's own mouth, when he saw him at Dresden that, should he be recalled, he never would return into this country; so that, upon the receipt of his letters of revocation, we expect to hear that he has taken the resolution of retiring to Switzerland. R. 5-th April at Harwich. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 222.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 27-th March 1752.

All in cypher. Sir. I have received and laid before the King your letters of the 22-d and 29-th of February containing advices from Sweden. His Majesty was very glad to see by them that things there had, at present, so favorable an appearance, and I am to recommend it to you to continue your attention in procuring and transmitting to me constant accounts of what passes in Sweden, for His Majesty's information.

The King continues his intention of setting out for his german dominions on Tuesday next. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 223.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 21-st March o. s. (1-st April) 1752.

My lord. In my letter of the 14-th instant, which is my last, I acquainted your grace with the reasoning held here upon the recall of

count Bestuchef from the court of Vienna and the removal of count Keyserling from that of Dresden, since then m-r Funk, the saxon minister, who cannot yet digest the mystery which his friend, the great chancellor, had made to him of these changes, has attempted, through the canal of the vice-chancellor, to have an estafette sent after m-r Gross with orders to come back. The reasons used on the Empress to sign such orders were a groundless advice which m-r Funk had received from Dresden, as if general Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, was forthwith to leave this court, from whence m-r Funk, in order to keep their dearly beloved count Keyserling at Dresden, took occasion to insinuate that it would not be consistent with the dignity of this court to send a new ambassador to Vienna, when that court was recalling their's from hence. But this little intrigue had a quite different effect with the Empress than was expected, for she has taken it so ill of the vice-chancellor, that the evening before last she sent a messenger to the great chancellor ordering him to bring to her this morning all the papers that lay ready for her signing, but that he was to come alone and not bring the vice-chancellor with him. As m-r Funk is not acquainted with this anecdote, I doubt not, but he will go on in representing to his court the great chancellor's interest as declining, but I believe he will conceal from them the very sharp expostulation which the great chancellor had with him upon his underhand dealings with the vice-chancellor and which went so far, that, I believe, m-r Funk may bid, for ever, adieu to that great share of confidence which the chancellor had put in him for so many years past. As neither general Bretlack, nor I, are at liberty to let the other foreign ministers here into the secret springs by which the recall and removal of the two abovementioned ministers has been brought about, I should not be surprised if the dutch minister's letters and mine did not agree; lest they should not therefore, I think it proper to let your grace know that, whatever you may hear from other parts of the great chancellor's losing ground in his mistress's favour, is without foundation; and as a proof of it I need only repeat what I said above of the messenger sent to him by the Empress to come and dispatch business with her this morning by himself, and not bring the vice-chancellor with him. R. 14-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 224.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 28-th March o. s. (8-th April) 1752.

My lord. A few days ago, an incident happened here which is likely to make a little noise.

The director of the excise office here, who is a lieutenant colonel, being informed that contrary to the Empress's ordinance some liquors and strong beer were sold in a certain house, sent, without inquiring who lived in that house, an officer with a detachment of soldiers to take up the persons who were guilty of these practices, which being accordingly executed it was afterwards found out that the house belonged to baron Grieffenheim, the swedish minister at this court, and that the persons who had been taken in arrest and conducted to prison were his servants. As soon as a report was made of this to the Empress, she expressed the greatest dissatisfaction at the proceedings of the lieutenant colonel, who is at the head of the excise office, and ordered him immediately to be put in arrest. And since then Her Imperial Majesty has not only sent the master of the ceremonies to all the foreign ministers to let them know, how much she was concerned at this disagreeable incident, but by her order a paper, the copy of which is here inclosed, was delivered to them two days ago, inquiring them to inform their respective courts of what had happened and of her intentions to give the swedish minister a proper satisfaction for the insult offered to him.

I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 28-th February, but as we are now in the easter holy days, I must defer till next week returning an answer to it. R. 16-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

Note concernant l'affaire qui est arrivée à m-r le baron de Grieffenheim, envoyé extraordinaire de sa majesté le roi de Suède.

St.-Petersbourg, ce 26 Mars

En suite de ce qui est arrivé le 23 du courant dans la maison de monsieur Grieffenheim, envoyé extraordinaire de sa majesté le roi de Suède, par la faute et l'inadvertance du chef de la chancellerie, établie pour empêcher la vente clandestine de l'eau de vie et de la bière, le ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies a cru devoir informer

messieurs les ministres étrangers que Sa Majesté Impériale par une suite naturelle de sa façon de penser, de son amour pour la justice et particulièrement de ses sentiments d'amitié et d'estime pour sa majesté le roi et le royaume de Suède n'a pu en apprendre la nouvelle qu'avec beaucoup d'indignation et avec tout le ressentiment possible. Et afin que le susdit envoyé extraordinaire monsieur de Greiffenheim en fût distinctement informé et pour qu'il ne pût douter en même temps qu'on lui fera donner une entière satisfaction, Sa Majesté Impériale a ordonné, le lendemain matin, à son maître des cérémonies de l'aller trouver de sa part et de lui faire connaître, combien elle regrettait et combien elle était indignée que, contre son intention, il lui soit arrivé un accident si fâcheux et que Sa Majesté Impériale, voulant que prompt réparation lui en soit faite, avait, dès la première nouvelle du cas en question, donné ses ordres d'amener à la cour le chef de la susdite chancellerie, lequel, après y avoir été interrogé, a été incessamment mis aux arrêts et envoyé dans le Sénat avec ordre d'instruire son procès et de lui faire subir la punition qu'il a méritée.

Messieurs les ministres étrangers étant instruits de ce que dessus voudront bien en rendre compte à leurs cours respectives. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 65.

№ 225.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 7-th April o. s. (18-th April) 1752.

My lord. Last week, which was easter week, when according to the custom here no business is thought on or transacted in any of the colleges, the Empress was pleased to declare publicly her intentions of going next winter to Moscow, as soon as the sledge way should be open, which will be, as usually happens here, about the latter end of November or beginning of December. Preparations are actually making for this journey and orders have also been sent to Moscow for one thousand workmen to be immediately employed in making the necessary reparations and additions to the Empress's own palace and to several other buildings for the convenient lodging of the numerous retinue which always attends Her Imperial Majesty on these occasions. All the jealousies and broils between this court and Sweden being removed since his present swedish majesty's accession to the throne and the situation of the affairs of Europe in ge-

neral giving hopes of the continuance of the blessings of peace, the Empress with the advice of her ministers has thought that, during this time of tranquillity, she might for one year give her subjects in those parts the pleasure of seeing her amongst them, as they have on many occasions expressed it to be their most earnest wishes and desire.

Since my letter of the 28-th March, I have had some conferences with the great chancellor upon the subject matter of your grace's letter of the 28-th of February and I have actually ready a letter with an account of what passed therein, which will go by an express that general Bretlack proposes to send to Vienna in two or three days at farthest. R. 5-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 226.

Lord Holdernessee to colonel Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 21-st April 1752.

Sir. I have received the favour of your letter of 21-st March acquainting me with the directions you had received from the duke of Newcastle to send me, for the information of the lords justices, duplicates of the letters you write to his grace during His Majesty's residence in his german dominions. In consequence whereof I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28-th March, which I communicated to their excellencies.

I am glad of this opportunity of renewing our correspondence and of repeating the assurances of etc. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 227.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 11-th April o. s. (22-d April) 1752.

My lord. General Bretlack sending express to Vienna one of the gentlemen of his ambassy, I shall make use of that opportunity to give your grace an account of my proceedings here in consequence of the orders I received by your grace's letter of the 28-th February.

On Sunday, the 29-th March, being Easter Sunday, I went as is customary here to pay my compliments to the great chancellor on that occasion, when acquainting him that I should be glad to speak to him at

leisure, he desired me to come to him the next day, between 11 and 12 in the forenoon, which I accordingly did; and after the first compliments were over, I told him, I was glad to be able to assure him that the articles which had been communicated to me, as containing the reasons alledged by my court for not granting a subsidy to this, were pure inventions; that I was, however, ordered to let him know that my court could not helping thinking, there was a great deal of weight in some of these arguments, especially if some reports, which had reached their ears and gave them no little uneasiness, were true, viz-t: that the Empress had thoughts of withdrawing herself from ministers and business and, possibly, with views of abdicating her crown; and, though your grace does not speak of it in your abovementioned letter, yet, as I know, such advice has been sent from hence to Dresden and the Hague, I told the chancellor that my court was under no less uneasiness and apprehension on his account, it being confidently affirmed, at several courts, that his interest declined daily with the Empress, his mistress, and that he was in danger to use some people's own words *de faire au premier jour la culbute*; that it was difficult not to give some little credit to these reports, when the Empress's known aversion to business was so publicly known; the effects of which were felt in the unaccountable delays that are met with here in the dispatch of all kind of business, by which means Her Imperial Majesty's ministers might often not have an opportunity of proposing to her some measures, though the most proper and necessary, to be taken, before the time for putting them in execution might be over. I desired the great chancellor to reflect very seriously on these matters, adding (as it is said in your grace's letter) that he must see and feel, himself, how much the weight and influence of the russian Empire is weakened and lowered by the instability and uncertainty of the government, as it rendered them less formidable to their enemies and less useful to their friends.

After I had done speaking upon this head, the great chancellor, who had listened with a great deal of attention, told me that I might assure your grace, in the strongest manner, that all the reports spread of the Empress's withdrawing herself from her ministers and abdicating her crown were meer fictions: and, as a proof of it, he said that he need only relate what had happened about two months ago, which was that the Empress, being one day at dinner told those who had the honor to be at her table that the night before she had dreamt, her father was come to life again and how much pleasure it had given her, adding that if such a thing

were possible, what pains would she not take to give him the strongest proofs of her affection. Upon which one of the Shuwalof's having asked her, if she would give up to him the reins of government, she answered with a smile: no, and that she believed she should be hardly persuaded to do that. The chancellor concluded by saying that was there any the least foundation for these reports he hoped, I thought him too honest a man and too sincere a friend of the court of Vienna not to have given general Bretlack and me the earliest notice of it.

With regard to the reports spread concerning the chancellor's interest dealing with the Empress, he assured me they had as little foundation, as those concerning the Empress; but that he believed, he had given occasion, himself, to what some ministers had wrote from hence upon that subject; for, in order to conceal the share he had had in the changes made in the russian ministers at Vienna and Dresden, he had told them and, in particular, the saxon minister, m-r Funk, that these resolutions had been taken without his knowledge; from whence they naturally inferred, it proceeded from the intrigues of his enemies.

The chancellor took up the complaints I had made of the delays that the dispatch of all kind of business met with here, and said, this and many other things would be upon another foot, if any business of real consequence was in agitation, which had not been the case, since their disputes with Sweden were over. He likewise gave me to understand that the attention of this court would be greatly quickened, if it was united with the maritime powers in such a manner, as it might find therein a more present and immediate interest, and here I must observe to your grace that, though there cannot be any the least doubts of their sincere good intentions for strengthening and supporting the system of the Empire, and, in particular, for promoting, all they can, the election of the archduke Joseph to be king of the Romans, yet, if we would have them be of all the weight, they can and are willing to be in these scales, I plainly see, some advantage will be expected more, than just the honour of supporting a good cause. Acquisitions they desire none, their Empire is already too great, and let them only seriously think of conquering what they have within themselves, they may boldly laugh at all the attempts. Two thirds of Europe, joined together, could make against them; therefore the powers which have the chiefest and greatest interest in the preservation of peace and the balance of power should, in their opinion, not grudge to make easy and light to them the friendly and powerful hand which they are willing to lend to attain those ends, and which concerns, more or less,

the other powers of Europe, according as they are nearer to or more remote from the danger. To return to the delays I complained of, here, in business; the great chancellor said farther that, did we think proper to come into closer engagements with this court, the dispatch of affairs might easily be regulated and settled to our satisfaction by an article in the treaty.

I come now to that part of your grace's letter of the 28-th February, wherein you take notice of the several papers the great chancellor had delivered to me, to induce His Majesty to give a subsidy to Russia. I told him that both them and the other things that had been flung out to your grace in discourse to that purpose, had, all, been thought so vague that no certain judgement could be made upon them. But if he, the chancellor, would speak out plainly and declare what number of troops they can have in readiness, and what subsidy they will demand, His Majesty would, then, consider, what is proper for him to do. To this the chancellor answered that, if we would take the pains in England to read over again the papers he had given me, he believed, they would not be thought too *vague*, but very clear and explicit. However, as he was desired to be more circumstantial, he would let me know that general Apraxin, the president of the college of war, had told him, in a conference, they had lately had together, that, as this Empire had nothing to fear on the side of Turkey or Persia, a great number of troops, which were on the frontiers of those two states and only kept there because their subsistence cost very little, might be withdrawn from thence; by which means and according to an account taken of it by the college of war, they could have in a readiness and for any use whatsoever a body of 30, 40, 50 or 60.000 men, exclusive of any number of troops they may be obliged to furnish their allies by virtue of treaties; that nevertheless he was of opinion that it would be most for the service of the maritime powers, if they took only a body of 40.000 men into their pay; to which might be added the 12.000 men this court was bound by treaty to furnish England; which, making together a corps of fifty two thousand men, should be kept on the frontiers and in readiness to march and to act at the shortest warning either by way of diversion against Prussia, or in any other manner that the maritime powers should judge most for their service and that of the common cause; that of these 52.000 men the maritime powers should only pay for forty thousand and that only, when the case existed that they should go upon immediate service. With regard to the subsidy the great chancellor, at first, made some difficulty to mention any particular sum,

referring to the papers I had transmitted to your grace; however, at last, he said he hoped one hundred and fifty thousand pounds per annum would not be thought too much for the extraordinary expence of keeping those troops on the frontiers well provided with every thing and in constant readiness to march at a minutes warning; but he was at the same time to tell me, it would not be worth their while to accept even of that sum, if the treaty was not made for four or five years, as a shorter time would not answer the expence they should be put to by causing such a general motion to be made amongst their troops, as they should be obliged to do in supplying the place of the troops, which are nearest at hand to form the corps abovementioned, to be kept on the frontiers by others, which are at a great distance and in the more remote parts of the Empire. For, independent of the troops on the frontiers, let them be more or less, they were obliged to hold a proper countenance on the side of Sweden, which could not be done without having between Narva, Novogrod, Petersburg, it's neighbourhood and Finland a corps of forty thousand men. I must not forget to tell your grace that, in case of an attack against Hanover only, the chancellor said the twelve thousand men, this court was to furnish England, could not march, as the *casus fœderis* would not exist; but, that the forty thousand men, which the maritime powers should take into their pay, would be at their disposal and ready to act, in what manner and wheresoever they pleased. And here I was not a little surprised to hear the great chancellor come out with the heaviest complaints of the usage, which the corps of thirty thousand Russians, that were in the pay of the maritime powers, met with in the year 1748; who, after a very fatiguing march of several months, were ordered immediately on their arrival in Bohemia to return home through Poland and that in winter; which, had those orders been complied with, would have been the utter ruin and destruction of the whole corps. And I find this treaty has been so much resented here, that general Apraxin declares publicly on all occasions that he would rather give a body of 50/m men to the court of Vienna for amunition bread only, than to the maritime powers for a large subsidy. Having, thus, given your grace an account of what passed between the great chancellor and me, in consequence of the orders I had received by your grace's letter of the 28-th of February, it is proper, I should take notice of a few other articles, in the said letter, which did not make any part of the subject matter of my conference with the chancellor. First, I must let your grace know, what you have heard of Russia's receiving a considerable subsidy for keeping in readiness a body of troops for the

service of the empress-queen, is an invention of the king of Prussia's to make France believe, there were some designs in agitation here against Sweden. The only foundation for this intelligence, which has been given me in a confidential manner, I suppose to make it have a greater appearance of truth, is that, when general Bretlack left Vienna, he was charged with a sum of between forty and fifty thousand ducats being part of the subsidy which the dutch are still indebted to this court. This money was given general Bretlack by a Jew at Vienna, who acts there, as an agent for Holland; and, as such a large sum of money could not be brought to his house without notice being taken of it, we suppose, the prussian minister sent word of it to his master, who, from lesser matters, knew, how to cook up advice in such a manner, as may answer his views and designs.

As I find in your grace's abovementioned letter that you lay a great stress upon my not having had an opportunity of having a confidential discourse with the great chancellor in six weeks time, I must, in all submission, beg leave to tell your grace that no inferences are to be drawn, from thence, of the impracticability of any correspondence with this court upon material business. Had I pressed him to appoint me an hour, he would certainly have done it; but I had nothing of consequence to say to him. All courts have their particular manner of acting and dispatching business; and this, though it begins to make a figure in the affairs of Europe, has not, like the cat in the fable, who was changed into a woman, forgot that it was, formerly, only an asiatick power; so that, if they retain a good deal of the eastern customs, it is not surprising. There are here, besides, I must own, faibles and passions which are great cloggs to business; but, if we know, how to make a right use of them, they turn, infinitely, to our advantage; nay, if those faibles and passions did not exist, I know not, if it would not be for our interest to raise them at a great expence. For I would have your grace be entirely persuaded of one truth, which is, that this Princess's aversion to France and Prussia has taken a much deeper root, than her aversion to business. She gave an instance of it two days ago only, when the chancellor, having asked leave for two young noblemen to go on their travels to Vienna and other parts, she granted it, but on the express condition that they should not go to France or Prussia. This Princess is now in the full strength and vigour of her age and given to no excesses which can shorten a woman's life, so that, without any miracle, there is a prospect of her reigning thirty years longer; during which time, if she be kept in the good dis-

position, she is in at present, as may very easily be done, what great advantage, nay, happiness may not result from it to powers who have no views, but the preservation of the public peace and the forming such a concert of measures, as may effectually chastise those who may be tempted by their ambitious designs to break it?

Upon the whole, my lord, without presuming to determine, what measures are proper or not for our court to take, I must, seriously, represent to your grace that, in case the repeated overtures and insinuations made from hence to induce His Majesty to grant this court a subsidy meet with no ingression, the sooner it is made known to this court by a friendly negative, the better; for, to be silent and saying nothing upon the subject would have a worse effect, than a refusal. Should our court be of another opinion and inclined to set on foot, here, a negotiation upon the proposal made by the chancellor; in that case it will be proper, the court of Vienna should be desired to send orders to their ambassador here to act in concert with me for bringing this negotiation to a happy conclusion upon the easiest and most reasonable terms that can be obtained. Two days ago, general Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, count Colloredo and I met the chancellor, at his own desire, at baron Wolff's, where the chancellor repeated all I have wrote above, in their presence, for fear of any mistake or any misunderstanding on his side or mine.

I send no duplicate of this dispatch to the earl of Holdernessee, leaving it to your grace to order it, if you think proper.

I had almost forgot to acquaint your grace that the great chancellor repeated to me, several times, that, if our court would not come to some resolution upon what he had said to me, so that, if a negotiation should be set on foot, in consequence thereof, it may be brought to some maturity by the latter end of July or beginning of August, it would, afterwards, be too late; for that the Empress's journey to Moscow being fixed and resolved upon, the chancery and the court would be so busy after that time in packing up and making all the other preparations for this journey, that they would have no leisure here to give much attention to business before their arrival at Moscow and that they were settled there, which would not be before next lent. R. 19/30 May, by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 228.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 11-th April o. s. (22-d April) 1752.

Apart. My lord. As I find the complaints made by Sweden, though without any the least foundation, of some irregular proceedings and contrary to treaty on the frontiers, on the part of Russia, has made a great deal more noise, than the thing deserved, I herewith transmit to your grace copies of the promemoria's which the swedish minister m-r Greiffenheim has given in upon that subject to the Empress's ministers and of their answer thereto. Your grace will excuse me if I send them in german, not having time to get them translated before this express goes away.

I likewise here inclose to your grace a copy of his most christian majesty's letter to the Empress of Russia, notifying the death of madame Henriette. This letter was sent hither by m-r Panin, the russian minister at Stockholm, who had received it from the french ambassador there.

M-r Panin writes, besides, in a secret letter to the great chancellor that the french ambassador had expressed to him, in the strongest manner, the earnest desire of his court to renew a closer and more friendly correspondence with this court, and to that end, without any farther delay, ministers should respectively be sent from one to the other, but the great chancellor has not thought proper to lay this letter before the Empress; and, on this occasion, I must acquaint your grace that m-r Funk, the saxon minister, has, by order of his court, made the strongest instances to the same purpose and endeavoured to persuade the great chancellor that it would be for his advantage, if a french minister was here, as he might come at the key of his cypher and then have him sent away, as m-r Chétardie was. But these representations and insinuations of the court of Saxony are thought here very unfair and uncandid, as they know that count Loss, the saxon ambassador at Paris, has given himself the airs, there, to brag that he would not only be the means, by the influence which his court had over this, that a french minister should be received at Petersburg, but that the Empress of Russia should name one first to go to Paris. R. 19/30 May, by Lamb. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

Copie d'une lettre du roi de France à l'Impératrice de Russie.

Très haute, très excellente, très puissante et très magnanime Princesse, notre très chère sœur et parfaite amie, Elisabeth 1-re, Impératrice et

Autocratrice de toutes les Russies, Moscovie, Kiovie etc. etc., nous avons trop de confiance dans les sentiments de Votre Majesté Impériale à notre égard pour n'être pas persuadé qu'elle sera sensible à la perte que nous venons de faire de madame Henriette, notre seconde fille. Plus la part que Votre Majesté y prendra sera vive et sincère, plus elle sera proportionnée à l'intérêt que nous prenons à tout ce qui la regarde et aux sentiments de l'amitié particulière que nous avons toujours eus et que nous aurons toujours pour elle. Sur ce nous prions Dieu, très haute, très excellente, très puissante et très magnanime Princesse, notre très chère sœur et parfaite amie, qu'il veuille tenir Votre Majesté en sa sainte et digne garde. Ecrit à Versailles, le 17 Février 1752. Contresigné: De Barberie.

N^o 229.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 14-th April o. s. (25-th April) 1752.

My lord. Your grace will have heard, long before this reaches your hands, that the secret committee of the diet, now sitting in Sweden, had, at last, yielded to count Tessin's repeated solicitations and consented to his laying down his post of president of the chancery, which has been, since, conferred on senator Hopken. M-r Panin, the russian minister at Stockholm, writes hither, on this occasion, that the interests of France will receive no hurt by this change in the ministry; for that senator Hopken was, as zealously attached, and devoted to that crown, as any one partisan she had in the kingdom. M-r Panin seems, on the contrary, to fear that this new chief minister's intemperate zeal may make him lead Sweden into greater lengths for the service of France, than all his predecessor count Tessin's finesses had been able to do. As count Tessin has, however, been persuaded to keep his seat in the senate and his place of governor to the prince royal, by which latter post he will be obliged to a constant attendance at court, m-r Panin is under some apprehension, least he should find means to reconcile the king with the senate and, thereby, frustrate the hopes, the well intentioned Swedes had conceived of bringing the king into a right way of thinking.

I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 17-th March signifying to me His Majesty's pleasure, that during his residence abroad I should address my dispatches to your grace at Hanover and send duplicates of them to the earl of Holderness, which I have begun accordingly to do. R. 12-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. N^o 64.

№ 230.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 25-th April o. s. (6-th May) 1752.

My lord. If I give your grace the trouble of this letter, it is only to acquaint you that nothing has occurred here for those three last postes worth writing, unless it be that on Tuesday last being the great dutchess's birthday, it was celebrated at court with the usual ceremonies at noon and in the evening; this day also is another great festival, as it happens to be the anniversary of the Empress's coronation.

I have received the honor of your grace's letter of the 27-th March and, pursuant to the commands contained therein, I shall be careful to transmit all the accounts I shall be able to procure of what passes in Sweden for His Majesty's information. R. 22-d May. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 231.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 5-th May o. s. (16-th May) 1752.

My lord. There is so little business of any kind transacting here at present, that we are entirely at a loss what to write when the post day comes. A few days ago, the Empress removed from her winter to her summer palace, from whence, now the fine season is come, she will make frequent excursions to Czarsko Sielo and some of her other country houses, untill the beginning of June, when, as usual, she will go and settle at Peterhoff for the remainder of the summer.

On Saturday last, being the empress-queen of Hungary's birthday, on which occasion general Bretlack gave a great entertainment, baron Maltzan, the danish minister, took an opportunity after dinner to talk both to his excellency and me about the negotiation so long depending here between his court and the great duke for the exchange of land on the side of Holstein and Delmenhorst, and m-r Maltzan told us that he was surprised to hear from the great chancellor that none of the russian ministers at the courts of London, Vienna and the Hague had wrote hither, as the great chancellor had desired, that the abovementioned courts, having at heart the success of this negotiation, had ordered their ministers, here, to

pass their good offices for that purpose in the most effectual manner; and m-r Maltzan added that he could the less account for the russian ministers silence on this subject, as he had received, long since, advice from his court that orders had been sent to his danish majesty's ministers at London, Vienna and the Hague to use proper instances to have instructions sent to general Bretlack, m-r Swart and me. General Bretlack told m-r Maltzan that he could assure him no such instances, as he mentioned, had as yet been made at Vienna on the part of his court; however he was ready to pursue the instructions he had received to favour his negotiation in all he could, whenever the great chancellor should say, it was proper and seasonable for him to do it. And I could not help returning the same answer, in consequence of the repeated orders I have received from the King concerning this affair, though I am entirely ignorant if m-r Rosenkrantz, the danish minister in England, has or has not made the instances and requisitions abovementioned.

If we are in the dark here with regard to the affairs of Denmark, we are not less so, with regard to his polish majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746. Sir Charles Hanbury Williams assures me that m-r Brühl had notified, in form, to count Sternberg, the austrian minister at Dresden, his polish majesty's intention of acceding to the abovementioned treaty. But, as often as I speak about it, to general Bretlack, wondering he has not yet received full powers, he, as constantly and as positively, assures me that it is a mistake and that no answer has yet been returned to the empress-queen's invitation either at Dresden or Vienna. R. 22-d May. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 232.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 16-th May o. s. (27-th May) 1752.

My lord. This place continues to be very barren of news. The Empress, who had been for eight or ten days at Czarsko Sielo, is come to her summer palace again here in town, but immediately after the whitsun holidays, she will remove to Czarsko Sielo and spend there some time in hunting.

A few days ago, general Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, received a courier from his court. Amongst other things he is informed by the dispatches which this courier brought that the danish minister at Vienna had, at last, desired, in the name of the king, his master, that their

imperial majesties would be so kind, as to employ their best offices for bringing the negotiation between the court of Denmark and the great duke to a happy conclusion. We expect, now, every post, to hear that the same requisition has been made at Hanover and the Hague by the danish ministers residing there, and that, in consequence thereof, the russian ministers at the three abovementioned courts will have been spoke to in the manner the great chancellor Bestuchef desired, whose view, in this negotiation, as I have mentioned in several of my former dispatches, is to make the king of Denmark renounce his engagements with France and join in a concert of counsel and measures with his true and natural allies. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 233.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 26-th May o. s. (6-th June) 1752.

My lord. I had not the honour to write to your grace by the three last posts, nor should I have done it by this, did I not begin to fear you may forget that His Majesty has a minister here. On Sunday last there was a drawing room at the Empress's summer palace, which it is thought will be the last this summer, as preparations are making for Her Imperial Majesty's removal from thence to Peterhoff.

Baron Greiffenheim, who has resided here about two years and a half, as envoy extraordinary from Sweden, has received his letters of revocation and will take his audience of leave to-morrow or next day. Baron Posse, who came hither some months ago to notify the late king of Sweden's death, is appointed to succeed him, but is not expected here before the latter end of June or beginning of July.

I received a few days ago the honour of your grace's letter of the 3/14 May, by which I have the pleasure to see that you was safely arrived at Hanover and had the great satisfaction to find (God be praised) His Majesty in the most perfect health. R. 23-d June. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 234.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 6-th June o. s. (17-th June) 1752.

My lord. After so long a dearth of any kind of news worth writing from hence, I am sorry to have a melancholy article to transmit to your

grace by this post from Moscow, two thirds of that town, according to the late letters we have received from thence, having been destroyed by fire. By the lists which have been sent hither it appears that above five thousand houses have been burned to the ground; much the greatest number of these houses were indeed only of wood and a great many of them only huts and cabins, but there are also a great many stone and brick houses, as well as manufactures of great value, which have met with the same fate. By good fortune this disaster happened in a part of the town a little remote from the court, otherwise it must have prevented the Empress's intended journey to Moscow.

Yesterday Her Imperial Majesty removed from her summer palace to Peterhoff, where she will reside as usual untill her names day, which is on the 5-th of September. R. 4-th July. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 235.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 13-th June o. s. (24-th June) 1752.

My lord. The Empress was not yet gone to Peterhoff, as I acquainted your grace in my letter of the 6-th, and removed thither the day before yesterday only. Some people attribute this alteration in her resolution to the cold, raw weather, we have had here of late, others, to another disagreeable piece of news which the court has received from Moscow of an insurrection of some thousand peasants, who worked in the iron mines, belonging to count Alexander Shuwalof about one hundred wersts from that capital, on account of the hard labour they were put to and the smallness of their pay. These peasants having gathered together to the number of about three thousand, not only drove away the first detachment of soldiers which were sent to keep them in awe and prevent their committing any disorders, but on the arrival of a regiment of dragoons, the colonel of which produced to them an *ukaze* from the senate ordering them, in the Empress's name, to lay down their arms and return peaceably to their habitations, they fell upon these troops, killed the colonel, dangerously wounded the lieutenant colonel and cut to pieces or wounded about two thirds of the regiment. I am not yet exactly informed of all the particulars and circumstances of this affair. In general, it is said, these disturbances have been quelled by six regiments of foot; but, I find, some people are inclined to believe, as if these riots might have farther con-

sequences and that there is a connection between these peasants, in the neighbourhood of Moscow, and those that work in the iron mines in Silesia, who, they pretend to know, are, also, mutinous and have taken up arms, and what gives great room for these suspicions is that some persons of distinction, but who they are, I am not yet informed, have been lately brought hither and committed close prisoners.

In a few posts, I hope to be able to send your grace a more particular account of these matters which is the more necessary, as I doubt not, but they will be greatly magnified abroad by those who wish to see new troubles and confusion in this country.

By some letters, I have seen from Moscow, the damage done by the fire, which has happened there, is much more considerable, than was, at first, reported, and people begin to think, it may prevent Her Imperial Majesty's intended journey thither. R. 11-th July. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 236.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 23-d June o. s. (4-th July) 1752.

My lord. The tumult amongst the peasants, in the neighbourhood of Moscow, which I mentioned in my letter of the 13-th instant, is entirely appeased, as we are assured by the great chancellor and other ministers of this court; nor was it so considerable, as was, at first, represented. The colonel of dragoons who marched against them is not killed, as it was said; but was made prisoner by them; and the misfortune which the second detachment met with was owing to the commanding officer's fault, who having poured his whole fire upon them, at once, gave these peasants an opportunity of surrounding him and his detachment and using them so ill, as they did. The persons who have been brought hither prisoners are ecclesiastics, as I am told; but what is laid to their charge is not yet known.

I have been desired, by the great chancellor, to remind your grace of what I wrote to you, some months ago, at his request concerning the negotiation with Denmark; viz-t: that count Czernichew might be told, His Majesty had the success of it at heart and that orders had been sent to me to join with general Bretlack and m-r Swart in any measure which could, the most effectually, contribute towards it. R. 21-st July. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 237.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 4-th July o. s. (15-th July) 1752.

My lord. We continue here in our state of barrenness with regard to any kind of intelligence worth writing, nor do we entertain any hopes of growing more fruitfull, unless any thing from abroad should give occasion to new transactions here.

Last week, the Empress together with the great duke and dutchess came from Peterhoff to the summer palace here in town, in order to celebrate the great duke's name's day, which was on Monday last, and two days after they returned again to Peterhoff.

Yesterday, I had a message from the great chancellor to let me know that m-r Czernichew had made a report to the Empress of the conversation your grace had had with him, concerning the negotiation between the court of Denmark and the great duke for the exchanging of Holstein against Oldenburg and Delmenhorst. Conjectures seem to favour, daily more and more, the court of Denmark's desires in this affair; for the great duke is so very much pressed, on all sides, by his creditors, that to extricate himself he has formed a pretension on the Empress in right of his mother; and, as we are very well assured, that Her Imperial Majesty will not be in the humour to pay it, if just or not the natural consequence will be, her advising him to accept the offer of Denmark, in order to make his affairs easy. R. 1-st August. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 238.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 18-th July o. s. (29-th July) 1752.

My lord. We continue here in a perfect state of inaction. The Empress is at Peterhoff, and most of her ministers at their country houses, where, in all probability, Her Imperial Majesty and they will continue, as long as this fine season lasts.

A few days ago, arrived here colonel Posse, the new swedish minister, and to-morrow he is to have his first audience of the Empress at eterhoff.

Some days before colonel Posse arrived here, colonel Stierneld, who was sent by the king of Sweden on his arrival in Finland with a letter to the Empress, which being full of the strongest assurances of his swedish majesty's great friendship and respect for Her Imperial Majesty and of his sincere desire to see the most perfect harmony established between the two crowns, has given great satisfaction to this court, and colonel Melgunow will be dispatched in a few days with the Empress's answer, which will be conceived in the like cordial and affectionate terms. The Empress has already given orders that a present of one thousand ducats should be made to colonel Stierneld, before he leaves this court.

Colonel Stierneld, with whom I was acquainted in Sweden, having been pleased to make me a visit since his arrival here, I returned it yesterday evening, when I was not a little surprised at his acquainting me, in a friendly and confidential manner, with his swedish majesty's real concern to see the coldness between our court and his lasted so long. Then, giving me to understand that what he said to me was by his swedish majesty's order, colonel Stierneld added that the king of Sweden was heartily tired with the dependance in which his kingdom had been brought towards France, who, he plainly saw, had only an eye to her own interest in her engagements with her allies; that these considerations and the good of his dominions made him heartily wish to see a friendly correspondence renewed between the two courts, by sending, reciprocally, ministers to each other; and that his swedish majesty was ready to contribute thereto by all the facilities on his side, which could be thought reasonable and proper. Colonel Stierneld asked me, next, if I had seen, within these few days, the great chancellor. And, upon my telling him I had not, he desired me, the next time I did, that I would let the great chancellor know what he, colonel Stierneld, had told me; for that he had, already, had a long conversation with the great chancellor upon this subject, who had promised to give me an account of it. As in a few days, general Bretlack and I are to go and dine with the great chancellor at his country house, I shall take that opportunity to speak to him about these overtures of colonel Stierneld and know his opinion upon them. In the meantime, I must not conceal from your grace that my surprise is great at colonel Stierneld's being charged with such a commission, as all the time I was in Sweden he showed himself, on all occasions public or private, to be one of the warmest partisans of France. R. 15-th August. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 239.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Hanover. 29-th July 1752.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I have received your several letters (the last of which is dated the 23-d June o. s.) and laid them before the King, but have had no commands from His Majesty to send you upon them.

Your private letter of the 11-th April was so very different from what you had before mentioned and so far exceeded what you, yourself, had thought would be satisfactory, that it is impossible for His Majesty to enter into it. And, indeed, any consideration of that kind, at present, is both improper and impracticable. But however, as the expences are already made for this year, the King hopes that the ill intentioned party will not be able to induce the Empress of Russia to make any alteration in the present disposition of her troops.

His Majesty meets with so little disposition in the court of Vienna (whose particular interest it is) to forward the great affair of the election of a king of the Romans in favour of the archduke, that all other measures, founded upon the same principle, will necessarily be attended with the greatest difficulties.

I mentioned to you some time ago, how much the court of Russia were concerned to promote the success of the election of a king of the Romans, and the chancellor Bestuchef should have exerted all his credit with the court of Vienna for that purpose, if he seriously intended (as I am persuaded he does) to promote and establish a solid system of union between the maritime powers, the two empresses and the well intentioned princes of the empire, I do not say in opposition to, but exclusively and independently of France and Prussia.

I must do the king of Poland the justice to say that, ever since the conclusion of our treaty, he has acted a steady and most commendable part. I wish his example had been followed by others who are more immediately concerned in this question and who will be more nearly affected, if it should, at last, miscarry.

As soon as m-r Rosencrantz applied to me (which was some time before I received your last letter of the 23-d June), I spoke to count Czernichew that he should write to his court (as you have since proposed) that His Majesty wished success to the king of Denmark's application to

the grand duke of Russia, and I doubt not, but m-r Czernichew has wrote accordingly. It is His Majesty's pleasure that you should, in concert with the imperial and dutch ministers, and pursuant to your former orders, take such steps, as you shall think proper to induce the Empress of Russia to engage the great duke to consent to what is desired by the king of Denmark. And you will acquaint the danish minister that I have not only spoke to count Czernichew, but that you have received fresh orders from His Majesty for that purpose. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 240.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 28-th July o. s. (8-th August) 1752.

My lord. The court days at Peterhoff having of late been a little more frequent than usual, I have not had an opportunity of seeing the great chancellor since my letter of the 18-th instant, anywhere else, than in public; so that I have not discoursed him, yet, upon the overtures made to me by court Stierneld, but I hear, from other hands, that this court has been desired, in the name of the king of Sweden, to employ their good offices and endeavours that a good harmony and friendly correspondence may be restored between our court and that of Stockholm; and I am given to understand that the next time I see the great chancellor he will propose to me, in form, some expedient tending to that end. R. 25-th August. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 241.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 8-th August o. s. (19-th August) 1752.

My lord. The greatest part of the last week has been spent here in a trip which the Empress took from Peterhoff to Cronstadt to see the dock which had been begun there in the Emperor her father's reign and has lately been entirely finished under the care and direction of lieutenant general Lubras. The ministers of state, general officers, foreign ministers and all the persons of distinction of both sexes were invited to be present at the ceremony of letting the water into the abovementioned dock and blessing it. On this occasion ball and great entertainments were given at Cron-

stadt for three days together, and the Empress to show general Lubras her satisfaction of his care and diligence in the finishing of this great work conferred on him the order of St. Andrew.

I received, by the last post, the honor of your grace's letter of the 18-th (29-th) July. It is very true, my lord, that what I mentioned to your grace, in my private letter of the 11-th April, very much exceeded what I had hinted and thought, before would be satisfactory. I am, still, of opinion that, had our court thought it advisable to listen to the first overtures made from hence, they would have been satisfied with a subsidy of 50/m. pounds per annum for all the purposes mentioned in my above-mentioned letter of the 11-th April, and the late general Bernes, who was then the austrian ambassador here, was of the same opinion, and, though I did not repeat this opinion to your grace, I believe, I should not have had reason to be much in another way of thinking, in the course of the negotiation, if such an one had been set on foot, as several irrefragable arguments occurred to me, why they should be entirely contented, if they received just as much as would make up the difference of expence between keeping their troops on the frontiers and in the inward parts of the Empire, but, since your grace is pleased to tell me that it is impossible for His Majesty to enter into this affair and that any consideration of that kind is both improper and impracticable, the best is to let it drop in the gentlest manner that is possible, though, if I can, I will avoid for a few weeks taking any notice to the great chancellor of what your grace has wrote to me upon this subject; for, the regulations and dispositions they make here amongst their troops being from September to September, I would be glad they were settled for the next year before the great chancellor knew the sentiments of our court upon his last overtures.

Your grace may be assured, this court is as well inclined, as we can wish, to promote, all they can, the success of the election of the king of the Romans. But the court of Vienna, by many arguments, endeavour to show the danger of acting too precipitately in this affair; and they are chiefly founded, as I find, on the jealousies and mistrust they have of the court of Saxony, whose views, they pretend to know, are, as soon as an electoral diet is convoked, to form very great demands, and, no less than the dismemberment of several considerable districts in Bohemia.

I have acquainted m-r Maltzan, the danish minister, with your grace's having spoke to count Czernichew and sent me fresh orders from the King, concerning the king of Denmark's application to the great duke. General Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, who has the like orders from

his court, and I have agreed to concert with the great chancellor, how we are to proceed in this affair. But, though we spent the whole day with him, the day before yesterday, there was so much company that it was impossible to speak to him about any business. R. 5-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 242.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 15-th August o. s. (26-th August) 1752.

My lord. Yesterday, having spent the day again with the great chancellor in the country, when there happened to be but little company, he took an opportunity to discourse me upon the affairs of Sweden and Denmark.

With regard to the first, he acquainted me with the formal overtures which had been made to him, by count Stierneld for restoring a good harmony between the courts of London and Stockholm, by the interposition and good offices of this, saying that if the assurances given him by count Stierneld were to be depended upon, the king of Sweden was in as good dispositions, as could be wished, and would, certainly, contribute all he could towards reestablishing a friendly correspondence between the two courts. That the expedients proposed by count Stierneld were: that, as our court had declined accepting of two ministers that had been named by that of Sweden, if His Majesty, in order to show his inclination to a reconciliation, would be pleased, at present, to name one to go to Sweden, his swedish majesty would, instantly, name one on his part to go to England, that should be a person entirely agreeable to the king and the nation and should arrive in London before His Majesty's minister set out for Stockholm. The great chancellor observed, here, that these overtures might, perhaps, appear a little loose and general to our court; but we might, however, take occasion from them to make counter propositions and, by that means, set on foot a negotiation under the mediation of this court; which, let the success be what it will, could be attended with no bad consequences. The grand objection with us is, how the king of Sweden will be able to show his good intentions, let them be ever so sincere, being under the dependance of a senate who is entirely devoted to France.

As to the affairs of Denmark, all the great chancellor said to me about them was that, in about three weeks, he would give me his opi-

nion upon that negotiation; for the success of it chiefly depended upon the renewing it in a proper time, which the great duke's pressing wants and necessitys would, he believed, soon give us an opportunity to do. R. 12-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 243.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 22-d August o. s. (2-d September) 1752.

My lord. Since my last, which was of the 15-th instant, I have had a visit from the swedish count Stierneld, in which he repeated to me all he had told the great chancellor, concerning his swedish majesty's earnest desire of seeing a friendly correspondence renewed between our court and his. The count mentioned to me, also, the same expedients, he had proposed to the great chancellor and accompanied every thing he said with such strong assurances of the king, his master's, and his own good intentions, that he left me entirely persuaded of the truth and sincerity of them; but the next day, to my great surprise, I discovered that all the professions this gentleman has made, since he is here, are only amusements, and that his real design is as much, if not more, to reconcile this court with that of Berlin and, by that means, with that of France, than to reconcile our court and his. The count had not the courage to hint any such thing, directly, to the great chancellor, but got two persons in his confidence to break the matter to him and to represent the powerful alliance which would form an union of councils and measures between England, Russia, Sweden and Prussia. The great chancellor is so piqued at this, as I am told, that, if there be a court to-morrow, he intends to make the swedish count take leave of the Empress and, immediately afterwards, will give him the present which was designed him, that he may have no pretence for making any longer stay here.

The last post brought us an account of the earl of Hindford being to leave Vienna, on the 13-th instant n. s., without having succeeded in his commission. General Bretlack continues to attribute this ill success to the selfish designs of the court of Saxony, to the exorbitant and unjustifiable demands of the court of Manheim and to the dangerous consequences of convoking an electoral diet, before there is a greater and clearer certainty, than there hitherto appears to be, of a majority of votes in favor of the archduke Joseph.

Three days ago, died at Cronstadt lieutenant general Lubras, on whom the Empress had conferred about a fortnight before the order of St. Andrew for his care and diligence in finishing the large and spacious dock, which was begun by the Emperor, her father. R. 19-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 244.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. (29-th August o. s. (9-th September) 1752.

My lord. On Sunday last, there was no court at Peterhoff, so that the swedish count Stierneld has not, yet, taken leave of the Empress. But he will have an opportunity of doing it to-morrow, Her Imperial Majesty being now in town at her summer palace, where there will certainly be court to-morrow evening, on account of the feast of St. Alexander Newski. The persons whom count Stierneld got to sound the great chancellor upon his scheme of an alliance between Russia, Sweden and Prussia were baron Pechlin, the great duke's chief minister for the affairs of Holstein, and m-r Brumpse, one of his highness's chamberlains. Count Stierneld did not include England in this alliance, as, through mistake, I wrote your grace in my last better. But we doubt not, but he would have proposed France, if the great chancellor had given any the least ear to these insinuations; which are, we think, a pretty clear proof, how little those gentleman, who call themselves of the king's party in Sweden, are to be depended upon.

Two days ago, I received, with the utmost surprise, a letter from the swedish merchant Springer dated the 10-th at Libau in Courland, in which he informs me that he had in a most miraculous manner escaped from his confinement in the fortress of Maestrand, near Gottenburg, and desires I would procure him the Empress of Russia's protection and liberty to settle in her dominions. I immediately sent this letter to the great chancellor, who promised to lay it before Her Imperial Majesty as yesterday or today, and he doubts not, but she will hear with real pleasure of this unhappy man's lucky escape and readily take him under her protection. R. 26-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 245.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 8-th (19-th) September 1752.

My lord. Since the Empress is come to her summer palace, here, in town, we are engaged in such a round of court days, balls, operas and other entertainments, that it would be difficult for us to find leisure to set about business, was there any stirring, which is so far from being the case, that, if I trouble your grace with this letter, after having missed two post days, it is only to tell you that I have nothing to write.

The swedish colonel Stierneld has not yet taken leave of the Empress, for which I am at a loss to give a reason, as the great chancellor is certainly very impatient to have him gone. This gentleman, who came here in appearance with such pacific views, has had the imprudence to let drop to a foreign minister that no true Swedes could sit quiet, before they had regained the provinces they had lost on this side.

The swedish merchant Springer arrived here a few days ago; but this court is not yet come to a resolution, how they will dispose of him. The great chancellor has told, in general, that, if his advice is taken, he would be sent to Astracan and employed there in their commercial affairs with Persia. R. 6-th October. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 246.

Baron Wolff to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 8-th (19-th) September 1752.

My lord. If I have not had the honour to write your grace of late, it was owing to my feare of giving unnecessary trouble and not to any neglect of duty, because I have constantly communicated to colonel Guy Dickens all such particulars, as came to my knowledge relating to the british interest, etc.

But at this time I think myself more immediately obliged to inform your grace that the grand chancellor and the vice-chancellor have, in the name of Her Imperial Majesty, notified to me, as likewise to all the foreign ministers at this place, that Her Majesty's intentions were to remove with her court to Moscow in the month of December next and that it would be agreeable to her Majesty, if the foreign ministers were to follow her

thither. And colonel Guy Dickens has accordingly begun to make preparations for that journey. But at the present circumstances of affairs does not seem to require any attendance there, I hope His Majesty will be graciously pleased to permit my continuance here in order (the better) to maintain and preserve the rights and privileges of His Majesty's trading subjects, at this port, etc.

But whatever His Majesty in his great wisdom may judge most proper, as to my continuance here, or else going to Moscow, I shall with all cheerfulness obey his royal commands, signified to me through your grace, at whose devotion I continue to remaine unalterably. R. 20-th October. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 247.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 15-th (26-th) September 1752.

My lord. A few days ago, the Empress acquainted the senate and other colleges with her intention of going to Moscow in the month of December next; and yesterday by her order, the college of foreign affairs notified the same in form to all the foreign ministers. Your grace has here inclosed the paper that was delivered to them upon that occasion, upon which I must beg your grace will be pleased to send me His Majesty's orders, as soon as possible, no time being to be lost in securing a house, which are grown very scarce, since the havock made by the three successive fires which have happened in that capital.

Last week the college of war settled the quarters for the troops of this Empire from this present September to next September 1753. They are much the same, as they were last year, except on the side of Finland, where they leave only ten batalions and two or three regiments of dragoons; and the regiments they draw out of Finland go into Livonia to replace some which have orders to march towards Smolensk and Ukraine, which latter province Her Majesty intends to visit next summer. By this new disposition, made amongst the troops, I am assured, there will remain about sixty thousand men between Narva and Libau, in Courland, and about thirty thousand between Narva, Novogrod, Petersburg and Fredericks-ham, in Finland.

This court having received an account of the great civilitys shown to colonel Melgunow at Stockholm, whom the Empress had sent with a

letter of compliment to the king of Sweden, in answer to that she had received from his swedish majesty by colonel Stierneld, Her Imperial Majesty has not thought proper to let colonel Stierneld depart from hence, before he had in return been shown the like civilitys. He has already partaked of the pleasure of several balls, operas and plays which have been given here chiefly on his account and to-morrow there will be a masquerade at the summer palace, where it is supposed he will take his leave and towards the latter end of this week set out on his return home to Sweden. R. 13-th October. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

N o t e.

Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies ayant résolu d'aller à Moscou au mois de Décembre, qui vient, et ayant en même temps pour agréable, si son excellence m-r l'ambassadeur, ainsi que les autres messieurs les ministres étrangers résidant à sa cour impériale voudront l'y suivre, le ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale n'a pas voulu tarder d'en donner part à sa dite excellence, monsieur l'ambassadeur, et aux autres messieurs les ministres étrangers, afin qu'ils soient en état de prendre à temps les mesures et les arrangements nécessaires à l'égard de ce voyage. St.-Petersbourg, le 14 Septembre 1752. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 248.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 22-d September (3-d October) 1752.

My lord. The day before yesterday, the swedish colonel Stierneld took leave of the Empress and, to-morrow, he proposes to set out on his return home. During his stay here, he has given proofs, by his refined prevarications, that he is an able disciple of that swedish oracle in politics count Tessin; and, as the new swedish minister, baron Posse, begins to show, likewise, his talent that way, I believe, I shall have no occasion to trouble your grace with any farther overtures from hence, tending towards the establishing a more friendly correspondence between our court and that of Stockholm, than what exists at present.

When general Bretlack came here, in order to relieve the late general Bernes, as ambassador from the emperor and empress-queen, he brought with him count Colloredo, a brother of the vice-chancellor's, who

(as I doubt not but your grace will have been informed from Vienna) was, after general Bretlack had stayed here about a year or a year and a half, to succeed him in an inferior character; but the great chancellor thinking it would have a bad effect, if general Bretlack left this place so soon, as he proposed, especially after the Empress of Russia had sent another ambassador to Vienna, in the room of count Bestuchef, count Coloredo desired leave, some time ago, to return to Vienna, and having received it, he designs to leave this place in about a fortnight or three weeks.

I herewith transmit to your grace a letter from baron Wolff which is, as I understand, to desire that he may be excused from following the court to Moscow. R. 20-th October. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 249.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 3-d (14-th) October 1752.

My lord. If we have been at a loss for some time past, what to write from hence, we are still more so, if possible, since the Empress's journey to Moscow is determined, for they are so taken up with the thoughts of it, that they will not give themselves leave to hear or speak about any business of either great or little consequence. I will, however, hope that an estafette, which arrived yesterday from Grodno to m-r Funk, the saxon minister, will rouse this court a little out of their present lethargy. Your grace will have heard, some time ago, of the unfriendly expostulations which the prussian minister at Dresden had with those of Saxony, by order of the king, his master, about some steuer contracts which are due to his subjects; to which the court of Saxony returned such an answer, as they thought, would have satisfied his prussian majesty. But by the dispatch which m-r Funk has received, by the abovementioned estafette, we are informed that the prussian minister has made new and very angry representations upon this affair of the steuer, declaring that the king, his master, would look upon the court of Saxony's not complying with his demand, as a breach of the treaty of Dresden and as an open rupture. And the king of Poland and his saxon ministers, taking this proceeding of the court of Berlin to be little less than a declaration of war, have sent orders to their minister here to be reclaiming the succour due by treaty, hoping at the same time that this court would immediately let

the king of Prussia to told that they acknowledged the existence of the *casus fœderis* and were ready to fulfill their engagements with the court of Saxony, in case of any attack on the part of his prussian majesty. In my next, I hope to be able to inform your grace of the resolution which this court has taken upon the demand and requisition of the court of Saxony. R. 31-st October. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 250.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 10-th (21-st) October 1752.

My lord. On Monday last, m-r Funk, the saxon minister, had a conference with the great chancellor and the vice-chancellor upon the orders he had received, by an estafette, from Grodno, concerning the threats thrown out by the prussian minister if the steuer contracts, due to his prussian majesty's subjects, be not immediately paid; and the next day, in the evening, general Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, and I were invited, at the saxon minister's desire, to another conference with the two ministers of the chancery and him; where their excellences told us the representations m-r Funk had made to them, the day before, and that, though they had not laid them, yet, before the Empress, they would venture beforehand to assure us that Her Imperial Majesty would be always ready to fulfill her engagements and that orders should be sent to m-r Gross to make to the prussian minister the declaration the court of Saxony desire with regard to the existence of the *casus fœderis*, in case of any attack on the part of his prussian majesty. But, as this should be done in communication and concert with the ministers of England and Vienna, their excellencies desired general Bretlack and I would let them know the sentiments of our respective courts upon this incident.

In answer to this general Bretlack said that, as to his court, he was assured that count Flemming, the saxon minister there, would find the empress-queen, according to her known way of thinking, ready to fulfill any engagements, old or new, which she might have with the court of Saxony.

As to our court, I told the russian ministers that they were sensible that I could, yet, have no orders upon an affair that had so lately happened; but that His Majesty's religious observance of his word and engagements was too well known to leave me the least doubt of his fulfilling them on this occasion.

The day after this conference, general Bretlack thought proper to make a little alteration, in the protocol, saying: «*und the empress-queen would fullfill all her engagements, if any existed*», and this was occasioned as that ambassador tells me by his finding amongst his papers, that the court of Saxony had not renewed their last engagements with the court of Vienna.

For my part, though I am entirely ignorant of the nature of the engagements between His Majesty and the court of Saxony, I did not think it necessary to make any alteration in what I had said in the conference; for my declaration is not binding, if there be no treatys or engagements between the two courts.

The protocol of this conference, has been sent to the Empress at Czarsko Sielo and, as soon as her answer comes, general Bretlack proposes to send a courier to Vienna, by whom I shall transmit to your grace a more particular account of this and any other transaction here that may be worth your notice.

A few days ago, some squadrons of the Empress's horse guards set out from hence on their march to Moscow. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 251.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Hanover. 22-d October 1752.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I have received your several letters, the last of which is dated the 3-d instant, and laid them before the King.

I send you inclosed, by His Majesty's order, a memorial or *factum*, presented by count Rex upon some proceedings and threats of the king of Prussia, relating to the demands of his subjects upon the steuer, which do not appear to be founded upon the treaty of Dresden, those subjects having become creditors since the conclusion of that treaty and consequently could not be comprehended in it or entitled to the benefit of it.

Count Rex has acquainted the King that the saxon minister at Petersburg has not only received orders to desire the interposition of the court of Russia in their favour, but that they have, also, had a very favorable answer from the Empress.

As these pretensions of the king of Prussia's subjects do not seem to be founded, either by the letter, or sense of the treaty; and as these threats, if put in execution, will not fail to disturb the tranquility of the

empire (which may still be attended with further ill consequences), it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should represent to the great chancellor, how advisable it would be, for the sake of the public peace, for the court of Russia to make very serious representations to the king of Prussia upon it and to show his prussian majesty, what may be the consequence of persisting in a demand in which he is not founded and in supporting that demand, as is threatened by force.

The King's desire to prevent any thing that may have the appearance of endangering the public peace, has induced His Majesty to send orders to his ambassador at Paris to join with count Loss in making the same representations there; and count Rex has assured me that the court of France have not only declared that they are of opinion that the king of Prussia's demands are not founded, but that the french minister at Berlin has already made very strong instances to the king of Prussia in their favour; which instances, however, his prussian majesty has, hitherto, entirely disregarded. It is, therefore, necessary that all the considerable powers who are interested in the preservation of the public peace, should employ their good offices for dissuading and preventing a step being taken which could not fail to endanger the maintenance of it.

We have constant accounts, from all the french and prussian partisans, of the decline of the credit of the great chancellor. Sometimes it is said that he will be succeeded by his brother, and sometimes by the vice-chancellor. The King hopes, however, that, as you have been totally silent upon this subject (which I cant imagine, you would have been in an affair of that consequence), there is no foundation for these reports. But, as the zeal of that minister for the good of the common cause is so well known and has drawn upon him the ill will and resentment of other powers, His Majesty hopes that, for the sake of the honor and interest of the Empress and of the support of that system which is so essential for the preservation of the weight and influence of the russian Empire, the great chancellor's credit will not suffer any diminution. And it is the King's pleasure that you should do every thing in your power that may tend to the support of it; with which you will acquaint the chancellor Bestuchef and you will take such measures in consequence of this letter, as he shall advise.

You will transmit to me a particular account of the state of the administration and of the intrigues at court and your opinion, as to what may be the result of them.

I send you an extract of a letter from sir Charles Hanbury Wil-

liams (13-th August n. s.), whereby you will see what has passed between him and count Bestuchef, the younger, relating to his situation with his brother, the chancellor.

When he arrives at Petersburg or Moscow, you will use your endeavours to reconcile the two brothers and, in all events, to prevent his joining with the vice-chancellor Woronzow and to keep him firm to that system for which he has professed so much zeal to sir Charles Hanbury Williams.

The King hopes that by the new regulation, relating to the quarters of the russian troops, their numbers, on the side of Livonia and Courland, will not be lessened; as I think, by the account you sent me in your letter of the 26-th September, they will not be. His Majesty, however, would have you send a particular account of the russian army and of their quarters.

I have no orders to send you in consequence of your several conversations with colonel Stierneld, as you yourself seem to be of opinion (and particularly, by your last letter) that no stress is to be laid upon the appearances which he showed, at first, of his good intentions.

I have been informed that m-r Melgunow (who was sent to Sweden from the Czarina) was very open in his declarations against the chancellor Bestuchef and for that reason was caressed by the french party in Sweden. The behaviour of that gentleman (which, I am informed, was very remarkable) contributed to confirm the opinion that the chancellor Bestuchef's credit was much declined.

His Majesty would have you be preparing for your journey to Moscow, for which place you will set out, at the same time, with the other foreign ministers.

As I find, by a letter from m-r Wolff, that he thinks it most for the interest of His Majesty's subjects that he should remain at Petersburg, the King readily consents to it, if you and the chancellor Bestuchef shall not think that you have occasion for him at Moscow. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 252.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 20-th (31-st) October 1752.

My lord. If the tedious delay which the dispatch of all kind of business meets with here was not so well known to your grace, as it is,

you would hardly believe that the ministers of the chancery have not yet laid before the Empress the protocol of the conference which they had, on Tuesday the 6-th instant, with the austrian ambassador, the saxon minister and me upon the application, made by the court of Saxony, in case of any attack on the part of the king of Prussia. The abovementioned minister told us they would send the protocol of this conference to Czarsko Sielo; but the Empress's sudden removal from thence to her summer palace, here in town, prevented them. And, though she has, now, been here these ten days, they have not had an opportunity of talking to her about any business. They were in hopes she would admit them into her closet, as yesterday; but I doubt it very much, as she designed to remove, this day, from her summer to her winter palace.

General Bretlack keeps his courier in readiness to be dispatched, as soon as the Empress's intentions upon our conference are known; and, as I have already acquainted your grace, I shall make use of that opportunity to write to you, more fully, upon the situation of affairs here. R. 25-th November. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 253.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 31-st October (11-th November) 1752.

My lord. Since my letter of the 20-th (31-st) October, which was my last, we have all been here in the greatest confusion and not without some danger by a sudden inundation which happened here and laid the whole town six, eight or ten feet under water; the damage done by this inundation is very considerable there not being one house that has not suffered more or less, and it would have been much greater, but the wind which blew hard at south west having on a sudden changed to the north, the waters began to decline and fall. Since this inundation which happened on the 22-d October o. s., we have had two more, but, though bad enough, not near so considerable and dangerous as the first.

On Tuesday evening was sennight, the Empress removed from her summer to her winter palace, where she proposes to reside till she sets out on her journey to Moscow, which remains fixed for the middle of December o. s.

As they are glad here of the least pretence to delay and put off the dispatch of business, your grace will not be surprised, if our late con-

fusion and danger furnished them with one; and in truth, I cannot say it is groundless, for in some parts of the town, and particularly about the Empress's palace, the waters were so high, that the streets were unpassable. But, now, they talk of setting seriously to business, and the great chancellor, whom I dined with yesterday, assured me that both he and the vice-chancellor were to attend on the Empress after to-morrow, when they should, without fail, receive her commands with respect to the disputes between the courts of Berlin and Dresden about the steuer contract.

On Sunday last, I received the honor of your grace's letter of the 22-d October n. s., upon the contents of which I have already had a conference of above two hours with the great chancellor, but, at his earnest and repeated desire, I am not to send your grace an account of it, any other way than by the austrian courier, which, I hope, I may, now, venture to say, will certainly set out some day next week. How sure soever we may think our cyphers, the great chancellor is unwilling to trust to them in matters, where he is personally concerned. He says, they have, here, very able men at the decyphering of letters, but believes those the king of Prussia employs at that work are yet better. R. 4-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 254.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 7-th (18-th) November 1752.

My lord. On Monday last, the two ministers of the chancery were admitted into the Empress's closet and received her commands upon the differences between the courts of Dresden and Berlin about the steuer contract; since when, they have minuted down what Her Imperial Majesty said to them and laid it before her for her approbation and signature, which latter is a precaution that the ministers of this court think proper to take in all affairs of consequence. As soon as the Empress returns this paper to them (which we are in hourly expectation she will do), it will be communicated to us in form, in general terms. I am able to inform your grace that the Empress's resolution is very favorable, she only desiring that she may not be left alone and that the other allies of Saxony may join and concur, with her, in such measures, as shall be thought the most advisable for his polish majesty's safety and security. R. 17-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 255.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg, 17-th (28-th) November 1752.

My lord. Last night at eleven o'clock, the great chancellor having at last sent to m-r Funk, the saxon minister, and to me the Empress's resolution upon the conference which general Bretlack, m-r Funk and I had with the two ministers of the chancery on Tuesday the 6-th October o. s., I shall now set down in order to inform your grace of my proceedings in consequence of your grace's letter to me of the 22-d October n. s. from Hanover.

You will have seen by my letter of the 31-st October (11-th November) that soon after your grace's abovementioned letter came to my hands, I had a long conference with the great chancellor upon the contents of it. The differences between the courts of Berlin and Dresden about the *steuer* contracts being already perfectly well known to him, all I had to do upon this subject was to tell him, pursuant to my orders, how advisable it would be for the sake of the public peace for this court to make serious representations to the king of Prussia upon his ill founded demand and to show his prussian majesty, what may be the consequence of his persisting in it and supporting it by force.

On this occasion the great chancellor told me that, as all affairs of this nature must unavoidably pass through the chancery, it was absolutely necessary I should give in a little *promemoria* and that it would be of the greatest service to the saxon minister's application. By my orders I do not find it was His Majesty's intention that I should make any use of what your grace had wrote to me, but with the great chancellor only; and I told him so, but he pressed me so hard that I was forced to comply; and this is not the only time I have experienced, how difficult it is for a minister at this court to stick to the letter of his instructions.

For your grace's thorough information of all the transactions in this affair and of the resolution this court is come to thereupon, I herewith transmit to you under.

№ 1 the protocol of the conference held on Tuesday the 6-th October between the two ministers of the chancery and general Bretlack, m-r Funk and me.

№ 2 is the paragraph which general Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, sent the next morning to the two ministers of the chancery, desiring it

might be inserted in the protocol in lieu of what he had said at the conference.

The reasons which the ambassador himself gave me for this alteration were that upon recollection and perusing his papers on his return from the conference he did not believe there existed any engagements whatsoever between his court and that of Dresden. That the old engagements had been annulled by the court of Saxony's joining with the court of Berlin in the war against the empress-queen and that as to the new engagements made after the war and in the year 1744, the court of Saxony refused renewing them when desired, though the empress-queen offered to encrease the quota of troops on her part and to furnish forty thousand men for the court of Saxony's twenty thousand, which was ent thousand more, than she was obliged to do by the convention of 1744.

This court do not seem pleased with the austrian ambassador's retraction of what he had said in the conference, as appears by

Nº 3, which is the extract of a rescript sent to count Keyserling, the russian ambassador at Vienna. In this rescript your grace will also see count Keyserling has orders to press again the court of Vienna to send the necessary full powers and instructions to their ambassador here, for concluding the affair of his polish majesty's accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empresses.

Nº 4 is the copy of the *promemoria* I gave in at the great chancellor's request.

Nº 5 is the answer returned to my *promemoria*, to which answer are annexed the three following pieces.

Nº 6. The extract of a circular rescript sent to the Empress of Russia's ministers residing at foreign courts.

Nº 7. The extract of a rescript sent to m-r Gross, the russian minister at Dresden and

Nº 8. The copy of a note which has been delivered to m-r Funk, the saxon minister at this court.

By all these pieces your grace will see that the Empress of Russia cannot be better disposed, than she is to concur with her allys in any measures which shall be thought advisable not only for the security and defence of Saxony, but for the preservation of the peace and the balance of power in Europe.

We have received advice here that the court of Dresden thought fit to comply in part with the king of Prussia's demands at the last fair of Leipsick, but it is not doubted that he will be as clamorous at the next.

By which time, the court of Vienna may probably keep company with that of Dresden, for if the accounts which his prussian majesty has ordered his subjects of Silesia to bring in, by his rescript of the 17-th August last, be ready, his pretensions on the house of Austria may run much higher, than his demands on Saxony.

Your grace having ordered me to send you an account of the russian army and their quarters, I here inclose three papers marked A, B, C, which will give you all the lights you can desire, as to their numbers in general and how they are distributed.

Letter A contains an account of all the regular troops of this Empire now on foot, and also of their irregulars and how much the latter may be increased, if necessary.

Letter B is a translation from the russian of the orders signed the 23-d August (3-d September) last for regulating and settling the quarters of the troops through the whole Empire from September last 1752 to September 1753. Letter C contains an account of the number of troops which by the last regulation are quartered in the division of Petersburg etc. etc. and the division of Livonia, Esthonia etc., upon which I must observe that, as there does not remain in Finland above fifteen thousand men (since the removal made last summer of some regiments from thence to Livonia to supply the place of those which removed from Livonia towards Ukraine), there lies, in the triangle between Narva, Novogrod and this town, near forty thousand men, which can move either towards Finland or towards Livonia, as occasion may require.

A communication having been made to general Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, of all the papers here inclosed relating to Saxony, at least one week before they were delivered to m-r Funk and me, we could not get our dispatches ready time enough to send them by general Bretlack's courier; m-r Funk and I have therefore agreed to send one to Dresden, at the joint expences of our respective courts. I address my dispatches to sir Charles Hanbury Williams and desire him to forward them safe to Hanover, from whence opportunities of conveying them to England cannot be wanting.

As His Majesty has been pleased to order me, I am preparing for my journey to Moscow, where I have already secured a house.

Least there should be any mistakes in the inclosed translations, which have been done in great hurry, I herewith send in a packet apart under № 9 all the original german papers for his excellency m-r Munchausen's perusal.

P. S. Though these dispatches are dated the 17-th (28-th) November, the courier, who is the bearer of them, could not depart from hence before this evening Friday the 20-th November (1-st December). R. 5-th January 1753. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 1. Protocol of the conference held on Tuesday the 6-th October o. s. between the two ministers of the russian chancery and the austrian ambassador and british and saxon ministers.

Dans la conférence qui s'est tenue le 5 Octobre 1752 chez le chancelier, en présence du vice-chancelier, avec le ministre du roi de Pologne électeur de Saxe m-r de Funk, le dernier communiqua deux extraits des deux ordres qu'il avait reçus de sa cour avec un précis, concernant les menaces faites aussi bien de la cour de Berlin que par le ministre du roi de Prusse résidant à Grodno à l'égard des billets de steuer et de leur continuel paiement, et il proposa en même temps au nom de sa cour, pour qu'il fût ordonné à l'envoyé Gross de déclarer au ministre de Prusse Malzahn, qui se trouve à Grodno, que Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies conjointement avec toutes les puissances impartiales était aussi pleinement convaincue de la justice et modération dont la cour de Saxe agit, qu'elle ne pourrait s'empêcher, en cas que cette affaire fût portée contre toute attente de la part de la cour de Prusse à des suites fâcheuses et à des entreprises désagréables, de ne pas la regarder avec des yeux indifférents, mais bien d'accomplir saintement tous les engagements conformes à ses alliances et pour qu'il fût ordonné aussi à tous les ministres de la cour de Russie résidant dans les cours étrangères de s'expliquer de la même façon de leur côté et que Sa Majesté l'Impératrice reconnaissait éventuellement le casus fœderis, qu'on avait donné les mêmes ordres au ministre Flemming à Vienne pour y faire une pareille proposition et que la même chose avait été faite auprès de la cour britannique.

Au reste, l'envoyé de Funk pria le ministère de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice d'inviter son excellence l'ambassadeur baron de Bretlack et l'envoyé de Guy Dickens et non seulement de leur faire part en confiance de sa proposition, mais aussi de faire le plutôt possible le rapport à Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies sur cette affaire importante et de contribuer à une heureuse résolution.

Le lendemain 6 Octobre le chancelier et le vice-chancelier invitèrent à une conférence son excellence l'ambassadeur baron de Bretlack

et les envoyés Guy Dickens et de Funk, dans laquelle on fit part à monsieur l'ambassadeur et à monsieur l'envoyé Guy Dickens des communications faites par monsieur de Funk et on leur donna à connaître de la part du ministère de Russie qu'on ferait le très humble rapport à Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de cette affaire et qu'il contribuerait le plustôt possible à une très haute résolution; il pouvait néanmoins assurer en avance au nom de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies que, comme Sa Majesté était toujours accoutumée d'accomplir saintement tous ses engagements qui subsistaient entre ses alliés, sa dite Majesté ne serait pas éloignée de reconnaître éventuellement dans cette conjoncture le casus foederis et de donner les ordres aussi bien à son envoyé Gross qu'à tous les autres ministres résidant dans les cours étrangères de faire aussi la déclaration demandée par la cour de Saxe de leur côté. Cependant il serait nécessaire que cette déclaration se fît de concert avec les ministres de la cour impériale romaine et de la cour britannique.

Son excellence l'ambassadeur baron de Bretlack assura ensuite que comme l'envoyé de Flemming aurait déjà fait à sa cour le rapport convenable sur cet accident, sa majesté l'impératrice-reine, dont la façon de penser lui était entièrement connue, ne serait pas éloignée d'accomplir saintement tous les vœux et nouveaux engagements qui subsistent entre la cour de Pologne et de Saxe, de reconnaître pareillement le casus foederis éventuellement et de faire faire aussi bien par son ministre à Berlin, que par tous ses autres ministres résidant dans les cours étrangères, conjointement avec les ministres des cours de Russie et de Londres, la déclaration requise, assurant de plus que lui, ambassadeur, appuierait au plustôt possible cette affaire très efficacement auprès de sa cour.

L'envoyé de Guy Dickens donna à connaître que, quoiqu'il n'eût pas encore pu recevoir des ordres de sa cour par rapport à cette affaire, il pouvait pourtant assurer préalablement, les intentions du Roi, son maître, lui étant suffisamment connues, que Sa Majesté le Roi se trouverait toute l'inclination pour accomplir et tenir saintement les alliances subsistantes entre la cour de Saxe et de contribuer de toutes ses forces à l'affermissement de la paix en Europe et à la défense de ses hauts alliés et que lui, envoyé de Guy Dickens, ne manquerait point de faire là-dessus des très fortes rémonstrances. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

Nº 2. Copy of the paragraph which general Bretlack desired should be inserted in lieu of what he had said at the conference of the 6-th October o. s.

L'ambassadeur baron de Bretlack assura ensuite que, comme l'envoyé comte de Flemming aurait déjà fait le rapport convenable à sa cour touchant cette affaire, sa majesté l'impératrice-reine, dont la façon de penser lui était entièrement connue, ne serait pas éloignée d'accomplir saintement les engagements subsistant entre la cour de Saxe, en cas qu'il y en existât quelques-uns, et de reconnaître aussi en ce cas-là éventuellement, tout comme les autres hauts alliés, le casus fœderis.

Touchant la déclaration, dont il est fait mention ci-dessus et laquelle devrait être faite par les ministres des deux cours résidant dans les cours étrangères aux ministres du roi de Prusse dans les cours étrangères, il prit ce point ad referendum et promit d'appuyer cette affaire le plus efficacement possible auprès de sa cour. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. Nº 64.

Nº 3. Extrait d'un rescrit de l'Impératrice de Russie au comte de Keyserling à Vienne en date de St.-Petersbourg le Novembre 1752.

Nous ne voulons pas non plus vous laisser ignorer que quelques jours après la conférence du 6/17 de présent l'ambassadeur de Bretlack a fait tenir, au moyen d'une lettre à notre chancelier, une explication différente de ce qu'il avait déclaré auparavant dans la dite conférence. En apparence, on pourrait inférer de cette explication, comme si l'existence de quelques engagements entre les cours de Vienne et de Dresde n'était pas trop constatée. Une pareille circonstance nous serait d'autant plus désagréable que, d'un autre côté, nous verrions avec bien de la satisfaction, si ces deux cours voulaient s'unir plus étroitement et plus confidemment, persuadée comme nous sommes que cela ne contribuerait pas peu à l'avancement des intérêts communs, nous vous ordonnons donc que vous ayez également à toucher, par manière de discours, cette matière-ci dans les entretiens que vous aurez avec le ministère là-bas et que vous lui fassiez sentir que notre conseil amiable et bien intentionné est que la cour de Vienne voulût sérieusement *prendre à cœur cette affaire et commencer à établir une amitié solide avec la Saxe*. Aussi ne doit-on pas douter que cette dernière cour ne soit très disposée à y prêter les mains, puisque le comte de Brühl a déclaré au comte de Sternberg en votre présence et

en celle du ministre de la Grande-Bretagne Williams que le roi, son maître, était disposé et tout prêt d'accéder aux traités entre les deux cours impériales et que c'était dans cette vue-là qu'on avait envoyé les pleins-pouvoirs et instructions nécessaires à l'envoyé de Funk à Pétersbourg, ce que ce dernier a fait connaître également à notre ministre, il y a quelque temps.

La conclusion de cette accession ne s'accroche donc uniquement qu'au manque des pleins-pouvoirs pour le baron de Bretlack, celui-ci n'ayant pas reçu les siens jusqu'à l'heure qu'il est; il paraît cependant que la diligence à faire suppléer à ce défaut serait un des moyens les plus convenables pour fonder une véritable amitié entre les deux cours. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 4. Copy of m-r Guy Dickens's promemoria 30 th October o. s. 1752.

Le soussigné envoyé extraordinaire de Sa Majesté Britannique ne doit pas perdre de temps à informer leurs excellences le haut ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies qu'il a reçu par le dernier ordinaire des lettres de sa cour touchant les menaces faites par le roi de Prusse contre la cour de Saxe dans l'affaire des demandes et prétentions de ses sujets sur les obligations de la steuer. L'on a aussi envoyé au dit envoyé extraordinaire un mémoire ou factum que monsieur le comte de Rex, ministre plénipotentiaire de sa majesté polonaise à Hanovre, a remis au ministère de Sa Majesté Britannique sur le procédé du roi de Prusse dont leurs excellences le haut ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale trouveront une copie ci-jointe.

Sa Majesté Britannique ayant mûrement considéré cette affaire ne trouve pas que par le sens on la lettre du traité de Dresde les prétentions du roi de Prusse soient fondées, puisque ses sujets qui ont acquis des obligations de la steuer après la conclusion de ce traité n'ont aucun droit d'y être compris avec ceux qui avaient de ces obligations entre leurs mains avant la conclusion du dit traité.

Or Sa Majesté Britannique croyant que si les menaces du roi de Prusse étaient mises en exécution, cela ne pourrait manquer de troubler la tranquillité de l'empire et peut-être avoir d'autres mauvaises suites et conséquences, elle laisse à juger à Sa Majesté Impériale s'il n'est pas nécessaire que toutes les puissances considérables qui ont un intérêt à la conservation de la paix et la tranquillité publique emploient leurs bons offices pour prévenir et empêcher une démarche qui la mettrait dans un si grand danger.

Sa Majesté Britannique, animée par le désir d'obvier de bonne heure à tout ce qui pourrait causer des troubles, a envoyé ordre à son ambassadeur à Paris de se joindre au comte de Loss en faisant de semblables représentations à cette cour-là et monsieur le comte de Rex a assuré le ministère de Sa Majesté Britannique que la cour de France avait non seulement déclaré qu'elle était du sentiment que les demandes du roi de Prusse n'étaient pas fondées, mais que le ministre de France à Berlin avait déjà fait les plus fortes instances à ce sujet auprès du roi de Prusse, auxquelles instances sa majesté prussienne n'avait cependant apporté aucune attention jusqu'ici.

Il ne reste donc plus que Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies veuille bien faire faire de sérieuses représentations à ce prince sur son procédé et lui faire comprendre les suites et conséquences que pourrait avoir une demande si peu fondée que la sienne et surtout s'il la soutient par la force, comme il menace de le faire. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 5. Promemoria pour m-r Guy Dickens, envoyé extraordinaire de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne.

St.-Petersbourg, ce 16 Novembre 1752.

Le contenu du promemoria présenté par m-r l'envoyé extraordinaire le 30 du passé concernant les menaces que le roi de Prusse a faites contre la cour de Saxe au sujet des prétentions que ses sujets forment à la charge de la steuer de Saxe, a été d'autant plus agréable à Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies, que les sentiments pacifiques que Sa Majesté Britannique y fait voir sont toutàfait conformes à ceux de Sa Majesté Impériale; et comme Sa dite Majesté n'a rien tant à cœur que de maintenir la tranquillité de l'Europe et qu'elle ne souhaite rien tant que de pouvoir contribuer, tant que cela dépendra d'elle, pour obtenir conjointement avec ses hants alliés au but si salulaire et obvier à toutes les vues qui y sont contraires, Sa Majesté, en conséquences des propositions et ouvertures que monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire de Funk a faites au sujet des susdites menaces dans une conférence tenue le 6 du passé avec le ministère impérial de Russie, en présence de son excellence monsieur l'ambassadeur de la cour impériale romaine baron de Bretlack et de monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, n'a point hésité à se prêter à la réquisition de la cour de Saxe, comme d'un allié, et non seulement elle a fait promettre un secours réel à celle-ci en cas

de besoin, mais elle a encore donné ordre à ses ministres résidant aux cours étrangères d'y déclarer, par manière de discours, qu'en cas que la Saxe vînt à être attaquée hostilement, Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies ne pourrait pas le regarder avec des yeux indifférents, mais qu'elle avait pris la ferme résolution de remplir *casu existente* religieusement les engagements qui, subsistaient entre elle et la Saxe, à condition pourtant que cette déclaration, à cause du bien commun de tous les alliés, ne serait faite que conjointement avec les ministres impériaux romains et britanniques et pas plutôt.

Le ministère impérial de Russie a jugé ne pas devoir tarder de communiquer à monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire cette résolution que Sa Majesté vient de prendre et qui se manifestera encore davantage par les extraits ci-joints des ordres que Sa Majesté Impériale a fait expédier à ses ministres résidant aux cours du dehors. Sa dite Majesté, eu conséquence des sentiments que Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne a fait voir là-dessus, se tient assurée d'avance qu'elle ne sera pas éloignée de faire, par rapport à ces déclarations, cause commune avec la cour d'ici et de donner aussi de son côté à la cour de Saxe non seulement des assurances d'un secours réel, en cas que celle-ci vînt à être attaquée hostilement, mais de donner encore sans délai des ordres positifs à ses ministres qui se trouvent aux cours étrangères de se concerter là-dessus avec les ministres des deux cours impériales.

Il serait superflu de s'arrêter à détailler l'utilité de pareilles déclarations communes, vu qu'elle est trop claire et trop manifeste pour pouvoir échapper à la pénétration des hauts alliés. Au reste, on a la confiance dans les bons sentiments et dans le zèle de monsieur l'envoyé qu'il voudra ne pas se refuser d'instruire le roi, son maître, au plutôt du parfait contentement que Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies a ressenti sur les ouvertures qui lui ont été faites dans cette rencontre et d'en accélérer l'exécution par ses recommandations. Comte A. Bestouchev. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 6. Extrait d'un rescrit circulaire adressé aux ministres de la cour Impériale de Russie résidant aux cours étrangères etc. etc.

St.-Petersbourg, le 16 Novembre 1752.

Par le protocole de conférence et autres pièces y mentionnées vous verrez ce que l'envoyé extraordinaire de sa majesté le roi de Pologne,

électeur de Saxe, résidant à cette cour-ci a proposé, par ordre de la sienne, à notre ministère, en présence de l'ambassadeur impérial romain baron de Bretlack et de l'envoyé extraordinaire du Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, par rapport aux menaces faites par le roi de Prusse tant à Berlin, que par son ministre à Grodno au sujet des obligations aux billets de la steuer de Saxe et sur leur paiement préférable, et comme le dit envoyé de la cour de Saxe nous a requis de faire déclarer par nos ministres résidant aux cours étrangères, qu'en cas que le différend survenu par rapport aux dits billets de la steuer devînt du côté de la cour de Prusse plus sérieux ou que celle-ci passât même, contre toute attente, à des entreprises hostiles, nous ne regarderions pas cela avec des yeux indifférents, mais plutôt que nous remplirions religieusement les engagements qui subsistaient entre nous et la Saxe et que pour cela nous reconnaitrions à tout événement le *casus fœderis*. Vous ne verrez pas moins par le dit protocole ce que notre ministère et le baron de Bretlack, aussi bien que l'envoyé de Guy Dickens ont trouvé bon d'y répondre préalablement.

Dès notre avènement au trône de nos pères nous avons eu pour principal point de vue et dirigé nos mesures sur la conservation de la tranquillité et de l'équilibre dans l'Europe et tous nos soins n'aboutissent que d'employer les forces que Dieu nous a données en mains, pour obtenir un but si salulaire et de remplir scrupuleusement les engagements que dans cette même vue nous avons pris avec nos alliés.

Et puisque nous nous sommes persuadée que les instances que la cour royale de Saxe vient de nous faire au sujet des susdites menaces de la cour de Prusse sont bien fondées et justes et que nous sommes nous-même dans l'opinion qu'une déclaration commune, faite à ce sujet par les ministres de toutes les cours alliées, produira un bon effet et servira surtout à retenir le roi de Prusse de l'exécution de ses menaces et à lui inspirer des sentiments plus pacifiques, nous avons jugé à propos de vous ordonner par cette présente à déclarer, conjointement avec les ministres impériaux romain et ceux de la Grande-Bretagne (avec lesquels vous aurez à vous concerter là-dessus) et pas plutôt, par manière de discours tant au ministère de la cour où vous êtes, qu'aux autres ministres étrangers qui y résident, qu'en cas que la Saxe fût attaquée hostilement nous ne le regarderions pas avec des yeux indifférents, mais que nous avons plutôt pris la ferme résolution de remplir *casu existente* religieusement les engagements qui subsistaient entre nous et elle.

Addition pour le comte de Czernichew. Par dessus cela vous êtes informé encore que l'envoyé Guy Dickens a remis ces jours passés à notre

ministère au sujet de la dite affaire de la steuer et des menaces du roi de Prusse le *promemoria* dont Vous trouverez ici la copie. Par celui-ci vous connaîtrez les sentiments louables de Sa Majesté Britannique, sentiments qui en étant dignes d'un bon et fidèle allié sont en même temps tout-à fait conformes aux nôtres, et quoique nous ayons déjà donné à connaître à l'envoyé Guy Dickens par le moyen de la réponse que nous avons fait expédier a son *promemoria* et dont voici aussi la copie, le parfait contentement que nous en ressentons et que nous lui avons aussi déjà fait savoir en confidence notre résolution ci-dessus alléguée, nous trouvons pourtant encore à propos de vous ordonner par la présente de réitérer et de faire voir la même chose au ministère britannique, avec lequel vous entrez en conférence sur cette affaire et sur la déclaration commune que nous avons résolue de faire faire. Vous ferez aussi tous les efforts imaginables pour obtenir que Sa Majesté Britannique, à notre exemple, donne à la cour de Saxe des assurances d'un secours réel, en cas qu'elle vint à être attaquée, et en même temps que Sa Majesté Britannique fasse expédier les ordres positifs à ses ministres aux cours étrangères pour faire conjointement avec les nôtres une pareille déclaration en faveur de la Saxe. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. N° 64.

N° 7. Extrait d'un rescrit adressé à l'envoyé extraordinaire de la Russie à la cour de Dresde de Gross, daté St.-Petersbourg, le 16 Novembre 1752.

Tout ce que, suivant vos relations, le comte de Brühl vous a dit dans une conférence, à vous et au ministre de la Grande-Bretagne, au sujet des menaces que la cour de Prusse a fait éclater contre celle de Saxe par rapport aux billets de la steuer et les suites qui en peuvent résulter, a été aussi répété et déclaré ici à notre ministère par l'envoyé extraordinaire de Funk dans une conférence tenue en présence de l'ambassadeur impérial romain et de l'envoyé extraordinaire de la Grande-Bretagne de Guy Dickens, comme vous le verrez plus amplement, aussi bien que la réponse que notre ministère, l'ambassadeur de Bretlack et l'envoyé de Guy Dickens y ont donnée préalablement, par le protocole dressé à cette occasion, dont la copie aussi bien que celles des autres pièces y relatives se trouvent ici jointes.

En conséquence de vos relations précédentes sur cette matière, nous vous avons déjà donné à connaître par un rescrit, comme nous ne pou-

vions que difficilement nous imaginer que le roi de Prusse voulût, à cause des prétentions qu'il forme à la charge de la steuer en Saxe et eu égard à leur peu d'importance, en venir aux voies de fait, d'autant moins que l'issue en serait douteuse et incertaine et que les frais que cela demanderait excéderaient de beaucoup le montant de ces prétentions; en même temps nous vous avons ordonné d'assurer la cour de Dresde en notre nom que nous persistons dans la résolution de remplir religieusement les engagements que nous avons avec elle et que nous étions disposée, selon que la cour de Saxe nous en avait requise, d'ordonner à nos ministres aux cours étrangères de faire connaître nos sentiments là-dessus là où il conviendra; mais il sera aussi nécessaire que du côté de la Saxe on confère avec les cours alliées et que l'on les prépare à faire une pareille déclaration conjointement avec nous.

Nous restons inébranlablement dans ces sentiments, et rien ne nous tient tant à cœur que de maintenir la tranquillité et l'équilibre dans l'Europe et d'employer les meilleurs moyens qui pouvaient conduire à obtenir ce but salulaire et à réaliser nos engagements avec nos alliés. Pour prouver tout cela encore plus évidemment, nous n'avons pas hésité de faire expédier à nos ministres aux cours étrangères des ordres positifs de déclarer (mais pas autrement que conjointement avec les ministres des cours de Vienne et de Londres) aux ministres de Prusse et autres par manière de discours: «qu'en cas que la Saxe vînt à être hostilement attaquée, nous ne le regarderions pas avec des yeux indifférents, mais que nous avons pris la ferme résolution de remplir *existente casu* les engagements qui subsistaient entre nous et elle».

Nous ne doutons nullement que la cour de Saxe ne soit pleinement satisfaite de la facilité avec laquelle nous entrons dans ses vues par rapport à la susdite déclaration, d'autant plus que cela servira à la tranquilliser sur les menaces qui viennent de lui être faites et à retenir, comme on a lieu d'espérer, le roi de Prusse d'en passer à la réalisation.

Et quoique la résolution que nous venons de prendre de la manière susdite ait été notifiée ici à l'envoyé de Funk et que nous l'avions fait assurer d'un secours réel pour sa cour en cas d'attaque ennemie, ce que vous verrez plus amplement par la note ci-jointe, nous vous ordonnons cependant encore de donner à connaître tout cela au ministère de Saxe, en lui réitérant en même temps les assurances ci-dessus mentionnées et d'y ajouter encore que la cour de Saxe fasse de son côté tous les efforts imaginables pour porter les autres cours alliées à lui promettre également leur

assistance et à obtenir d'elles qu'elles donnent ordre à leurs ministres respectifs de se conformer dans leurs déclarations à faire avec les nôtres, et cela d'autant plus qu'il sera indispensablement nécessaire d'agir, en cas qu'elle fût effectivement attaquée avec des forces réunies, afin que le poids n'en tombe point uniquement sur nous. Vous ferez donc aussi de votre côté (quand auparavant vous avez conféré là-dessus avec les ministres de la cour de Vienne et de Londres) cette déclaration ci-dessus mentionnée, comme par manière de discours aux ministres étrangers résidant à la cour où vous vous trouvez, et pour le reste nous voulons que vous vous fassiez à son temps vos humbles rapports sur la manière dont vous avez effectué cela et sur les ouvertures qui vous pourraient être faites à ce sujet. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 8. Copie de la note qui vient d'être remise à l'envoyé extraordinaire de Saxe, datée St.-Petersbourg, le 16 Novembre 1752.

On n'a pas manqué de faire très humblement rapport à Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies de tout ce que monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire de Funk a proposé dans une conférence tenue le 6-e du passé avec le ministère Impérial de Russie, en présence de l'ambassadeur impérial romain baron de Bretlack et de l'envoyé de la Grande-Bretagne monsieur de Guy Dickens, touchant les menaces de la cour de Prusse au sujet des obligations ou billets de la *steuer* de Saxe et leur paiement préférable, non plus que de la déclaration que le dit monsieur de Funk a demandée au nom de sa cour devoir être faite à cet égard aux cours étrangères par les ministres impériaux de Russie résidant au dehors.

Quoique le ministère de Russie n'ait pas différé de faire connaître dans cette même conférence à monsieur l'envoyé que Sa Majesté Impériale, accoutumée comme elle était à observer et à remplir religieusement les engagements où elle était entrée avec ses alliés, ne serait non plus éloignée d'en faire autant à cette occasion en faveur de la Saxe et d'ordonner à ses ministres résidant aux cours étrangères de faire connaître ses sentiments à cet égard-là, où il serait convenable, mais qu'il serait nécessaire qu'une pareille déclaration fût publiée conjointement avec les ministres des autres cours alliées, ce qui se pouvait espérer, d'autant plus que les dites deux cours de Vienne et de Londres avaient déjà donné des assurances préalables des bonnes dispositions de leurs cours respectives.

Le ministère Impérial de Russie ne peut pas se dispenser de déclarer encore par la présente note à monsieur l'envoyé que Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies a non seulement approuvé les assurances que son ministère avait données, comme il est dit ci-dessus, mais qu'il lui a plu outre cela d'ordonner et assurer non seulement la cour de Saxe d'une assistance et secours réel, en cas qu'elle vint à être attaquée, mais encore qu'elle était prête de faire faire par ses ministres au dehors la déclaration requise en ces termes: «qu'en cas que la Saxe fût attaquée hostilement Sa Majesté Impériale ne le regarderait pas avec des yeux indifférents, mais qu'elle avait pris la ferme résolution de remplir *casu existente* religieusement les engagements qui subsistaient entre elle et la dite cour de Saxe».

En attendant il est nécessaire que la cour de Saxe tâche de se procurer aussi de ses autres alliés, savoir des cours de Vienne et de Londres, une pareille promesse de secours réel et qu'elle cherche à obtenir d'elles qu'elles donnent incessamment des ordres positifs à leurs ministres aux cours étrangères, pour qu'ils agissent de concert avec ceux de Russie et qu'ils ne donnent leurs déclarations respectives, qu'au même temps et pas plus tôt.

En quels termes les ordres par rapport à cette affaire ont été expédiés d'ici à monsieur Gross et aux autres ministres de cette cour, c'est ce qui se manifestera par les extraits suivants que l'on a jugé à propos de joindre ici pour l'information ultérieure de monsieur l'envoyé.

Au reste, on se flatte ici que sa majesté le roi de Pologne regardera ces mesures et la facilité que l'on a eue de lui promettre *casu existente* une assistance réelle, comme une suite de l'amitié très sincère que Sa Majesté Impériale porte à sa majesté polonaise et qu'elle voudra se tenir constamment persuadée que Sa Majesté l'Impératrice regardera les intérêts de la Saxe, comme les siens propres et qu'elle se fera toujours un vrai plaisir de pouvoir, aussi de son côté, contribuer à la satisfaction et à la tranquillité de sa majesté polonaise.

Finalement on juge nécessaire de communiquer à monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire le *promemoria* présenté sur cette matière par monsieur l'envoyé de Guy Dickens, qui fait connaître les sentiments amiables de Sa Majesté Britannique, auquel on a joint encore la réponse qui y a été faite pour en faire un usage convenable. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

Litt. A. An Account of all the regular troops of the Russian Empire now on foot, and also of their irregulars and how much the latter may be increased, if necessary.

Table générale des troupes de Russie.

Noms des régiments.		Nombre des soldats.	Noms des régiments.		Nombre des soldats.
<i>Les gardes de Sa Majesté Impériale.</i>			<i>Infanterie.</i>		
1	Preobrajenski.	3245	1	D'Ingermanland.	2297
2	Semenowski	2436	2	D'Astrachan	2297
3	Ismailowski	2436	3	Butirski.	2297
4	Gardes à cheval	1423	4	Premier de Moscou.	2297
5	Compagnie des bombardiers.	107	5	Second de Moscou.	2297
Somme . .		9647	6	De Troïtza.	2297
<i>Cuirassiers</i>			7	De St.-Petersbourg.	2297
1	Le premier régiment du corps.	1046	8	De Wolodimir	2297
2	Le second	1046	9	De Novogorod	2297
3	Le troisieme	1046	10	De Schlussembourg.	2297
Somme . .		3138	11	De Jarowslaw	2297
<i>Dragons.</i>			12	De Sibérie	2297
1	De Moscou.	1350	13	Pskowski	2297
2	De Kiew	1350	14	De Smolensk.	2297
3	De Troïtza.	1350	15	D'Asow	2297
4	De Wolodimir	1350	16	Woronéje	2297
5	De Sibérie.	1350	17	Nieschegorod.	2297
6	De Twer	1350	18	Tchernigofski.	2297
7	Wiatski.	1350	19	De Rasan	2297
8	D'Asow	1350	20	Suzdalski	2297
9	D'Ingermanland.	1350	21	De Rostow.	2297
10	De Narwa.	1350	22	D'Archangel	2297
11	D'Olonetz	1350	23	Permski.	2297
12	De Jambourg.	1350	24	Wiatski.	2297
13	De Tobolsk	1350	25	De Wologda	2297
14	De Novogorod	1350	26	De Newa	2297
15	De Riga.	1350	27	Kapori	2297
16	De Kasan	1350	28	De Wybourg	2297
17	Wologda	1350	29	D'Uglitch	2297
18	Permski.	1350	30	De Kexholm	2297
19	De St.-Petersbourg.	1350	31	Bieloserski	2297
20	De Kargopol	1350	32	De Ladoga.	2297
21	Lutski	1350	33	Muromski	2297
22	De Rewal	1350	34	De Kasan	2297
23	D'Archangel	1350	35	De Kiew.	2297
24	De Novogorod	1350	36	Welikolutzki	2297
25	De Rostow.	1350	37	De Narwa	2297
26	De Kasan	1350	38	De Tobolsk.	2297
27	D'Astrachan	1350	39	Tengin	2297
28	De Nieschegorod	1350	40	Schirwan	2297
29	Pskowski	1350	41	Abscheron.	2297
Somme . .		38670	42	Kabardin	2297
			43	De Naschebourg.	2297
			44	Niesow	2297
			45	Nawaginski	2297
			46	Kurinski.	2297
			Somme . .		105662

Noms des régiments.	Du temps de la guerre passée ils étaient.	Ils peuvent monter à.
<i>Troupes irrégulières.</i>		
Cosaques de la Petite Russie.	12000	30000
Du Don.	6000	15000
Zaporojski.	3000	10000
Tchuguefski Kalmuques.	500	1000
Cosaques Wolski et Grebenski.	1000	3000
Tartares de Kabarda	—	20000
Kalmuques du Don	8000	30000
Walaches	1000	1000
Grusines	500	500
Somme	32000	110500

P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

Litt. B. Translation from the russian of the orders signed on the 22 August (3 September) last for regulating and settling the quarters of the troops through the whole Russian Empire from September 1752 to September 1753.

RÉPARTITION

pour l'année 1753 des quartiers d'hiver que l'armée de campagne de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies prendra selon l'ordonnance respective de chaque régiment sous son chef.

1-e division

celle de Moscow par ordre exprès de Sa Majesté (selon l'ancienneté).

Le général Alexandre Buturline.

Sous son commando.	Quartiers.
Le général lieutenant Dewitz . . .	à Moscow.
» » major Zarewitsch Grusinski.	» »
» » » de Tettau	aux environs de Moscow auprès des régiments qui viendront de Kislau.
» » » Jourloff.	auprès des régiments dragons en tel lieu, où ils sont placés de la généralité.

Sous son commando.	Quartiers.
Le général major knias Obolenskoï	à Moscow pour y être près du comptoir de guerre.
Le brigadier Kespe	auprès d'un régiment dragons aux environs de Zaritzine.
» Chomiakoff	près de Moscow sur un régiment dragons.
» Frauendorff	à Kislau au lieu du brigadier Beausobre.

Régiment dragons.

Narwskoi	en Périsslaw Kasanskoi.
Wiatskoi	} dans la province Kalouga.
Nijegorodskoi	
Kiewskoi	dans la province de Toula.
Sibirskoi	» » » Wolodimir.
Kargapolskoi	Kaschira et le district y appartenant.
Asoffskoi	la province Arsamas.
Wolodimirskoi	la province de Penza.
Rostofskoi	sur la ligne de Zaritzine.

Régiments d'infanterie.

Butirskoi	} à Moscow.
Premier Moskofskoi	
Sefskoi. Quatre bataillons	
Woronejskoi	Rschef-Wolodimerskoi.
Novogorodskoi	Wiasma.
Navaginskoi	Dmitrow.
Kourinskoi	Serpouchof.
Archangelogorodskoi	Staritza et Soubzoff.
Smolenskoi	Twer et son district.
Wiatskoi	Ostaschkoff.
Tenginskoi	Kislau.

ainsi, régiments dragons. 9
 infanterie 10

Ensemble . 19 et

quatre bataillons Sefskoi.

11-me division

celle de St.-Pétersbourg.

Le général comte Alexandre Schouwaloff.

Sous son commando.	Quartiers.
Le général lieutenant Fermor.	à St.-Pétersbourg.
» » major Théodore Golowine	en Finlande.
» » » Jvan Soltikoff	St.-Pétersbourg.
» » » knias Prosorowskoi	Novogrod.
Brigadier Bauman	Friedrichsham.

Régiments d'infanterie.

Ingermanlandskoi	} à St.-Pétersbourg.
Astrachanskoi	
Permskoi	
Tobolskoi	Péterhoff.
Kasanskoi	Kronstadt.
Bielozerskoi	} Narva.
Tschernigoffskoi	
Ouglitskoi	
Mouromskoi	Schlüsselbourg et un bataillon restera par ordre de Sa Majesté à Strelna Mysa.
Welikoloutzkoi	} à Wibourg et son district.
Kabardinskoi	
Wolodimirskoi	Friedrichsham et son district.
Koporskoi	Kexholm et son district.
Narwskoi	Vieux et Nouveau Ladogo.
Pskoffskoi	} Novogrod.
Kexholmskoi	
Sibirskoi	Stara Roussa.
Newskoi	Tikhwin.
Schlüsselbourgskoi	dans la province de Bielozero.
Jaroslawskoi	Jaroslaw.

La compagnie des hussards.

Grousinski	Kexholm.
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Ainsi, régiments d'infanterie: 20 et la compagnie des hussards Groussinski avec une partie de l'artillerie de campagne à Wiborg, mais le corps de 500 Donskoi hussards sera renvoyé dans leurs demeures.

11-me division

celle de Livonie, d'Esthonie et de Courlande.

Le général comte Pierre Schouwaloff.

Sous son commando.	Quartiers.
Le général lieutenant Lopuchin . . .	à Riga.
» » » Brown . . .	en Esthonie.
» » major Friderici . . .	à Revel.
(avec le même rang) le général quartier	
maître Lieven . . .	à Riga.
Le général major Wojeikoff . . .	en Courlande auprès son régiment et spécialement pour assister à la commission de Mittau.
» » » de Werthern . . .	à Dorpat.
(avec le rang de brigadier) le général	
quartier maître de Bodan . . .	en Esthonie.
Le brigadier Ridder . . .	Pleskowi étant chargé par ordre spécial du collège de guerre d'avoir garde des postes limitrophes de Pologne.
Kostiourine . . .	Smolensk.

Régiments cuirassiers.

La garde de corps . . .	en Livonie.
Le régiment de son altesse impériale 2	» Esthonie.
Le régiment 3-e . . . 3	» Courlande.

Régiments dragons.

Tobolskoi . . .	aux confins de Pologne.
Novogorodskoi . . .	dans le gouvernement de Smolensk.

Régiments d'infanterie.

Nijegorodskoi.	}	en Courlande.
Kiewskoi :		
Ladojskoi.	}	» Livonie.
Rostoffskoi		
Sousdalskoi		
Wibourgskoi		
Second Moskofskoi		
Wologodskoi	}	» Esthonie.
St.-Pétersbourgskoi		
Riganskoi.		
Troitzkoi		
Nisowskoi.		à Welicki Louki.
Asoffskoi		
Apscheronskoi		

L'artillerie de campagne en Livonie.

Ainsi, régiments cuirassiers.	3
dragons	2
infanterie	14

Ensemble 19

Les deux régiments grenadiers de milice provinciale qui se trouvent actuellement en Livonie doivent se rendre à leurs régiments près de la ligne de l'Ukraine, comme aussi les 500 Donskoi cosaques postés en Livonie et les milles têtes des mêmes cosaques qui y ont eu leurs quartiers depuis l'an 1750 doivent y retourner chez eux.

Dans l'Ukraine et la Petite Russie.

Le général lieutenant comte Pierre Soltikoff.

Sous son commando.

Quartiers.

Le général major Froloff Bagréieff	}	auprès des régiments de dragons.
Le brigadier Polosoff		
» » Roden		
» » Lieven		
» » Witkowitz		Hussards.

Auprès du commandement de la milice provinciale sous le général lieutenant Soltikoff.

Le général lieutenant Tschernischeff.

» » major knias Kantemir.

» » » comte de Vier.

Le brigadier Schein.

» » de la Fond.

Régiments dragons.

Ingermanlandskoi	}	dans la Petite Russie.
Pskoffskoi.		
Kasanskoi		
Archangelogorodskoi.		
Twerskoi		
Jamburgskoi		Jeletz.
Novogorodskoi	}	Rostoff et Rylsk.
Kiewskoi		
Permskoi		Gratskoi (Gjatsk?).
Astrachanskoi		Tamboff.
St.-Pétersbourgskoi		dans les Slobodes.

Régiments hussards.

Sefskoi	à Orel.
Wengerskoi	» Kursk.
Moldawskoi	auprès le régiment d'Isoum.
Tschougoujefski cosaques	dans leurs demeures ordinaires.
Vingt régiments, troupes provinciales. .	près des lignes et dans leurs districts.

Ainsi, régiments dragons	12
hussards	3
Troupes provinciales	20
Cosaques	1
Ensemble	36

Dans le gouvernement de Sibérie.

Le brigadier Krafft.

Sous son commando.

Quartiers.

Régiments dragons.

Olonetzskoi	}	[blank].
Toulskoi		
Wologodskoi		

Régiments d'infanterie.

Sous son commando.	Quartiers,
Nascheburgskoi	Ils auront leurs quartiers selon que le brigadier Krafft les leurs assignera, de concert avec la chancellerie du gouvernement et que la nécessité et d'autres circonstances le leur feront trouver bon.
Schirwanskoi	
Ainsi, régiments dragons.	3
infanterie	2
Ensemble	5

Dans le gouvernement de Kasan.

Le général major Stockmann.

Sous son commando.	Quartiers.
Le brigadier Bardenewitz	En inquisition par ordre du sénat.
» » de Beausobre	

Régiments dragons.

Moskowskoi	On prendra les mêmes mesures que dans le gouvernement de Sibérie, de sorte que le conseiller privé de Neplueff, de concert avec la chancellerie du gouvernement de Kasan, en doit avoir soin.
Revelskoi	
Troitzkoi	
Ainsi, régiments dragons	3

Pour ce qui concerne les chevaux de bagage des susdits régiments, auxquels les nouveaux quartiers d'hiver sont assignés et qui se trouvent au fourrage, ils doivent être tirés au plutôt des places où ils se trouvent actuellement pour joindre leurs régiments. Mais les chevaux des régiments qui restent dans leurs anciens quartiers, doivent rester, comme auparavant, aux endroits où ils se trouvent pour à présent, selon la répartition précédente, et c'est sur quoi la chancellerie générale de l'armement prendra les mesures les plus convenables sans délai, de concert avec la généralité.

Outre la généralité susmentionnée destinée et répartie pour le commandement, se trouvent absents: le général lieutenant Lieven, ayant eu permission pour trois ans et le brigadier Wolff, employé pour quelque expédition secrète en Sibérie.

L'original est signé:

Stephan Apraxin.
Peter Soumorokoff.
Joseph Hampff.
Knias Fedor Mestcherskoy.

P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

Litt. C. An account of the number of troops, which by the last regulation are quartered in the division of Petersburg etc. etc. and the division of Livonia etc. etc.

N o t e.

Dans la division de St.-Pétersbourg, qui comprend Cronstadt, toute la Finlande de Russie, les districts de Narva, de Novogrod, de Jaroslaw etc. se trouvent actuellement:

20 régiments d'infanterie de campagne, chacun de 3 bataillons à 2.298 têtes . .	45.960 hommes.
1 compagnie de hussards de Grusinie . .	963 »
	46.923 hommes.

Une partie proportionnée de l'artillerie de campagne à Wybourg.

Outre cela

Les trois régiments de gardes à pied, savoir

Le Preobrajenskoi à	3.552 hommes.
» Semenofskoi à	2.536 »
L'Ismaïlofskoi	2.536 »
Le régiment de gardes à cheval	1.376 »
	10.000 hommes.

On enverra incessamment des détachements de ceux-ci à Moscow pour y être de garde pendant le séjour qu'y fera Sa Majesté Impériale.

Dans la division de la Livonie, de l'Esthonie et de la Courlande, y compris ce qui se trouve le long des frontières de la Pologne et de la Lithuanie et dans le gouvernement de Smolensk.

3 régiments de cuirassiers à 973 têtes .	2.119 hommes.
2 » » dragons de campagne à 1.251 têtes	2.502 »
14 » d'infanterie de campagne à 2.298 têtes	32.172 »
	37.593 hommes.

Une partie proportionnée de l'artillerie de campagne en Livonie.

Le total de ce qui se trouve par conséquent le plus à portée, sans y comprendre les gardes, se monte à *84.516 hommes*.

P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 256.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 17-th (28-th) November 1752.

Secret. My lord. On Sunday, the 22-d October n. s., as I happened to dine at general Bretlack's, the austrian ambassador, m-r Funk, the saxon minister, who was one of the company, took general Bretlack and me aside and told us, he had a message to us from the great chancellor, which was to let us know that the Empress's intended journey to Moscow not only laid him under great difficulties, but set him upon the brink of a precipice, which he should, unavoidably, fall into, if those powers, whose interests he had supported at this court with so much constancy and resolution did not avert the danger which threatened him. That, first, he had the misfortune to lay under such a heavy load of debts, as to be scarce able to find money to answer the necessary current expences of his house; that this was, however, one of the least of his distresses, for, secondly, in order to supply his wants, from time to time, he had been so imprudent as to embezzle some public monies belonging to the two departments under his direction, viz-t: the chancery and the post office; that, out of fifteen thousand ducats which lay in the first for secret service, he had taken twelve thousand, and, out of the post office, sixteen thousand roubles, which sums made altogether about twenty thousand ducats; that, as it was easy to judge what use his enemies would make of these deficiencies, should they come to the knowledge of them, the great chancellor thought he was not to defer any longer laying, candidly, his case and situation before the courts of London, Vienna and Dresden, ho-

ping that, between them, they will think of the means of relieving him and preventing his ruin and destruction.

Before I returned an answer to that part of your grace's letter of the 22-d October n. s. concerning the reports, spread of the decline of the great chancellor's credit, I thought it proper to give your grace an account of the message, general Bretlack and I had received from him, and to make you observe that it was not in consequence of the conference, I had with the great chancellor upon your grace's abovementioned letter, since this message was delivered to us, the very day, on which your letter is dated, namely the 22-d October n. s.

I shall now have the honor to acquaint your grace that in the long conference, I had with the great chancellor, I was very particular with him upon the constant accounts, your grace had, from all the french and prussian partisans, of the decline of his credit. To which he answered, it was natural for those powers, whose schemes he had so strongly opposed, to wish it; but, as we all saw those reports had no foundation, he believed their view, in spreading them, was to dishearten the powers in alliance with the Empress, by giving them apprehensions of some change in the ministry and, consequently, in the system of this court. If this be not the true design of France and Prussia, they must have some other; for we cannot observe, by any transactions here, that the great chancellor loses ground, or that his enemies gain any. The intrigues at court are the same, as have been on foot for these many years, but are not likely to do the great chancellor more harm at present, than they have done hitherto. His declared enemies are the *procureur general* prince Trubetskoi and the two Shuwalofs; and what seems pretty extraordinary is, that they are no better friends to the vice-chancellor, who is grown so sensible of it, that, for several months past, he is, as every body here observes, very assiduous in paying his court to the great chancellor and concurs with him in every thing.

Indeed, another motive of this seeming harmony may be their common distresses; for the vice-chancellor having run ten thousand pounds in debt in the building of a stately house, here, in town, would, if possible, by the means of the great chancellor, get the Empress to make him a present of this money, or, at least, some part of it, and advance the rest of his salary. In short, my lord, we do not conceive here that the great chancellor has any thing to fear from the intrigues of his enemies. They have not the courage to attack him directly, therefore try only to make his administration uneasy, by leading the Empress in a continual round of

pleasure and so preventing, as much as they can, his having an opportunity of speaking and dispatching business with her. And if the great chancellor has any enemies to fear and a very dangerous one too, it is himself, for all his friends can say, will not make him alter his way of living, which is the cause of his present distresses and of the breach of trust which could admit of no palliation, were every person about the Empress, or in office here, the most zealously attached to him.

In my conference with the great chancellor, I informed him of His Majesty's concern at these advices of his declining credit and of his hopes that it would not, however, suffer any diminution and, should these reports unluckily be founded, of the orders I had received to do every thing in my power that could tend to the support of it, in consequence of which I was to take such measures, as he should advise.

I should not do the great chancellor justice, if I let your grace be unacquainted that I never saw a man more affected, than he was, at this instance, of the King's regard for him; the tears even came into his eyes and prevented his speaking for some time. At last, he desired, I would lay him, in the most respectful manner, at His Majesty's feet and assure him, in the strongest terms, of the grateful sense, he had of His Majesty's great goodness, adding that by what he had already said to me and the message I had received from him by m-r Funk, the saxon minister, he was sorry, it too plainly appeared, he had less to fear from the jealousy and malice of his enemies, than from his own indiscretions; therefore, if His Majesty thought his credit worth supporting, he could only refer me to the said message, as it contained the only means which could effectually do it. He asked me next, why our court would not give a little attention to his repeated insinuations and begin, here, a negotiation *for an eventual treaty of subsidy* for a body of troops that may be in readiness to act, giving me to understand that such a negotiation would not only meet with delays, which all kind of business was subject to here; *but that means could easily be found out to spin it out*, till we were more convinced, than we seem to be at present, of the necessity of being sure of such succours from hence; that this was another way of supporting his credit; and, at the same time, fixing the interests of Great Britain and that of the common cause upon a solid and lasting foundation at this court. The only answer, I returned to this, was that I supposed the King and his ministers saw no probability of persuading the parliament to come into such measures in time of peace.

In my conversation with the great chancellor, I did not omit spea-

king to him about his brother, who is now at Dresden and who is the eldest, and not the youngest, as your grace seems to think. Whatever differences there are between these two brothers, they can have no great influence upon affairs at this court, as we have been, long since, pretty sure that count. Bestuchef, the elder, would never think of returning hither after his recall from the court of Vienna, and we are now confirmed in that opinion, for he has not only asked leave of the Empress to go, next summer, to Carlsbad for the recovery of his health, but has caused insinuations to be made to his brother, the great chancellor, by two, or three different hands, that he would be glad to be employed in some other embassy. Upon which, it is come into the chancellor's head, to have him sent to England, if possible. To this end he could wish, orders were sent to colonel Yorke to insinuate to count Golowkin, the russian ambassador at the Hague, how agreeable it would be to His Majesty, if after the two embassies he had sent to the Empress's, she would let one appear, on her part, at his court. That it could not fail of having a good effect at all the courts of Europe, and, in particular, might be a means of checking the humour, his prussian majesty seemed to be in, of kicking quarrels with his neighbours, as such a mark of Her Imperial Majesty's attention would confirm the opinion of the great friendship and concert, which subsisted between the two courts. The great chancellor says, there is no occasion to name his brother, for if count Golowkin reports his having had such a conversation with colonel Yorke, he should be able to manage that matter so as to be able to prevent the choice falling upon any other. R. 5-th January 1753. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 257.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 24-th November (5-th December) 1752.

My lord. If my dispatches of the 17-th instant, by a courier, be long making their way, your grace may be apt to believe that we have had here a fourth inundation, which has swept us all away, for I have not troubled your grace with any letters by the post, since that of the 7-th (18-th) November.

The delays we met with in the dispatch of the abovementioned courier have convinced me of the truth of a suspicion I have long had, which is, that the ministers, to conceal their own negligences and lazyness, often

throw the fault on the Empress, their mistress; for, on this occasion, to our certain knowledge the ministers had received from the Empress all the papers they desired for their security, full fourteen days before we could get the dispatches in consequence of them out of their hands. One reason alledged for this delay, I cannot help mentioning for it's singularity, which was, that the fast, which lasts till christmas, being to commence on the 15-th instant, the clerks of the chancery were so taken up in eating flesh meat, that it was impossible to make them settle to any business. In a country, where there reigns such a very great submission and where the knout and padog are so much in fashion, it is hard to conceive such an excuse could be made for the idleness of subalterns, unless their superiors had set them the example in sticking as close to their flesh pots, as it is known they do to their bottle and cards.

Having received the honour of your grace's letter of the 20-th October ordering me not to send my letters any more to Hanover, I shall, accordingly, begin to direct them to your grace in England. R. 29-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 258.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 5-th (16-th) December 1752

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 21-st November dated from Whitehall, by which I had the great satisfaction to see His Majesty was safely arrived at St. James's, God be praised, in perfect health.

I have had nothing worth giving your grace the trouble of a letter from hence for these several posts. Part of last week was taken up with festivals at court on account of the great dutchess's names day, the anniversary of the Empress's accession and the feast of St. Andrew; and every body here is now busy in making preparations for the journey to Moscow, the Empress intending, as it is generally said, to set out for that place towards the latter end of next week, in order to keep her birthday there, which is on the 18-th instant. R. 13-th January 1753. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 259.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 19-th December 1752.

Sir. I send you herewith, by the King's command, a representation to His Majesty from the lords commissioners for trade and plantations, setting forth that they have had under their consideration a memorial presented to them by the principal exporters and manufacturers of paper-hangings, which represents that this manufacture has, of late years, arisen to great perfection, and the export of it to Russia, Hamburgh and other places, where it has been much esteemed, has been very considerable; but that, a few years since, one of the manufacturers of paper-hangings, having left this kingdom and settled in Russia, had introduced and set up this manufacture there, and had applied to the russian Senate, totally to prohibit the importation of paper-hangings into that country; and that there was great reason to apprehend that such a prohibition would shortly take place; and proposing, for the reasons therein mentioned, that the King would be graciously pleased to give directions to His Majesty's minister residing at the court of Russia, to use his best endeavours to prevent such a prohibition taking effect; and I am to signify to you the King's pleasure that you should, immediately, make the strongest instances, in such manner, as may be most effectual for answering the purpose proposed by the lords commissioners for trade and plantations. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 260.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 19-th (30-th) December 1752.

My lord. Since my letter of the 5-th (16-th) instant, which is my last nothing has occurred here worth giving your grace the trouble of a letter.

I shall now have the honour to inform your grace that on Wednesday last, the 16-th (27-th) instant in the afternoon, the Empress set out from hence on her journey to Moscow; the great duke and dutchess left this place the evening before. All the members of the different colleges, who have orders to follow Her Imperial Majesty, are now also getting away, as fast as they can, but it is not yet known, when the great chancellor count Bestuchef will begin his journey, for about a week ago he was taken

very ill with a severe fit of the *Hæmorrhoids* and is grown so weak by the great quantity of blood he has lost, that he is obliged to keep his bed. Till this minister moves from hence, none of the foreign ministers will think of doing so, as no business of any kind can be stirring at Moscow, when he is absent.

A little before the Empress left this place, she was graciously pleased to remit and make a free gift to her subjects of an arrear of poll tax amounting to above two millions and a half of roubles, which has endeared her very much to all orders and ranks of people in this country. R. 2-d January. P. R. O. Russia. 1752. № 64.

№ 261.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 29-th December 1752 (9-th January 1753).

My lord. A few days ago, we had an account here, by express, that the Empress arrived safely and in perfect health at Moscow, on Saturday the 19-th instant o. s., at two o'clock in the afternoon.

The great chancellor, count Bestuchef, is perfectly recovered of his late indisposition, but is still too weak to think of setting out on his journey to Moscow, this fortnight yet. All the foreign ministers are also still here and waiting on the great chancellor's motions, in order to direct theirs.

I received by the last post a letter from sir Charles Hanbury Williams of the 23-d instant n. s., wherein he acquaints me that the dispatches I had addressed to him for your grace of the 17-th (28-th) November were come safe to his hands and that he should forward them to England, in a couple of days at farthest. R. 2-d February. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 262.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 12-th (23-d) January 1753.

My lord. Since my last, the great chancellor count Bestuchef has had a relapse; he is indeed again on the mending hand, but so very weak, that nobody can judge when he will be able to undertake the journey to Moscow. A few days ago, baron Posse, the swedish minister, set out for

Moscow, but all the other foreign ministers are still here. The reason of baron Posse's going so much sooner than the rest was, that he would not renew the lease of his house here in town, which was expiring.

I must not conceal from your grace that the great chancellor's illness is only feigned, in order to stay and keep general Bretlack, m-r Funk and me here, untill we have received an answer to our dispatches to our respective courts upon his distresses. General Bretlack tells me, he expects a courier from his court towards the latter end of next week, and seems not to doubt, but his court will contribute something towards supplying the great chancellor's wants. M-r Funk, the saxon minister, has, already, received an answer from his court, but not at all satisfactory, as it is of no immediate relief, for m-r Brühl refers the great chancellor to the payment of all old, but, indeed, a very just debt, due by this court to that of Saxony, out of which the great chancellor is allowed to take, for himself, about six thousand pounds. As to me, I must tell your grace very sincerely that, not being in the least able to judge what kind of answer I shall receive, I avoid seeing the great chancellor, under one pretence or other, untill I can, clearly, inform him of His Majesty's intentions upon his request.

I received, a few days ago, the honour of your grace's letter of the 19-th December n. s., containing the King's orders upon the representation made to His Majesty by the lords commissioners for trade, concerning the manufacture of paper-hangings, which has been introduced and set up in this country; in consequence of which orders I have taken such measures, as will enable me to give your grace, in a post or two, a full and clear account of this affair. The person who is at the head of this paper manufacture, which is at Moscow, is one Thompson, who was book and warehouse keeper to the charitable corporation, and he has under him one Martin Butler, who, as the board of trade say in their representation, was formerly one of the manufacturers of paper-hangings in England. R. 16-th February. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

1753.

№ 263.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 19-th (30-th) January 1753.

My lord. Having received the informations I expected concerning the manufacture of paper-hangings set up at Moscow by m-r Thompson, formerly book and warehouse keeper to the charitable corporation, I shall lay them all before your grace in one view. It is first proper to observe to your grace that, though the abovementioned Thompson is the person who introduced this manufacture in this country, yet it is carried on in the name of Martin Butler, who was one of the manufacturers of this kind of hangings in England, and besides this Thompson, one Thomas Nesbitt attempted to set up a like manufacture here at Petersburg, upon which a dispute having arisen between him and Martin Butler, who acts for Thompson, Martin Butler gave in on the 2-d of September last 1752 a memorial to the Senate, setting forth: «That he had the sole privilege of carrying on this manufacture, he being authorised thereto by a patent from the college of manufactures at Moscow, whereas Thomas Nesbitt had his patent only from the comptoir of manufactures at Petersburg, which was an inferior and subordinate board to the abovementioned college». The Senate having taken this petition of Martin Butler's into consideration, confirmed the grant of the college of manufactures at Moscow to Butler and annulled that of the comptoir of manufactures here at Petersburg to Nesbitt, for the following reasons:

1. Because Martin Butler engaged to augment the product of this fabric to such a quantity, as may be sufficient to supply the demands of the whole Empire and that the paper and the workmanship of the said hangings shall be equal in goodness and quality to the best hangings of that kind which have hitherto been imported from foreign parts.

2. Because Martin Butler engages to take russian subjects and learn them all the art and mystery of printing and stamping paper-hangings to

as much perfection, as they do abroad; for which reason the Senate has not only granted to this Martin Butler (alias Thompson, the warehouse keeper) the sole privilege of making and vending those sort of hangings for a term of ten years, but ordered the colleges of commerce and manufactures to make an exact inquiry into the quantities of paper-hangings imported into this Empire in the years 1749, 1750, 1751 and 1752, and if it shall appear that the manufacture set up by this Martin Butler does produce every year as much, as has been imported in any of the beforementioned years and a sufficient quantity to supply the demands of this country, in that case an additional duty may be laid on the importation of foreign paper-hangings, pursuant to an ukase of the Emperor's Peter the first dated the 6-th November 1723, an extract of which ukase I herewith transmit to your grace. But hitherto I must acquaint your grace that neither the college of commerce, or that of manufacture are come in with their report upon the abovementioned ukase of the Senate.

It is also proper, I think, your grace should know that there are two english houses here who favour and support all they can this manufacture of paper-hanging, which is set up at Moscow. The one is messieurs Peters and Thompson, the other messieurs Gumm and C-ie. M-r Thompson, who is m-r Peter's partner, is brother to the Thompson at Moscow and now in London.

By what goes before your grace will see that there is no direct prohibition to be laid on the paper-hangings imported here from abroad, but only dutys more or less in proportion, as the manufacture introduced here shall prosper; which is indeed much the same thing, but how to prevent it, is hard to tell, when our own people will act a part so contrary to the interest of England and if I am rightly informed to the oath they have taken to the Russia company.

The great chancellor count Bestuchef mends now daily and so fast, that he hopes to be able to fix soon the day of his departure for Moscow. R. 24-th February. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

Extract of the Emperor Peter the first's ukase, dated the 6-th November 1723.

1. If the quantity of any goods which are, or may be manufactured in Russia, should be so increased, as to be equal to the fourth part of what is imported, in such case, by the abovementioned ukase, an additional duty of one fourth more shall be laid on such foreign manufactured goods, than what they paid before on importation.

2. If the increase of any particular sort of goods manufactured in this country be one third part more than usual, then the additional duty shall likewise be advanced one third more and so on, and if their increase be half as much as imported, the dutys shall also be raised to half as much more, as they formerly paid.

3. And if such fabrics can produce as much goods as the quantities imported, the dutys shall then be three times as much as they formerly used to pay; this ukase is inserted in the regulations of the college of commerce, the original being wrote and signed by the Emperor Peter the first's own hand. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 264.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 23-d January (3-d February) 1753.

My lord. A few days ago, general Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, received the courier he expected from his court. Amongst other things this courier brought him full powers and instructions for concluding the king of Poland's accession to the treaty of 1746 between the two empress's, on which occasion I have received a letter from the great chancellor count Bestuchef, a copy of which I herewith transmit to your grace, by the opportunity of a courier which general Bretlack dispatches this evening to Vienna. By this letter your grace will see that the great chancellor thinks it is necessary I should also have full powers, and the court of Dresden seems to be of the same opinion, as I find I am named in the full powers which they have sent to m-r Funk, their minister here, but general Bretlack declares entirely against it, and I cannot help agreeing with him, and the more so, as his orders are, as he tells me, not a accept of his polish majesty's accession, unless he accedes also to the secret articles of the abovementioned treaty particularly the 4-th, which His Majesty, by a separate declaration, as your grace knows, has solemnly protested against. R. 21-st March. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

Lettre du comte A. Bestouchef à m-r Guy Dickens.

St.-Petersbourg, le 20 Janvier 1753.

Monsieur. Comme j'entrevois des apparences qui nous promettent que les difficultés qui ont retardé jusqu'ici l'accession de la cour de Saxe au traité d'alliance, conclu ici entre les deux cours impériales l'année 1746

et agrandi par l'accession de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, votre maître, vont être levées au plustôt et que l'utilité de cette affaire animant toutes les parties contractantes d'un même zèle, on travaillera sans délai pour arriver à sa conclusion, j'ai cru devoir vous en informer, monsieur, afin que vous puissiez en attendant vous procurer de votre cour des instructions et des pleinpouvoirs nécessaires pour recevoir conjointement l'accession saxonne au susdit traité, en cas que vous n'en soyez pas encore pourvu jusqu'ici. Sa Majesté le Roi, votre auguste maître, y étant une partie principale contractante, je trouve comme superflu de vous faire voir par celle-ci, monsieur, toutes les autres raisons et considérations qui demandent votre coopération dans cette affaire, si bien utile pour la tranquillité de toute l'Europe qu'avantageuse pour les alliés. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 265.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 26-th January (6-th February) 1753.

My lord. The courier which general Bretlack had sent to Vienna upon the message we received from the great chancellor, acquainting us with his distresses, is come back, but the answer he has brought is as little to our friend's satisfaction as that from the court of Dresden. The court of Vienna propose to settle a pension of ten thousand german florins a year upon the great chancellor, during his life, which he has absolutely refused, saying, he would not sell himself in that manner to any court whatsoever; with which answer general Bretlack sent his courier back again to Vienna, on Saturday last, earnestly entreating them to send him, as soon as possible, a remittance of ten or twelve thousand ducats, that at all events he may be prepared to assist the great chancellor in case of any sudden call upon the money of the two departments which he has embezzled.

I did myself the honor to write a letter to your grace, by the abovementioned courier, in which I acquainted you that general Bretlack had, at last, received full powers for concluding the king of Poland's accession to the treaty between the two empresses and, at the same time, inclosed therein the copy of a letter I had received from the great chancellor on that occasion.

The great chancellor grows daily better, but as he recovers his strenght

but slowly, the day of his departure for Moscow is not yet fixed. A few days ago, baron Maltzan, the danish minister, set out for Moscow. The saxon minister, m-r Funk, did the same this morning and general Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, talks of moving about the beginning of next week; the week after, m-r Swart, the dutch minister, and I propose to do so too.

I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 12-th January n. s., inclosing His Majesty's speech to both Houses of Parliament together with the address of the House of Lords and the resolution of the House of Commons upon it.

P. S. I hear from general Bretlack that count Esterhasy, who was in Spain, is to relieve him about the month of May next and that count Colloredo, who went from hence a few months ago, is to go to England, as minister from the emperor and empress-queen. R. 2-d March. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 266.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 9-th (20-th) February 1753.

My lord. The great chancellor being still here, your grace will not be surprised to receive another letter from me dated from this place, but it will be the last untill my return from Moscow, for my departure is now fixed for next Saturday the 13-th instant.

General Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, left this place about a week ago, but m-r Schwart, the dutch minister, does not think of setting out before the 20-th or 21-st instant.

In order to get away, I have given the great chancellor to understand that I did not expect to receive here an answer to my letter to your grace of the 17-th November last, as it would probably be sent to sir Charles Hanbury Williams at Dresden and from thence forwarded to m-r Funk, who being now at Moscow, I thought, it was best for me to repair hither, also, as soon as possible. The great chancellor begins now to think seriously of moving, but to confirm the opinion of his illness will only set out towards the latter end of this month. R. 25-th March. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 267.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 16-th (27-th) February 1753.

My lord. I did not think I should trouble your grace with any more letters from hence, but since my last I have been advised by every body, great and little, not to be on the road this week, which being that before their great fast and what they call here *the butter week*, when all the boors give themselves up to the greatest excesses, travellers not only run the hazard of not finding a sober postillion to drive them, but of meeting with insults, I have therefore put off my journey to Moscow to next Monday the 22-d instant, when I shall certainly leave this place. The great chancellor proposes to do so too, a few days after being now perfectly recovered and going now and then abroad in order to use himself to the air.

We hear from Moscow that the Empress has been indisposed with a headache, a violent cough and pains all over her limbs, but was much better when the last letters came away. Most of the persons who are gone to Moscow from hence have had the same disorder, which is attributed to the excessive cold, they have had there, but hitherto it has been attended with no other bad consequences, than a few days confinement. R. 25-th March. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 268.

Le duc de Newcastle au colonel Guy Dickens.

A Whitehall. Ce 27 Février 1753.

Monsieur. Vous aurez, sans doute, appris les circonstances de la rencontre qui s'est passée à Moscou entre le colonel comte Zacharie de Czernichew et le colonel Leontiew. Le comte de Czernichew, ministre de Russie en cette cour, est extrêmement alarmé des suites que cet accident fâcheux peut avoir pour son frère. Le Roi en a été touché de compassion, et par un effet des bontés dont Sa Majesté honore ce ministre et pour lui épargner une disgrâce si cruelle dans la personne de son frère, en cas qu'il se trouvât exposé à la rigueur des lois, elle m'a ordonné de vous écrire cette lettre, afin que vous vous employiez d'abord au nom du Roi de toutes les façons qui vous paraîtront les plus efficaces en faveur du

comte Zacharie de Czernichew. Sa Majesté vous ordonne même de demander pour cet effet une audience de l'Impératrice elle-même, si vous trouvez qu'il en soit besoin, et de faire connaître à Sa Majesté Impériale que le Roi se promet de son amitié qu'elle voudra bien pardonner au comte Zacharie une faute dans laquelle il paraît avoir été entraîné involontairement, et que Sa Majesté sera sensiblement obligée des égards que Sa Majesté Impériale voudra avoir à l'intercession du Roi en faveur de ce malheureux officier, à l'intention d'un ministre qui a mérité l'estime de Sa Majesté. Vous n'omettez rien, soit auprès de l'Impératrice, ou auprès de ses ministres, qui puisse leur faire sentir le vif intérêt que le Roi prend au sort du comte Zacharie de Czernichew et l'obligation que Sa Majesté aura à l'Impératrice de la clémence dont elle voudra bien user en cette occasion. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. N^o 66.

Note du comte Czernichew au duc de Newcastle. 26 Février 1753.

Monsieur le colonel Guy Dickens aura, sans doute, appris les circonstances de la rencontre qui s'est passée à Moscou entre le colonel comte Zacharie de Czernichew et le colonel Leontiew.

Jusqu'à présent les particularités de cette affaire ne sont pas connues ici. Le comte de Czernichew, frère du susmentionné, présentement ici n'en a en des nouvelles qu'indirectement et dont le précis se réduit à ce que les susdits cavaliers sont venus aux mains aucunement de façon préméditée, mais purement par un hasard malheureux et des moins attendus et qu'ils se sont battus en hommes d'honneur; de plus, par tout ce que l'on en sait juger, le comte ne peut être regardé comme l'agresseur et que l'un et l'autre se trouvent fortement blessés, mais la blessure du colonel Leontiew doit avoir été la plus dangereuse, selon le sentiment du chirurgien, et cela au point que par le premier appareil qui y a été fait, l'on en a espéré rien de bon.

Comme les lois militaires en pareil cas de mort pourraient peut-être tourner au préjudice du dit comte Zacharie, le Roi par sa clémence et compassion naturelle, ainsi que par la bonté particulière dont Sa Majesté honore le comte Czernichew, qui est ici et à qui elle voudrait sauver une telle mortification dans la personne de son frère, a chargé son excellence milord duc de Newcastle d'en écrire immédiatement et de la meilleure façon au dit colonel Guy Dickens, pour qu'il employe au nom de Sa Majesté les intercessions qu'il croira être les plus efficaces auprès de a personne même de l'Impératrice, comme aussi par le moyen de ses mi-

nistres, afin de la porter en ce cas-ci à sa clémence naturelle envers le dit comte Zacharie et qu'en considération de la haute estime et amitié que Sa Majesté Impériale porte au Roi, elle veuille témoigner, en cette occasion, le cas qu'elle fait de ses instances et accorder le pardon et l'absolution totale du dit comte Zacharie de cette faute involontaire et commise contre son gré.

Le mieux que son excellence milord duc voudra recommander et appuyer cette intercession par le colonel Guy Dickens, le plus le comte lui en sera redevable et lui aura une obligation infinie de cette faveur. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 269.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 9-th March 1753.

Sir. I acquainted you, in my letter of the 13-th February, with the violent proceedings of the king of Prussia, by the detention and misapplication of certain sums of money, due on the Silesia loan to His Majesty's subjects of Great Britain, of which the king of Prussia had, by the most solemn treaties, taken upon him the payment and I sent you the answer, which His Majesty ordered me to return to the prussian secretary here, annexing the report to the king of those persons to whom His Majesty was pleased to refer this affair, by which the irregularity, violence and injustice of the court of Berlin must plainly appear.

I have, now, the King's orders to dispatch this messenger to you with directions for your conduct upon this occasion. And that you may be fully informed of His Majesty's thoughts and intentions upon it, I send you a copy of my letter to m-r Keith, of the 13-th of February last, whereby you may be the better enabled to execute the orders contained in this letter.

You will see that the King is using his utmost endeavours to induce the king of Prussia, by amicable means, to redress the injury done to His Majesty's subjects and, thereby, prevent the consequences which might otherwise happen to the public peace. For this purpose proper applications have been made to the court of France, from which there is reason to hope for a good effect. But as there is no depending upon the future behaviour of a prince, who is capable of acting, as the king of Prussia has done, *even* in this instance, his prussian majesty may be deaf to reason

and think of supporting one injustice by another (if possible) still more outrageous, and make some attack upon His Majesty's german dominions, because the King cannot and will not sacrifice the rights and essential interests of his subjects of Great Britain to the king of Prussia's arbitrary determinations and dispositions; and the preparations, which His Majesty has received advices, are making upon the frontiers of the King's german dominions by buying up numbers of artillery horses, getting together great quantities of forage and provision of all sorts, greatly favor and confirm such an opinion. Neither ought the great prussian encampment consisting of 50.000 men, which is undoubtedly to be made this summer near Berlin, to be entirely disregarded, especially as it may have some connection with the several french encampments, which are said to be designed in Alsace, Franche-Comté and the Low Countries.

It is His Majesty's pleasure that you should immediately, upon the receipt of this letter, acquaint the Empress of Russia and the great chancellor and such of the russian ministers, as you should think proper, with the present state of this case, and that you should, in the King's name, observe to them that, if, notwithstanding the amicable endeavours which are using to prevent it, his prussian majesty, in support of the violences which he has already offered to the rights and properties of the King's subjects of Great Britain, and in consequence, singly, of those violences (though coloured under any other pretences) should attack the King's german dominions, His Majesty is entitled to the assistance and specific succours, stipulated by the several defensive alliances with the most considerable powers of Europe; and that His Majesty shall, in that case, reclaim the performance of those engagements accordingly; and that they should acknowledge (as the King doubts not but they will) any *voies de fait* committed by the king of Prussia upon any part of His Majesty's dominions, upon this account, to be *casus fœderis*, for, otherwise, as this is singly an english quarrell and in support of the rights of Great Britain, His Majesty would be deprived of the reciprocal assistance, which he is entitled to, when those rights of Great Britain shall be infringed or invaded; and this must be allowed to be the sense of those defensive engagements. Nothing therefore can be stronger, than the obligations which the Empress of Russia is under by the defensive alliances of 1741 and 1742, and by the King's accession to the treaty of 1746, to come to His Majesty's assistance and to furnish the succours there stipulated, in case the King should be thus attacked. But His Majesty's friendship and consideration for the Empress of Russia is such, that the King is desirous to make the necessary assi-

stance to which His Majesty is entitled, as little burthensome, as possible, to Her Imperial Majesty; and therefore, the King is willing so far to depart from what, in strictness, he is entitled to, that, if you can procure an assurance, in writing that, upon notice given of an attack made by the king of Prussia upon any part of His Majesty's dominions, either here, or in Germany in consequence of the late violent proceedings of the court of Berlin and of the support, which the King gives to the rights of his subjects of Great Britain, the Empress of Russia will assist His Majesty with 30.000, or 40.000 men, now quartered in Livonia, and make a diversion on the king of Prussia's dominions, on the side of Courland, and also furnish a large body of Cossacks and Kalmucks to invade other parts of the prussian dominions, or to be transported by galleys to make an irruption on the side of Stettin; His Majesty will from the day that such regular troops or such irregulars shall march from their present quarters for the purposes abovementioned, give a proportionable subsidy, according to the numbers to be continued, as long as those troops shall remain in the service of Great Britain; and, if the troubles should be soon and happily ended, then, and in that case, some part of that subsidy may be continued for such further time, as shall be agreed upon. Though the circumstances of this country will not permit the King to grant any considerable subsidy without there shall appear to be an absolute necessity for it, which the King is still willing to hope, will not be the case; yet His Majesty does not propose that the Empress of Russia should put herself to any expence, untill the troops are demanded and the subsidy shall commence.

By your letter of the 15-th (26-th) of September last you assure me that, by the new disposition then made, there would remain about sixty thousand men between Narwa and Libau, in Courland.

That is just the station, where the King wishes them to be, and from whence the proposed diversion (if necessary) must be made; so that no previous expence is required for their march. The Cossacks and Kalmucks, I suppose, are always ready, or may soon be so, and if any other previous expence should be necessary, that may be fully satisfied by the future engagements. The great point, therefore, is to agree upon the number of troops and the sum to be paid for them; and that His Majesty may have forthwith a security that, when he is attacked, the Empress of Russia will on those conditions assist him with her troops.

The Empress of Russia, in the year 1747, furnished, for the service of the maritime powers, 30.000 men, which were indeed 35.000 for a

subsidy of 300.000 pounds per annum and took upon herself the expence of the march of the whole corps from the frontiers of Russia, all through Poland, to upper Silesia for 150.000 dutch crowns only.

In that case, there was no demand of succours from Russia. That was merely a bargain for troops, whereas, in the present case, the King has a right to the succours stipulated, without any consideration, and the troops are not to march out of their quarters, untill the subsidy is proposed to be given.

These considerations, therefore, ought greatly to lighten and lessen the expence. The King will not name any certain sum, as that must depend upon the proportion of troops etc., to be furnished. But His Majesty hopes, you may be able to come to some precision with the court of Russia, both as to the number of troops to be furnished, regulars and irregulars, and the quantum of the subsidy to be granted for them. To which, if founded upon the principles of this letter, the King may, upon the return of this messenger, agree. And in order thereto, you will use your utmost endeavours to reduce the sum that will be proposed by Russia, as low as possible, and, in that case, His Majesty hopes from the friendship of the Empress of Russia and from the security which she will have, that the troops will not be demanded, untill the conditions shall be complied with. The general and commander in chief of the russian troops in Livonia may have provisional orders to march, upon notice given from the King of an attack made by the king of Prussia upon His Majesty's dominions and upon an assurance from the King, that the terms and conditions proposed by the Empress are agreed to by His Majesty.

This will remove all doubts on all sides. His Majesty will be assured of the immediate assistance of the russian troops for making a proper diversion, in case the King is attacked; and the Empress of Russia will, also, be secure that that assistance shall not be required untill His Majesty has complied with such demands or proposals, as you, in consequence of this letter, shall transmit hither, for the King's approbation and consent.

To reduce, therefore, this great question to a short point (which is, also, a full answer to all that you have wrote upon the subject of a subsidy to Russia) in the present circumstances of this country, His Majesty does not think it advisable, at all events, to give a subsidy to Russia; but in case of an attack from Prussia for the causes abovementioned, the King is not only willing to give a subsidy, but such a one as may enable the Empress of Russia to act in support of the King in such manner, as may be for His Majesty's immediate service, and the most probable for

the restitution of the public peace, which will then have been broke, and for securing the interests and independance of those powers, who would be as materially affected and perhaps more so, than the King, by any farther accession of influence and power to the king of Prussia, which would infallibly happen, if His Majesty is not powerfully and effectually assisted. And, in support of this truth, I might add several very strong considerations. But, as it is impossible for them to escape the observation of the russian ministers, I shall not add to the length of this letter by enumerating them. I cannot, however, avoid mentioning that, if the court of Russia neglect this opportunity and insist upon a previous provisional subsidy, which cannot be granted; if the king of Prussia should once resolve to break the peace, Russia would then find themselves under a necessity to defend themselves upon their own bottom, without, probably, any assistance of men or money; the Turks would be ready to take advantage of such a situation (for which there is certainly, at present, a disposition in the Porte) and the emperor and empress-queen would have more than sufficient occupation, in providing for their own security. When, if His Majesty's plan is followed, the peace will either be effectually preserved, as I hope and believe it may be, or, if that cannot be obtained, such joint measures are proposed to be taken by the King and the two empresses, as may be most likely to put a short end to the disturbances, if they should happen, and the best to secure the particular interests of the respective powers and the general system of Europe, from the ruin and destruction which may threaten them.

I send this letter open to m-r Keith, with directions to him to talk to the austrian ministers upon it, and to transmit to you, by this messenger, an account of the result of his conferences with them. And that you may be fully informed of every thing that relates to your present commission, I send you a copy of my letter which this messenger carries to m-r Keith. By Money. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 270.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 9-th March 1753.

Very secret. Sir. You will have in my other letter the King's directions for the answer which you are to return to the great chancellor. I should think, it might not be difficult to raise a sum of money upon

the security which will be now released by the King. His Majesty, however, is willing to make a further present to m-r Bestuchef, if he can procure the Empress of Russia's consent to the plan proposed in my letter, and if the chancellor will give you an assurance, in writing that the troops in Livonia and the Kalmucks shall make the diversion proposed, as soon as the general and commander in chief of the russian troops in Livonia shall receive notice from the King, that the king of Prussia has attacked His Majesty's dominions and that the King also consents to the terms proposed by the court of Russia and which shall have been transmitted hither by you. You are in that case, and not otherwise hereby authorised to advance to the great chancellor the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds; and you may further engage to pay him the sum of two thousand five hundred pounds more, as soon, as the russian troops shall begin their march, in consequence of the requisition which shall be made by His Majesty. And as an encouragement to the chancellor to assist you in your negotiation, you may also promise him a further gratuity, if he will help you, in making the subsidy to be paid, as moderate, as possible; and the lower the subsidy is, the greater will be his consideration for it.

You see by this, how much the King has the success of this affair at heart. And, if the chancellor has still the credit which he had, he has, now, an opportunity to do great service to the Empress of Russia, a very agreeable thing to His Majesty; and what will prove an immediate advantage to himself, as well as in its consequences, a great security to his own credit and power with the Empress, his mistress. For you always represented that nothing would do that so effectually, as a prospect of getting a subsidy from the King. I do admit that there is not an absolute certainty of it by this proposal; but the subsidy will be certain, if there is any real occasion for it; for the peace will be preserved; or, if not, the Empress of Russia will be well paid for her assistance. I hope you will endeavour to reduce *the quantum* of the subsidy, as low, as possible; and, then, there will be no difficulty in agreeing to it, it being not to commence, untill the attack is actually made by the king of Prussia.

We shall be very impatient to know the success of this important negotiation, and therefore I must desire you to redispach this messenger, as soon, as possible. By Money. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 271.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 9-th March 1753.

Very private. Sir. I have not, untill now, had a safe opportunity of answering your *private* letter, relating to the present distresses of the great chancellor.

The King is extremely sorry for those distresses which the great chancellor's own indiscretion (to say no more) has, in a great measure, brought upon him. His Majesty is truly sensible of m-r de Bestuchef's good intentions for the common cause and for the maintenance of the most perfect union and concert between the King and the Empress, his mistress. His Majesty also knows the great weight and credit which the great chancellor has, and, I hope, will still retain with Her Imperial Majesty. And for these reasons, the King would be very glad, was it in His Majesty's power, in a proper manner to be of service to him.

You know the considerable sum which the King advanced about six years ago, of ten thousand pounds sterling for the great chancellor. That money was desired, as a loan; for which the great chancellor actually gave a security to His Majesty. If, therefore, an absolute release of that security from the King to m-r Bestuchef could be of any service to him, you are hereby authorised, in His Majesty's name, to consent to it and to annul, or give up, any security or mortgage, which may have been given to the King for it. And His Majesty hopes that baron Wolff will be able to get a sum of money advanced upon that security; which may, in some measure, answer m-r Bestuchef's purpose.

I find that neither the empress-queen, nor the king of Polaud have yet come up to the great chancellor's wishes and wants. I hope, they will both do something; and that that, when joined with what may be raised upon the security, now given up by the King, may be sufficient.

M-r Bestuchef must think that this is going a great way, since it is releasing that which he thought an inducement to His Majesty to advance the money or, at least, the security for the money which the King had so lent.

You will assure the great chancellor of His Majesty's great concern for his situation and desire to see him at ease and in possession of that credit and influence which, to do him justice, he has always exerted for the support of the only salutary system in Europe.

P. S. I enclose to you an extract of a letter which I have this

day received from m-r Titley. You see the notions of the court of Denmark upon the present situation of the great chancellor. And indeed his long absence from court must make every body of the same opinion.

It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that the great chancellor should take some way and that without delay of showing to all the world that his credit and influence are the same, if they really are so. You will see, also, the notion, they have, that the present extravagant conduct of the king of Prussia is owing to his flattering himself with a security on the side of Russia. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that the Empress of Russia should show the contrary by immediately agreeing to the King's proposal, contained in my other letter. Or, otherwise, she may want to stop the farther progress of the king of Prussia, when it may be too late. By Money. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 272.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 9-th March 1753.

Sir. I should sooner have sent you His Majesty's commands upon your letters, relating to the instances made by the king of Poland upon the affair of the steuer and the declaration, proposed by the court of Russia to be made upon it; had His Majesty thought proper, in any degree, to join in that declaration, or had the King approved your joining, as you did with the austrian ministers in that measure; in which it was impossible for His Majesty to concur, the King having no general defensive alliance with Saxony, which His Majesty was to promise by that declaration to fulfill; which circumstance you seemed not to be apprised of.

I send you copies of my letters to sir Charles Hanbury Williams and colonel Yorke upon that subject; by which you will see, what the King's resolution was and the reasons which induced His Majesty to take it.

As the King is persuaded that the Empress of Russia will be perfectly satisfied, when this matter is fully explained to her by the great chancellor, I do not trouble you with a repetition of what is contained in my letters abovementioned.

I am persuaded you will be very exact in the execution of the important orders, which go by this messenger and that you will redispach him, as soon as possible, with an account of what you shall have been able to do upon them. By Money. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 273.

**The humble petition of the governors, consuls and court of assistants
of the Russia Company.**

9-th March 1753.

To the King's most excellent Majesty.

Sheweth. That your petitioners, having experienced the beneficial effects of the treaty of commerce which at present subsists between Great Britain and Russia and observing said treaty now tends near to a conclusion, and fully sensible that the renewing said treaty would be of highest advantage and protection to all your Majesty's subjects trading to Russia, humbly beg that proper orders may be given to your Majesty's ministers residing at the court of Russia to apply, for obtaining the renewal of said treaty of commerce in all it's articles for as long a term of years, as can be procured. And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray. By order of the governor, consuls and court of assistants of the Russia Company. George Mosley secretary.

NB. There was no *first* project sent from England. The negotiation began by this dispatch as will appear by the sequel of these papers. By Money. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 274.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 4-th (15-th) March 1753.

My lord. Having got safe to this place on Tuesday evening last, I would not let this post set out without giving your grace notice of it, and at the same time acknowledging the honour of your grace's letter of the 13-th February, which I found here on my arrival. As soon as the inclosures mentioned therein (which by reason of their being too voluminous have been sent by a messenger to Vienna) come to my hands, I shall deliver them to the russian minister, as I am ordered, that they may be fully and clearly informed of the state of the dispute between the courts of London and Berlin in relation the king of Prussia's pretended complaints of justice not having been done in England to his subjects upon the seizure, during the late war, of some ships or effects, which went under their names.

Before I left Petersburg, the great chancellor count Bestuchef told me he proposed setting out at this day on his journey to this place, so that he is expected here about the middle of next week; which will be a great relief to his colleague the vice-chancellor count Woronzow, who ever since his arrival here has been in a very bad state of health, not capable of giving much attention to business. R. 15-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 275.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 11-th (22-d) March 1753.

My lord. Since my last, which was of the 4-th (15-th) instant, general Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, has received a courier from his court, who brought me the printed copy of the answer your grace returned by His Majesty's order to m-r Michel, the prussian secretary's memorial of the 23-d November last, together with the report annexed thereto, as also m-r Michel's printed memorial and the king of Prussia's *exposition des motifs*, all which papers I shall deliver to the russian ministers as soon, as the great chancellor count Bestuchef arrives, who is expected here to-morrow or next day at farthest.

I am not yet informed, whether general Bretlack's last courier has brought any thing that will be more agreeable to the great chancellor, than what came by the former, concerning his wants and necessities, but I hear that the court of Dresden have upon m-r Funk, their minister's last representations sent him a remittance of eight thousand rixdollars, which he is to give to the great chancellor and to tell him, he may appropriate to his own use twenty two thousand rixdollars more out of the one hundred thousand rixdollars due by this court to that of Saxony. This debt is so clear and just, that the payment of it cannot be refused, if the ministers will stir ever so little in it, being for a set of arms furnished to one of the Empress's regiments of guards.

We are informed from Dresden that that court is come to the resolution of acceding to the secret articles, as well as to the treaty of 1746, between the two empresses, but they absolutely insist, as well as this court, on His Majesty's concurring in this accession, as one of the principal contracting parties. The great chancellor, count Bestuchef, told me the day before I left Petersburg, that, were all the courts of Europe to

accede to the abovementioned treaty, it would only remain a trite alliance and not answer the views of strengthening and consolidating the interests and engagements of the respective powers, if as accessions were made, they were not accepted by all the powers who were become parties to that treaty. R. 20-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 276.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 18-th (29-th) March 1753.

My lord. On Saturday evening last the great chancellor count Bestuchef arrived here from Petersburg and in perfect good health. The next day he gave notice of it by one of his secretaries to all the foreign ministers, but having desired at the same time to be excused from seeing any company for three or four days and untill he was a little recovered of the fatigues of the journey, we have not yet been to wait upon him.

The good news the great chancellor met with, on his arrival here, will not contribute a little towards removing all his complaints; for general Bretlack told me, a few days ago, that the last courier from Vienna brought him a remittance of thirty thousand german florins for the great chancellor; which sum, together with the eight thousand rixdollars, m-r Funk, the saxon minister, has orders to pay him, will, at least replace, in part, the money of the two departments which he had appropriated to his use. R. 27-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 277.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 22-d March (2-d April) 1753.

My lord. On Friday last, I received the honour of your grace's letter of the 27-th February n. s. containing His Majesty's orders, that I should use my utmost endeavours in his name in favour of count Zacharie de Czernichew, so that the Empress would be pleased to show her clemency towards that young officer in the affair of the rencontre which happened here a few months ago between him and colonel Leontiew. As soon as this letter came to my hands, I sent to the great chancellor desiring he would appoint an hour for me to wait on him, but as he had done before

to me and to all the other foreign ministers, he desired again to be excused on account on his not being yet settled. To lose therefore no time, I wrote a short letter to the chancellor on Saturday last and inclosed to him a copy of your grace's abovementioned letter, leaving it, at the same time, to Her Imperial Majesty's pleasure either to grant me a private audience or let me know her intentions upon it by her great chancellor. This letter, I know, was laid before the Empress yesterday, so that I am in daily expectation of an answer, which I do not in the least doubt will be a favourable one, as she would be sorry to let slip such an opportunity of showing her great and sincere regard and friendship for His Majesty.

There is no public business of any kind in agitation here at present, nor probably will be untill after easter, by which time it is to be hoped all the ministers will be recovered of the fatigue of their journey and settled in their new habitations. R. 30-th April. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 278.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 1-st (12-th) April 1753.

My lord. As your grace is perfectly well acquainted with the delays which the dispatch of any kind of business is subject to here, you will not, I hope, be surprised, when I tell you that I have received no answer yet to the application I have made to the Empress, by His Majesty's order, in favour of count Zacharie de Czernichew, and that I have not been able to see the great chancellor, since his arrival here. But I propose to-morrow renewing my solicitations in so pressing a manner for a quarter of an hour's conversation, that it will be difficult for him to refuse seeing me between this and the next post.

Not only that one thing, but every thing else is at a stand here. General Bretlack, the austrian ambassador, has received full powers to renew and make perpetual the defensive engagements between the court of Vienna and this against the Turks. But the russian ministers have not yet acquainted the Empress with it, though the said ambassador sends daily messages to press them to open the conferences, that this affair may be dispatched before the arrival of his successor. Your grace cannot be unacquainted that the peace of Madrid between the emperor Charles the 6-th and the Turks, in the year 1739, was only for fifteen years, whereas that between this court and the Ottoman Porte was perpetual. The

emperor desired, at that time, that the defensive engagements between him and this court with regard to the Turks might also be perpetual. But, as there was no reciprocity in that proposal, this court would only enter into those engagements for the same number of years, that the treaty between the emperor and the Turks was to last. Now, it seems the empress-queen having prevailed on the pacific disposition of the Ottoman Porte, to make their treaty with her, as with Russia, perpetual, she would be glad to give the same extent to her engagements with this court, which, we believe, can admit of no difficulty, as these transactions, according to the customs of these northern courts, are unaccompanied with presents, which both the great and vice-chancellor stand in great need of. R. 11-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 279.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 8-th (19-th) April 1753.

My lord. Since my letter of the 1-st (12-th) instant the great chancellor has been obliged to such close attendance at the Senate, on account of some domestic affairs of this Empire, that it was impossible for him to receive any company, but hopes are given me that he will be at leisure next week, to see and speak with whoever has any business with him.

I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 23-d March with the report of His Majesty's principal servants upon the malicious attempt made to blacken the characters of the lord bishop of Gloucester, m-r solicitor general, and m-r Stone, of which I shall not fail to make a proper use the first time I see the russian ministers.

Yesterday, at noon, arrived here Money, the messenger, by whom I received the honor of your grace's several letter of the 9-th March, and, as, at the same time, he put into my hands a letter from m-r Keith, of the 27-th March, acquainting me that orders had been sent to general Bretlack to second the instances I am directed, by the abovementioned dispatch, to make to the Empress of Russia, I am, this moment, going to that ambassador, in order to concert with him the properest manner of opening the important negotiation I am charged with, so that it may be brought to a speedy and happy conclusion. R. 19-th May. P. R O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 280.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 19-th (30-th) April 1753.

My lord. Though your grace will not have heard from me since my letter of the 8-th instant, in which I informed you of the arrival of Money, the messenger, I will hope, your grace is fully persuaded that I have not been idle. As the said messenger happened to come in passion week, it was impossible to transact any business here till the easter holidays were over. Since when, I have had no less than three very long conferences with the great chancellor upon the orders your grace sent me in your several letters of the 9-th March n. s. And to-morrow, without fail, the great chancellor is to make a report of every thing to the Empress, his mistress, as it has been settled and agreed upon between him, general Bretlack and me. The strongest hopes are given me that I shall meet with no delay and that I shall be able to redispach Money, the messenger, some time next week; I chose, therefore, to say as little as possible by the post, which, as it passes through a certain prince's dominions, may be a less eligible way, now, than ever of conveying dispatches. R. 28-th May. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 281.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 29-th April (10-th May) 1753.

My lord. For this week past there have been several festivals at court: on Wednesday, the 21-st instant being the great dutchess's name's day, there was drawing room at noon for the ladys and gentry to compliment her imperial highness on that occasion, and at night there was a ball and supper. The Sunday following viz-t: the 25-th instant being the anniversary of the Empress's coronation, she received at noon in the old town, called the Cremelin, where she had removed the evening before, the compliments of the chief nobility and all the foreign ministers, and afterwards dined in public. The Tuesday following being the day before yesterday, there was a ball and most magnificent supper at court, to which at least three hundred persons of both sexes were invited. This evening there is to be an opera and to-morrow a french comedy, which

will close the rejoycings made here on occasion of Her Imperial Majesty's coronation day.

In the midst of the ball on Tuesday last, the Empress sent her great chancellor to me, to acquaint me that in regard to His Majesty's intercession, she had pardoned count Zacharie de Czernichew and ordered him to be released from his confinement. Upon which I went up to Her Imperial Majesty and, after having kissed her hand, assured her, that His Majesty would have a very lively sense of this instance of her friendship for him; to which the Empress answered that it was a sincere pleasure to her to show on this occasion, as it would be on any other, her great regard and friendship for the King. The same evening prince Bieloselsky, count Zacharie's brother in law and count Czernichew, the *Cammer Junker*, his brother returned me their thanks at court for His Majesty's most kind and generous offices in this affair.

And yesterday morning, I had a visit from count Zacharie himself, who is so full of gratitude, that he desired me to assure the King, that he would be always ready, at the expense of his blood, to acknowledge the effects he had felt of His Majesty's goodness and compassion for him on this occasion.

Money, the messenger, is still here, but will soon depart in the meantime, I believe, I may venture upon the strong assurances given me, to acquaint your grace that this court will come into His Majesty's plan and in such a manner, as will be entirely agreeable to him. R. 7-th June. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 282.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 22-d May 1753.

In cypher. Sir. I received, on Saturday last, the favor of your letter of the 19-th of April and laid it before the King.

His Majesty was glad to see that Money, the messenger, was arrived with the important dispatches of the 9-th of March.

You may imagine that the King will be very impatient for the return of this messenger. I am in hopes, by what you let drop, that the court of Petersburg will know their own interest so well, as to accept what is proposed. The court of Vienna seems to understand theirs, by sending orders to general Bretlack to join with you in the instances which you are to make in consequence of those letters.

If the austrian minister has really received instructions to exert himself upon this occasion, I should hope your joint representations will have their desired effect.

There is a circumstance or two which have come to His Majesty's knowledge and deserve your utmost attention.

The king of Prussia has lately entertained a notion of being reconciled to the Empress of Russia. The government in Sweden are averse to it, but yet it is not improbable, but His Russian Majesty may attempt, some way or other, to bring it about.

The court of France have projects for the extending their commerce to all parts of Europe, and I have reason to think that there may be an intention to send a french minister to the great duke of Russia under the pretence of negotiating some affairs of commerce, but, in reality, to have a minister in Russia who, though accredited to the great duke only, may send constant informations of what passes and be employed in any negotiation which either France, or Prussia may wish to carry on.

You will be very industrious to find out, whether there is any foundation for this intelligence, and you will particularly caution the great chancellor, that no such minister may be received by the great duke and against any attempt which the king of Prussia may make to be reconciled with the Empress of Russia.

I hope and believe, you will find it not very difficult to succeed in this commission, but, however, it is too material to be neglected. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 283.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 13-th (24-th) May 1753.

My lord. Since my letter of the 29-th April (10-th May), which was my last, nothing has occurred here worth writing to your grace, unless it be the great alarms which this capital is under from the fires that almost daily happen in one quarter or another of it; insomuch that, at a moderate computation, we may reckon that within this fortnight at least one thousand houses have been consumed. And as the great heat and drought continue still, we never go to bed without the apprehensions of being called up by some such new calamitys, for which reason we have all packed up our most valuable things and keep them in constant rea-

diness to be removed, at the shortest warning, to some secure place, in case a fire should break out near any of our respective habitations.

I am sorry to tell your grace that Money, the messenger, is still here. Nor am I able to fix the day, when I shall dispatch him, though I am constantly assured, it shall be very soon. I would not have your grace believe that this delay proceeds from any difficulties, I meet with in my negotiation. For all His Majesty has desired is granted and agreed to; but from that unaccountable slowness and indolency, which this princess and her ministers, are accustomed to indulge themselves in and which is grown into so strong a habit, that no calls of reason can get the better of it. Yesterday evening the imperial ambassador and I were summoned to a conference with the two chancellors, who, after having desired of us some explanations, which we gave them, promised again that they would settle every thing, to-morrow, with the Empress, their mistress, and that I should not be much longer delayed. R. 22-d June. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 284.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 1-st June 1753.

Sir. I send you, herewith, a copy of a paper which has been delivered to me by sir Joshua Vanneck, and I am to desire that you would use your best endeavours to support the claim which you will see, he has, to be admitted as a creditor of m. m. Crammond, Shard and company, an english house at Petersburg, and that justice may be done him upon that occasion. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

From sir Joshua Vanneck. Sent o colonel Guy Dickens and m-r Wolff.

Sir Joshua Vanneck being a considerable creditor of Crammond, Shard and company, an english house at St. Petersburg in Russia, the factory there, whom are most of them creditors themselves, have given it as their opinion that sir Joshua should not be admitted a creditor on a supposition that he was formerly concerned in that house.

Sir Joshua has made his affidavit before my lord mayor of the state of the case, on which the attorney general's opinion has been taken, which is entirely in favour of sir Joshua, who humbly requests his grace my

lord duke of Newcastle to grant him his letters of recommandation to our ministers at the russian court and to baron Wolff, the british consul there, in order that justice may be done to a british subject by an english factory, the case with sir Dudley Ryder's opinion upon it having been already forwarded last post to St. Petersburg. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 285.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Wolff.

Whitehall. 1-st June 1753.

Sir. The inclosed paper was put into my hands by sir Joshua Vaneck, representing that he has a claim to be considered as a creditor of m. m. Crammond, Shard and company, an english house at Petersburg; and I am to recommend it to you, to use your best endeavours in support of the said claim and that justice may be done in consequence of it. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 286.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 24-th May (4-th June) 1753.

My lord. I am ashamed and tired to tell your grace so often that Money, the messenger, is still here. But if there be any depending upon the strong assurances, I had again yesterday evening at court from the great chancellor, the said messenger will not be detained above four or two days longer.

I begin, however, to wish that your grace may not be informed, by the common newspapers of the sentiments and intentions of this court, sooner than you will receive an account of them from me.

One day last week, the Empress was pleased to summon a great council, composed of all the senators and principal general officers; at which she being present told them that the cause of her calling them was to have their opinion, how far her interest and that of her Empire would be affected by the farther aggrandizement of the house of Brandenburg; and after which Her Imperial Majesty retired, but not without having given the whole council to understand what her thoughts were; so that, soon after, she was withdrawn, they unanimously came to an opinion, with which

they waited on Her Imperial Majesty, that the good and service of her dominions and her own particular interests could not permit her to see, with indifference, any farther accession of power to the house of Brandenburg. In consequence of this opinion, orders have been actually sent to five regiments of dragoons and five regiments of foot, which lie between this capital and Smolensk, to march into Livonia, where an army of 70.000 men of the choicest troops of horse and foot is to be formed, of which general Apraxin is to have the command.

Orders have likewise been sent to Petersburg to have all the galleys fitted for sea service and ready to receive on board, at the shortest warning, any body of troops which may be thought necessary to be employed that way; and the college of war have already met two or three times, by the Empress's order, to form the necessary divisions and repartitions, as is usual here in such cases. R. 2-d July. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 287.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 8-th June 1753.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I received, last night, the favor of your letter of the 10-th of May, with an account that the Empress of Russia had, at His Majesty's recommendation, been pleased to grant a pardon to and discharge count Zacharie Czernichew.

It is the King's pleasure that you should take the first opportunity of returning His Majesty's thanks to the Empress of Russia, for this great mark of her regard to the King's recommendation; and you may assure Her Imperial Majesty that she may always depend upon the most suitable return from the King.

You may imagine that I am very impatient for the arrival of Money; especially from the hint you give me of the good news which he will probably bring.

If it shall come out, as you imagine, I may congratulate you upon as great a measure for the interests of the respective parties and for the preservation of the peace of Europe, as could, I believe, in the present circumstances, be proposed. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 288.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 31-st May (11-th June) 1753.

My lord. All the hopes of dispatching the messenger I have with me, are flown away with the Empress, who went, on Wednesday last, to the cloister of Troitza, which is fifty werst from here. I must do the two chancellors the justice to say the fault is not theirs this time, if the messenger is longer detained. For every thing is ready and only wants the Empress's setting her name to it for their justification, which, though they attended three days together for several hours, they could not prevail on their mistress to do here, in town, and by her orders were obliged to follow her, the day before yesterday, to Troitza, where between Her Imperial Majesty's devotion and other occupations, they hope to find her in the humour to put a finishing hand to the affair in agitation.

In the meantime, though no answer has been returned to me, they proceed here, as if every thing was settled and agreed to; and I wish it may not be quicker, than His Majesty desires, but it is all general Apraxin's doing, who is president of the college of war, and being to have the command of the army that is forming in Livonia thinks his reputation and honor depend on his having this army in such compleat order, as may not make him run any hazard of meeting with a repulse. Besides the five regiments of dragoons and five of foot, I acquainted your grace in my last, were in full march for Livonia, general Bretlack told me, the day before yesterday, that ten regiments of horse had, also, orders to move the same way; and, last court day, the great chancellor told me that orders had been sent to eight thousand Cossacks and Calmucks to advance within four hundred werst from the frontiers of Livonia, that they may the sooner join the army, if necessary, which, whoever knows the rapidity, with which those troops move, they may easily do, when so near the frontiers of Livonia, before the army can pass the Dwina and enter into Courland.

Count Bestuchef, the late ambassador at the court of Vienna, is on the road hitner by the Empress's special orders; but such measures have been taken by the common friends of the two brothers, that no bad consequences are to be apprehended from their meeting. R. 9-th July. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 289.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 10-th (21-st) June 1753.

My lord. Since my letter of the 11-th instant, which is my last, the Empress is returned from Troitza and yesterday at noon was at last pleased to sign the papers, which the two chancellors had so often laid before her, authorizing them to return me an answer to the representations, I had made in consequence of the orders I had received by your grace's letter of the 9-th March last. If the messenger be now much longer delayed, it will be entirely the ministers fault; one week, I cannot, I foresee, refuse allowing them, as I am informed by a message, which I have just received from the great chancellor, that the papers to be translated are very voluminous. The assurances so often given me that the King would be entirely satisfied with the conditions, on which the Empress comes into His Majesty's plan, have been renewed to me upon this occasion in the strongest manner, but without acquainting me with any particulars. So much, I think, I may venture to say that they have advanced too far to go back, so that, should their demands run a little high, they must be contented and acquiesce with such deductions, as His Majesty may think proper to make.

The joy which the Empress's entering into these measures has occasioned here amongst the persons who are in the secret, is not to be expressed. They are only afraid that they have been a little too quick in the orders issued out here and that it may prevent their neighbours from undertaking any thing.

I received, by the last post, the honor of your grace's letter of the 23-d May n. s., but shall defer returning an answer to it, untill I dispatch the messenger. In general I must however let your grace know that, the same day, it came to my hands, I had an opportunity to acquaint the great chancellor with the two advices, His Majesty had received concerning the king of Prussia's notion of being reconciled with the Empress and of the court of France's project of sending a french minister to the great duke under a pretence of negotiating some affairs of commerce, both which our friend laughed at and treated as very chimerical.

We have advice here that the Swedes have sent over into Finland a reinforcement of 500 men. R. 21-st July. P. R. O. Russia. 1753.
№ 66.

№ 290.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 22-d June 1753.

All in cypher. Sir. In expectation of your courier (which is not yet arrived) I have, at present, no orders from the King, but to acquaint you that I have received, by a private canal from France, an account that the French are actually renewing their treaty of subsidy with Sweden, which would not otherwise expire of some time.

It is proposed that there should be some new engagement in it relative to the affairs of Poland and the case of a vacancy of the throne there. The Swedes are very desirous that this negotiation should be kept entirely secret; for they apprehend, otherwise, that the Empress of Russia might be justly offended at it; as they have so lately refused to renew their treaty with Russia, on pretence that it was not yet near expiring, and, in that case, they apprehend that the court of Petersburg might be more difficult in adjusting some points, which still remain in dispute between Sweden and Russia. I am of opinion that, if the great chancellor could find some way of delaying the adjusting of the disputes, relating to the limits of Finland, it would much distress the Senate and french party in Sweden and, perhaps, prevent the prolongation of their treaty with France.

You will make such use of this intelligence, as you may think proper; but, as I have received it from a secret channel, which I have in France, I must desire that you will take great care that it may not be known how you came by it. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 291.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 1-st (12-th) July 1753.

My lord. I received a few days ago the honour of your grace's letter of the 8-th June, containing the King's orders that I should take the first opportunity of returning His Majesty's thanks to the Empress of Russia for her regard for the King's recommendation in pardoning and discharging count Zacharie Czernichew; which orders I shall not fail to execute on the next court day and, at the same time, assure Her Imperial Majesty that she may always depend upon the most suitable return from the King.

My last letter to your grace was of the 21-st June n. s., in which I acquainted you that, the day before, the Empress had signed and delivered to the two chancellors the papers authorizing them to return an answer to the representations I had made in consequence of your grace's dispatch of the 9-th March last.

How can I now, without blushing for these two ministers, repeat what I have so often wrote to your grace that Money, the messenger, is still here? And for no other reason, than because the vice-chancellors youngest daughter, a child of five months old, was pleased to fall sick and to die, which event drove the vice-chancellor into the country; from whence, with much difficulty, he was prevailed upon to come to town on Monday last, which day, in the evening, general Bretlack and I being invited to a conference, the two chancellors delivered to me, at last, in form Her Imperial Majesty's answer to my abovementioned representations; but, on my return home, I found one of the most material papers wanting, of which having given the great chancellor immediate notice, he acknowledged, with many excuses, that it was through his negligence, but that he would send it to me to-morrow, without fail, and, as I am resolved not to give him one minute's rest, untill I have got it, I believe I may now assure your grace that Money will be at Vienna, before this letter reaches your hands; which way I propose to send him, as I do not think the other safe in the present circumstances.

Notwithstanding the strong assurances given me and the friendly and disinterested preamble of the Empress's answer delivered to me, I must prepare your grace, by telling you the demands run very high, but that should not give your grace an ill opinion of the success of this negotiation; for I am fully persuaded that, when the King's counter-project comes (in which care must be taken to express clearly His Majesty's ultimatum), this court will agree to it. The paper, I mentioned above to be missing is an acknowledgment which they promised me of the *casus fœderis*, by which one hundred thousand pounds, and more, is at once stuck off of the subsidy demanded, as eight thousand foot and four thousand horse, due by treaty, are to act for nothing.

I am with the most profound respect. R. 11-th August. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 292.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 6-th (17—th) July 1753.

My lord. I was extremely concerned to see by your grace's letter of the 9-th March under this article that in what had passed at Petersburg upon the menaces used by the king of Prussia with relation to the affairs of the steuer, I had gone too far. I did not think His Majesty's engagements with Saxony, as King, could oblige him to enter into the declaration proposed by this court, but I must own I thought it was impossible, but some mutual defensive engagements existed between the two electoral courts, but since there are none, what I said in the conference and yet less the *promemoria* I gave in could not draw His Majesty into any improper measure, as all I said and did was never understood by this court in any other sense, than in case there had been general defensive engagements between His Majesty and the king of Poland in his royal electoral capacity. And this is all the great chancellor said to me, when I acquainted him with the reasons His Majesty had not to concur in the declaration proposed, but some weeks after the court of Saxony having informed this that the king of Prussia had claimed more new debts at the last easter fair at Leipsic, the great chancellor sent for me and after having communicated to me this advice, told me that he must open his thoughts to me freely, hoping our court, to whom he desired I would make them known, would not take it amiss, as they came from a true and sincere friend. He then proceeded and said that having lately read over again count Keyserling's and count Golowkin's letters giving an account of what had passed with m-r Keith and colonel Yorke upon the declaration proposed in favour of Saxony, he could not help observing with real grief, how subject we were in London and Hanovre to be seized with panic frights.

That he would be glad to know if we imagined by being so cautious, as we were of giving offence to the king of Prussia to prevent his putting in execution his ill desigus, whenever he saw a favourable opportunity. That for him (the great chancellor) he was of a quite contrary opinion, for there was no difference between a crowned bully and a private one, whose nature is to grow more insolent and daring, when he observes others are afraid of him. The only sure guard therefore against his repeated insults was to be in a condition, as soon as possible, to talk as

big as he in all matters, where we had right and justice on our side. That to this end he thought His Majesty should lose no time in entring into strong defensive engagements with the court of Saxony in his electoral capacity and also to put himself in a better state of defence in his german dominions. That these mesures being taken jointly with those now proposed from hence, both France and Prussia would lower their sails and be cautious how they began any new troubles on account of their ambitious views. R. 20-th August. By Money. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 293.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 7-th (18-th) July 1753.

My lord. After near three months fretting and running about, I am at last able to set down and return an answer to the several dispatches your grace was pleased to honour me with of the 9-th March n. s. by Money, the messenger.

I shall begin by that under the article of Prussia, as the most material, and acquaint your grace that in consequence of the orders contained therein I had first three very long conferences with the great chancellor, in which having explained to him everything and taken his advice, as well as the imperial ambassador's, who had orders to assist me in my negotiation, I afterwards drew up a *promemoria*, which I delivered to the russian ministry in general on the 15-th April last, a copy of which promemoria I send your grace here inclosed marked № 1.

In this promemoria I have stuck, as your grace will observe, to the very letter of my instructions; where you find anything added that is not in them; it was done at the desire of the great chancellor, except where I say speaking of the Empress that «son honneur, sa gloire, les forces respectables que la Providence lui a mises en main et certaines *autres considérations qui ne sont pas inconnues ici etc*», which I thought proper to add of myself, as I knew this court had just received advice of the intrigues carrying on in Poland by France and Prussia in favour of the prince of Conty and of some other measures pursuing by those powers in favour of Sweden for the recovery of her lost provinces.

Besides this promemoria I gave in another dated the 27-th April at the great chancellor's special desire that the Empress might be informed of the court of Vienna's way of thinking with regard to the *casus fœ-*

deris. This promemoria, of which the copy is here annexed, marked № 2, gave occasion to a conference, to which general Bretlack was called by the Empress's orders and where he was asked all the questions which your grace will see by his note or answer here inclosed, marked № 3.

The paper marked № 4 is the original answer returned by the Empress's orders to my promemoria of the 15-th April and

№ 5 is the original answer to my promemoria of the 27-th April, relating to the casus fœderis, with which I hope His Majesty will be entirely pleased.

I am also to transmit to your grace a paper marked № 6, which was put into my hands by the russian ministers at the same time, they delivered to me the Empress's answer to my promemoria of the 13-th April and is the project of an eventual treaty of subsidy for an army of 40 m. foot, 15 m. horse and forty or fifty galleys, which Her Imperial Majesty is willing to keep on the frontiers of Livonia ready to make a diversion, at the shortest warning, in the king of Prussia's dominions, on the side of Courland, in case that prince should make any attack upon His Majesty's german dominions.

As I have prepared your grace in my last letter, you must expect to see a very exorbitant bill, but I must do them here the justice to say that, on their side, they expect too great deductions will be made. I think however these gentlemen are very much in the wrong in making the Empress, their mistress, believe that such conditions could be agreed to, but in some it proceeds from a desire to please and pay their court and, in others, from the hopes that there may be something for them to pilfer. In the 2-d article of this convention, your grace will observe that, though they have been so often refused and that I have repeated both to them and general Bretlack above ten times in the course of this negotiation that the circumstances of Great Britain would not permit the King to grant any considerable subsidy, without there should appear to be an absolute necessity for it, yet they are fallen upon their old scheme and ask one million of dutch dollars of 50 stivers each per annum for keeping the abovementioned army in Livonia, where they are obliged to have always an equal number of troops and would actually have them now, if their regiments were compleat for their own security and defense. It is indeed true that there was not such a great body of horse in that province, as they are drawing together at present, nor any Cossacks and Calmucks, which must occasion an extraordinary expence; but they do all this of themselves, as I tell them, and without any requisition from the King,

who does not propose that the Empress should put herself to any expence, untill the troops are demanded and the subsidy shall commence; to which they answer that in such a vast Empire, as this, it requires a good deal of time to make the necessary dispositions on all sides and, at the same time, act offensively. To settle this article therefore, I sometimes think that, if in His Majesty's counter-project, they were offered a round sum once for all to answer their previous expences of putting their troops in a condition to act, they would be contented. An other condition they insist on throughout this whole convention is that all payments should be made yearly and that in advance, the unreasonableness of which they must be sensible of, when they reflect on the changes that may happen and may put it out of the Empress's power to let such an army continue, that time, in His Majesty's service.

By the 5-th article of this convention, they ask no less, as your grace will see, than three millions of dutch crowns per annum from the time the said army shall commence their military operations, but when they asked this subsidy, they had forgot the 12 m. men due to His Majesty by treaty and which being deducted, there remains only 43 m. men, for which His Majesty is to pay, so that on the footing of the subsidy they received for the 30.000 men they furnished in the year 1747 for the service of the maritime powers, this new subsidy for 43 m. men would make about 450.000 pounds per annum, and general Bretlack is of opinion, they would be satisfied with that subsidy, but I cannot help thinking, they would be contented with yet less. First these troops will not be obliged to such a long and painful march, as the corps they furnished the maritime powers in the year 1747; for, in case they should act, they will have no farther to go, as I have often said to the two chancellors, than from their bed chamber into their dining room; where, I believed, they would take care to make their landlord defray a great part of their expences; and secondly, the particular interest of this Empire, as they acknowledge themselves, is as much concerned in these measures, as His Majesty's.

In the 16-th article, the Empress engages herself that, though she should be attacked by any other power, she would not withdraw the army that was in His Majesty's service. This is certainly a very advantageous clause not only for His Majesty, but the common cause in general; and as there cannot be any the least manner of doubt, but Sweden, at the instigation of France and Prussia and from the hopes of recovering their lost provinces, will attack Russia on the side of Finland, it will be but

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reasonable that some consideration be had for the extraordinary expences the Empress will be at on that occasion, but if the additional subsidy they demand was cut in two, they might and would, I believe, be contented.

Upon the whole, my lord, without running through any more articles of this convention, if the conjuncture of affairs, when these dispatches come to England, be such as may make His Majesty think it necessary to bring to perfection the measures now pursuing here, I shall desire your grace will send me a counter-project, drawn up just in the form and with the conditions on which the King would have me sign it, and I must recommend, in the most particular manner, that I may not be left at liberty to make any the least alteration in it. The two chancellors, who acknowledge very ingenuously the tedious delays to which the dispatch of all kind of business is subject to here through their mistress's and their own indolence and lazyness, have desired on this occasion that I may not only be provided, as soon as possible, with full powers for concluding the inclosed convention, but to gain time, that His Majesty's ratifications may be sent with my full powers. Though this is their thought, I imagine a very good use may be made of it for His Majesty's service, if such a counter-project was sent to me, as I mention above, and ratified, for they would then be persuaded it contained the only terms on which His Majesty would come into such a convention and make them the readier to agree to them.

To shorten this dispatch, which begins to grow a little voluminous, I must hasten to transmit to your grace a paper marked № 7 and which is of much greater importance, than any of the other inclosures. This paper contains the opinion and advice given by the Senate and principal general officers in the grand council summoned by the Empress of Russia, after I had presented my promemoria of the 15-th April. In this paper, which is to be kept extremely secret, your grace will observe that not only the preventing the king of Prussia's farther aggrandizement, but the reducing that power to its former situation is now the received and adopted system of this court, and which cannot fail of existing, as long as this princess reigns. But, though they acknowledge in so strong and clear a manner, how much the measures now pursuing are for the particular and immediate interest of this Empire, yet it ought not to prevent His Majesty's giving them such helps and assistance, as they may reasonably expect. They have men in great numbers, but little money, so that contrary to their own inclinations the former could move but slowly, without His Majesty's recruiting them with the latter.

Your grace is desired not to speak to count Czernichew upon the contents of any of these dispatches, least he should mention them in his public letters to the chancery here, where very few have been let into the secret of this negotiation.

General Bretlack, the imperial ambassador, has at last concluded and signed the treaty making perpetual the defensive engagements between the court of Vienna and this against the Turks. But he desires, it may be kept very secret, as France and Prussia would certainly make an ill use of it at Constantinople, if they got to the knowledge of any such transaction.

I cannot conclude this letter without hoping that the several *promemorias* I have been obliged to present will not be disapproved in England, for there is no other way of transacting business here, if regular and clear answers be expected, nor will the russian ministers treat with any foreign minister upon affairs of this consequence, without being able to justify their conduct by such authentic pieces to the Empress, their mistress, from whom, as your grace will have observed, they are also so cautious, as to get under her own hand all the orders, she gives, to screen them from the misrepresentation or malice of their enemies.

I had almost forgot to acquaint your grace that the great chancellor thought the advice you sent me in your letter of the 22-d May of the intention of France to send a minister to the great duke, under pretence of negotiating some affairs of commerce, so material, as to communicate it to the Empress, who grew red on the hearing of it and said in a passion, she should know how to prevent it, for that she would give orders that such a man should not be suffered to pass her frontiers. The great Chancellor has not thought proper yet to mention any thing of the king of Prussia's notion of being reconciled, as he would be glad to see first how he went to work, but any advances he may make tending that way are not like to meet with a very favourable reception, for I am told by persons who were present that the Empress, after she had read my *pro-memoria* of the 15-th April, said, with pleasure in her eyes, that there was nothing she desired more, than to be at war with that prince.

I have just now had a visit from general Bretlack, the imperial ambassador, who, in the conversation we had together, dwelt much on the great, nay absolute necessity of coming into the measures proposed by this court upon the most reasonable terms that could be obtained and were it only for a space of two years, that this court may make an addition to their army of the sixty thousand recruits they propose to raise, if I receive a favourable answer to these dispatches. R. 20-th August. By Money. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

N^o 1. Copy of m-r Guy Dickens promemoria presented the 15-th April 1753.

Il n'y a que peu de temps que le soussigné, envoyé extraordinaire de Sa Majesté britannique, eut l'honneur de remettre à leurs excellences le haut ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies une copie imprimée d'un mémoire présenté au duc de Newcastle par monsieur Michel, secrétaire d'ambassade de sa majesté le roi de Prusse, de même qu'un autre imprimé intitulé *Exposé des motifs du roi etc. etc.* touchant des prétendus torts et injustices faits aux sujets de sa majesté prussienne pendant la dernière guerre par des armateurs anglais, qui s'étaient saisis de quelques vaisseaux ou effets que les dits sujets prussiens avaient réclamés comme leur appartenant. En conséquence de quoi et des procédures d'une cour et juridiction étrangères que le roi de Prusse, contre la pratique notoire de toutes les nations dans des cas semblables, avait érigées, il a jugé à propos, comme leurs excellences le haut ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale l'auront vu, de faire arrêt sur les capitaux dûs aux sujets britanniques sur la Silésie. Le soussigné, envoyé extraordinaire, accompagna, en même temps, ces deux pièces de la réponse qui y avait été faite par le duc de Newcastle par ordre du Roi et du rapport des personnes à qui Sa Majesté britannique avait renvoyé l'examen de ces plaintes.

Quiconque examinera mûrement toutes les pièces ci-dessus mentionnées ne saura s'empêcher, l'on se flatte, de convenir de l'irrégularité du procédé de la cour que le roi de Prusse a érigée pour prendre connaissance de cette affaire et de la conduite qu'il a tenue en conséquence, de même que de la manière amiable avec laquelle Sa Majesté britannique tâche de porter le roi de Prusse à remédier au tort fait à ses sujets et à prévenir par là les dangers auxquels la tranquillité publique pourrait être exposée, mais nonobstant toutes les peines que Sa Majesté britannique s'est données provenant de son désir ardent de maintenir la paix, il y a lieu de craindre que, parce que Sa Majesté britannique ne peut pas et ne veut pas sacrifier les justes droits et intérêts de ses sujets de la Grande-Bretagne aux dispositions arbitraires de ce prince, qu'il médite de soutenir une injustice par une autre plus criarde, s'il est possible, en attaquant les états du Roi en Allemagne; du moins, les préparatifs qu'il fait sur les frontières des dits états favorisent beaucoup et confirment en quelque manière ce sentiment, car, selon les avis du Roi, l'on y achète grand nombre de chevaux d'artillerie et y forme des magasins considérables de fourrage et de provisions de toute sorte; ne doit-on passer sous silence le campe-

ment qui doit sûrement se former cet été près de Berlin de cinquante mille hommes, qui pourra vraisemblablement avoir le même objet?

Toutes ces raisons ci-dessus alléguées ont engagé Sa Majesté britannique d'envoyer ordre à son soussigné, envoyé extraordinaire, d'exposer aux yeux de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies et de ses ministres la présente situation des affaires entre elle et la cour de Berlin et de leur représenter en son nom que si, nonobstant les soins amiables dont on se sert pour l'empêcher, le roi de Prusse pour soutenir ses violences contre les droits et intérêts des sujets de la Grande-Bretagne, et en conséquence de ces violences (colorées de quelques autres prétextes qui se puissent être) vint attaquer les états du Roi en Allemagne, Sa Majesté britannique se croit en droit de réclamer l'assistance et les secours spécifiques stipulés dans les alliances défensives qu'elle a avec les puissances les plus considérables de l'Europe et d'insister qu'elles reconnaissent (comme le Roi ne doute point qu'elles le feront) aucunes voies de fait commises par le roi de Prusse contre aucune partie de ses états en Allemagne pour *casus fœderis*. Le cas parle de lui-même, car la présente dispute étant uniquement entre la Grande-Bretagne et la cour de Berlin, Sa Majesté serait privée de l'assistance réciproque stipulée entre elle et ses alliés, si elle lui manquait, lorsqu'il était question de soutenir les droits de sa couronne contre ceux qui voudraient les enfreindre ou envahir, sous quelque prétexte que se fût. De plus rien n'est plus fort, ni plus formel que les engagements dans lesquels l'Impératrice est entrée par les alliances défensives de 1741 et 1742 et par l'accession du Roi au traité de 1746, par lesquels Sa Majesté Impériale s'est mise sous l'obligation de venir à l'assistance du Roi et de fournir les secours stipulés par ces traités, en cas que Sa Majesté britannique fût attaquée de la manière dont il a été fait mention.

Nonobstant cet exposé, le soussigné, envoyé extraordinaire, doit cependant avoir l'honneur de faire savoir au haut ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale que l'amitié et la considération du Roi, son maître, pour l'Impératrice sont telles, qu'il souhaite rendre cette même assistance à laquelle il a droit de prétendre de la part de Sa Majesté Impériale la moins onéreuse qu'il est possible. Le Roi veut toujours se flatter que le roi de Prusse prêtera l'oreille aux représentations qui lui ont été faites, mais si le contraire arrivait et qu'en conséquence des violences qu'il a commencées contre les justes droits des sujets britanniques et de la protection que le Roi ne peut leur refuser, ce prince se détermina à attaquer les états d'Hanovre, le soussigné a ordre de s'informer, si dans ce cas l'Impératrice serait dis-

posée de venir au secours de Sa Majesté britannique avec un corps de trente ou quarante mille hommes en y joignant un corps de Cosaques et de Calmouks et faire une diversion dans les états du roi de Prusse du côté de Courlande. En même temps, Sa Majesté britannique souhaiterait aussi qu'une autre diversion se fit du côté de la Poméranie par un corps convenable de troupes qui pourrait être transporté sur les galères. Si Sa Majesté Impériale par son égard pour la justice et pour le soutien de ses alliés et de la bonne cause est portée à se prêter à des arrangements semblables, Sa Majesté britannique promet que du jour que ces troupes sortiront de leurs quartiers, pour commencer de telles opérations soit par terre, soit par mer, qu'elle donnera un subside proportionné au nombre des troupes qui seront employées à ces expéditions, lequel subside sera continué aussi longtemps que ces troupes resteront au service de la Grande-Bretagne, et s'il arrivait heureusement par ce moyen que les troubles cessassent bientôt, alors et dans ce cas là-même, le Roi consent qu'une partie de ce subside soit encore payée pendant un certain terme, dont l'on pourra convenir.

Combien les intérêts et l'indépendance de plusieurs autres puissances et en particulier ceux de Sa Majesté Impériale souffriraient par l'agrandissement ultérieur du roi de Prusse, ce qui arriverait inmanquablement, si Sa Majesté britannique n'était pas efficacement soutenue et secourue, est trop clair pour échapper à la pénétration de Sa Majesté Impériale et de ses ministres. C'est pourquoi les alliés du Roi ne sauraient que sentir la nécessité de pourvoir à la sécurité de Sa Majesté britannique, puisqu'autrement elle se verrait hors d'état de contribuer à la leur, quand les circonstances le requerraient.

Toutes ces considérations ne manqueront pas, l'on est persuadé, d'accélérer la résolution de Sa Majesté Impériale, et comme, d'un côté, il paraît, par ce que le soussigné a eu l'honneur de détailler ci dessus, que Sa Majesté britannique renonce en quelque partie et manière aux secours qu'elle est en droit de réclamer par les traités, l'on veut se flatter de l'autre, que cela induira cette cour à rendre le moins onéreux qu'il est possible les nouveaux engagements, dans lesquels le Roi est prêt d'entrer, d'autant plus que ces troupes ne causeront aucune dépense extraordinaire jusqu'à ce qu'elles sortent de leurs quartiers. Sa Majesté britannique ne juge pas à propos de fixer elle-même le subside pour le corps de troupes qu'elle demande, comme cela dépend du nombre dont il sera composé, mais pour ne pas perdre de temps, le soussigné a ordre d'en venir, le plutôt qu'il sera possible, à des éclaircissements précis avec le haut ministère de Sa

Majesté Impériale sur ces deux points, à savoir: 1) du nombre de troupes tant infanterie, que cavalerie ou troupes légères que l'on peut fournir ici, et 2) du subside que l'on en demande, auquel le Roi sera prêt à donner son consentement au retour du courrier qui portera la réponse de Sa Majesté Impériale, si les conditions sont telles qu'il y a lieu de l'espérer de son amitié et de son équité.

Le grand éloignement des deux cours et les cas soudains et imprévus qui peuvent arriver feront sentir ici, l'on espère, comme en Angleterre, la nécessité d'une prompte résolution et expédition dans la nécessité dont le soussigné a l'honneur d'être chargé. Un autre point qui ne mérite pas moins d'attention est que, quand Sa Majesté Impériale aura les sûretés nécessaires touchant le subside que le Roi doit payer, le général qui commandera en chef les troupes en Livonie ait ordre de marcher à la première réquisition qui lui en sera faite de la part de Sa Majesté britannique; ce qui n'arrivera pas très sûrement à moins que les états du Roi ne soient actuellement attaqués par le roi de Prusse.

Le zèle que Sa Majesté Impériale a si souvent fait voir pour le soutien de ses alliés et de l'équilibre de l'Europe ne manquera pas, l'on est sûr, de se manifester avec la même ardeur dans cette occasion. Son honneur, sa gloire, les forces respectables que la Providence lui a mis en main, le service, l'intérêt et la sûreté de ses propres états et certaines autres considérations, qui ne sont pas inconnues ici, font voir la nécessité qu'il y a que Sa Majesté Impériale concoure sans délai dans les mesures salutaires qui ont été proposées pour le maintien de la paix et de sa propre indépendance, aussi bien que de celle de ses alliés.

Le soussigné, en se recommandant très humblement à la haute bienveillance de Sa Majesté Impériale, ne saurait s'empêcher de réitérer sa prière, à savoir que, vu le grand éloignement des deux cours et les cas soudains et imprévus qui peuvent arriver, que le haut ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale veuille bien lui faire avoir, le plus tôt qu'il sera possible, une réponse aux importantes représentations qu'il vient de faire par ordre du Roi, son maître. Il est inutile à ce que le soussigné croie de faire remarquer le grand secret avec lequel il est nécessaire de conduire cette négociation jusqu'à sa conclusion, crainte que le roi de Prusse, s'il en a le moindre vent, ne prévienne Sa Majesté britannique et ses alliés, comme il l'a fait avec la Saxe, pendant la dernière guerre. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

Nº 2. Copy of m-r Guy Dickens promemoria presented the 27-th April 1753 relating to the casus fœderis.

Le soussigné, envoyé extraordinaire, en relisant les dépêches que le dernier courrier lui a apportées trouve qu'il est nécessaire qu'il ajoute ce supplément au promemoria qu'il eut l'honneur de présenter à leurs excellences, le haut ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale, le 15-e du courant pour leur faire savoir que monsieur Keith, ministre de Sa Majesté britannique à Vienne, ayant fait les mêmes représentations et réquisitions là que le soussigné a faites ici touchant le *casus fœderis*, en cas que Sa Majesté britannique fût attaquée dans ses états d'Allemagne par le roi de Prusse pour avoir soutenu les justes droits de ses sujets de la Grande-Bretagne, leurs majestés impériales y ont répondu de la manière la plus amiable et la plus cordiale et déclaré en termes précis et formels qu'elles étaient prêtes d'entrer dans aucunes mesures que Sa Majesté britannique jugerait à propos pour maintenir la tranquillité publique et pour sa propre sûreté et défense contre aucunes violences que sa majesté prussienne lui pourrait faire.

Telles étant les dispositions de la cour de Vienne, le soussigné, envoyé extraordinaire, ne saurait avoir le moindre doute que cette cour ne soit portée à concourir avec le même zèle et ardeur à assister efficacement Sa Majesté britannique contre aucunes entreprises hostiles de la part du roi de Prusse et à contribuer par là au maintien de la tranquillité publique, laquelle il y a lieu de croire que sa majesté prussienne ne se hasardera pas de troubler à la légère, si elle voit qu'une princesse d'une puissance aussi formidable que Sa Majesté Impériale est dans la ferme intention de la soutenir. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. Nº 66.

Nº 3. Note or answers given by the imperial ambassador to the questions asked him at the conference held on the 23-th (12-th) May in consequence of m-r Guy Dickens promemoria of the 27-th April.

Comme il a plu au ministère impérial de Russie de faire à l'ambassadeur de leurs majestés impériales et royales des Romains dans la conférence d'hier les deux demandes suivantes.

1) Si à l'occasion de l'ouverture confidente faite par la cour britannique à la cour impériale romaine touchant une négociation pour un corps de troupes qui doit être entamée ici et de la réquisition préalable faite à Vienne, que si en cas que l'on en vînt à des hostilités entre les cours

britannique et prussienne on voulût reconnaître de la part de la cour impériale romaine le *casus foederis* et

2) A combien montait de la part de la cour impériale romaine le corps auxiliaire stipulé par les alliances avec la cour britannique et celle d'Hanovre.

L'ambassadeur impérial romain n'a pas manqué de faire savoir au susdit ministère impérial de Russie qu'à l'égard de la première question les avis du dit ambassadeur correspondent avec le *promemoria* présenté ici le 27-e Avril par l'envoyé d'Angleterre monsieur de Guy Dickens, à savoir que, lorsque Sa Majesté britannique a fait faire à leurs majestés impériales romaines la réquisition pour l'assistance stipulée par les alliances entre les deux cours, leurs majestés impériales romaines, pour faire voir qu'elles sont toujours accoutumées à satisfaire pleinement à leurs engagements, ont d'abord, le lendemain après la réquisition faite par le ministre britannique, donné la réponse suivante, à savoir:

«Que leurs majestés impériales, toujours empressées à donner à Sa Majesté britannique les preuves les plus convaincantes de leur cordiale amitié, ne manqueront jamais de remplir très religieusement et au pied de la lettre les engagements contractés avec sa dite Majesté, tant en qualité de roi qu'en celle d'électeur, pleinement persuadées d'un parfait retour de sa part tant dans l'une que dans l'autre qualité».

Concernant la seconde demande, à savoir à combien montait le nombre des troupes avec lesquelles la cour impériale romaine était obligée d'assister Sa Majesté britannique, comme roi et comme électeur, lorsque le cas pourrait exister, l'ambassadeur impérial peut assurer avec certitude que le nombre des troupes, de part les engagements de la cour impériale romaine avec Sa Majesté britannique comme roi, monte à douze mille hommes, mais pour ce qui est des engagements de leurs majestés impériales romaines avec Sa Majesté britannique comme électeur d'Hanovre, et quelle est en cette qualité le nombre de troupes stipulé, l'ambassadeur impérial ne le saurait dire avec certitude, mais il croit avec beaucoup de vraisemblance que le nombre des troupes auxiliaires peut monter à vingt mille hommes.

Moscou, ce 24 (13) Mai 1753. Bretlack. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 4. The original answer signed by the two chancellors, returned by the Empress's order to m-r Guy Dickens's promemoria of the 15-th April.

En réponse au promemoria de monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne du 15-e d'Avril, le ministère de

Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies a ordre de faire connaître à monsieur l'envoyé que si, d'un côté, l'Impératrice a appris avec un grand déplaisir les fâcheuses circonstances qui menacent les états du Roi de la Grande-Bretagne d'une attaque ennemie et toute l'Europe de nouveaux troubles, elle n'est pas, de l'autre côté, moins sensible à la confiance que Sa Majesté britannique met en même temps en son amitié et son alliance, aussi Sa Majesté Impériale embrasse-t-elle avec joie cette occasion pour donner au Roi des nouvelles preuves des sentiments qu'elle lui conserve en sincère amie et fidèle alliée.

Monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire verra par le ci-joint projet d'une convention à conclure avec sa cour et lequel on lui remet également par ordre exprès de l'Impératrice, avec quelle facilité Sa Majesté veut entrer dans toutes les mesures qu'il a proposées ici moyennant le dit promemoria par ordre du Roi, son maître, comme un expédient pour prévenir la ruine inévitable à laquelle seraient exposés les pays d'Hanovre, si la guerre vient à s'allumer. On espère que monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire remarquera avec une égale satisfaction les conditions aussi généreuses que désintéressées, auxquelles Sa Majesté Impériale veut accorder un si puissant secours à Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, car quoique les subsides qu'on demande, tant pour l'entretien de cinquante cinq mille hommes sur les frontières de Livonie avec quarante à cinquante galères en état d'agir, qu'en cas que ce corps dût effectivement marcher et faire diversion en Prusse ou en Poméranie, surpassent considérablement ceux qui ont été stipulés par les conventions de l'année 1747, mais pour peu que monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire fasse attention à l'éclaircissement suivant, il trouvera que la somme que l'on demande à présent, loin de surpasser celle des dits subsides, en est encore beaucoup plus modique; c'est que Sa Majesté Impériale ne cherche en cette occasion qu'à pouvoir convaincre le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne par des preuves réelles de la sincère amitié qu'elle lui porte.

Par la convention du 12-e Juin de l'année 1747, Sa Majesté britannique a été obligée de payer pour l'entretien de trente mille hommes des troupes russiennes sur les frontières de Livonie, un subside de cent mille livres sterling par an qui, à raison de dix florins et quinze stivers courants d'Hollande pour chaque livre sterling, faisaient la somme de quatre cent trente mille écus courants d'Hollande et qui furent payés sur ce pied dans le même pays, suivant qu'on en était convenu. Si on demande à présent aussi pour l'entretien d'un corps consistant presque en deux fois autant de troupes un million d'écus courants d'Hollande, par conséquent

environ deux cent mille écus de plus, il faut prendre en considération que les dépenses qu'on sera obligé de faire dans le cas en question sont sans comparaison plus grandes, que ne le pouvaient être celles du cas passé.

Dans ce temps-là la plupart des troupes de Sa Majesté Impériale se trouvaient déjà d'elles-mêmes en Livonie ou aux environs. Mais à présent à cause de la paix générale en Europe, elles se trouvent dispersées au dedans de l'Empire et pour la plupart dans les provinces éloignées, où elles ont les vivres en plus grande abondance et à meilleur marché. On comprend bien sans qu'on l'observe ce qui coûte de faire marcher de si loin un si grand corps de troupes, surtout les Cosaques et les Calmouks, qui sont obligés de traverser quasi tout l'Empire d'un bout à l'autre. On se contente de faire remarquer que dans l'intérieur de l'Empire une mesure (czetwert) de seigle ne se paye jamais au delà d'un rouble, l'avoine presque toujours à la moitié de ce prix, le foin à trois copeks le poud et à proportion tous les autres vivres aussi à très bon marché. Au contraire, toutes ces choses sont sans comparaison plus chères en Livonie: un poud de foin se paye quelquefois quinze à vingt copeks, mais elles y seront naturellement encore plus chères, quand on y assemblera un aussi grand corps de troupes avec quinze mille de cavalerie consistant la plupart de troupes légères, dont chaque cavalier doit être pourvu de deux chevaux.

Dans le cas passé on n'avait pas besoin d'y transporter une grande partie d'artillerie avec ses servants, à présent on est obligé de faire tout ceci.

Quant à la somme qu'on demande en subsides pour le temps que les troupes de Sa Majesté Impériale seront employées à faire diversion en cas que le roi de Prusse attaquât le pays d'Hanovre, on espère que monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire la trouvera encore plus raisonnable par rapport à celles que les deux puissances maritimes ont d'elles-mêmes accordé par la convention du 19-e Novembre 1747 pour le corps de trente mille hommes qu'elles avaient pris à leur service.

On a payé alors pour ce corps de trente mille hommes un million deux cent quatre vingt dix mille écus courants d'Hollande (comptant toujours la livre sterling à raison de dix florins et quinze stivers), on en demande à présent trois millions, par conséquent un million sept cent dix mille écus de plus, ce qui paraît en effet faire un objet considérable, mais si on en déduit encore ce qui est à payer pour les vingt cinq mille hommes qu'on veut présentement donner de plus et qui, en considération de quinze mille hommes de cavalerie y comprise et dont la plupart est à deux chevaux, peuvent passer pour trente mille hommes, il n'en restera pour tout le surplus que quatre cent vingt mille écus.

Outre que cette somme en elle-même fait déjà un très petit objet, monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire verra aussi par ce qui sera dit plus bas qu'elle est trop insuffisante à compenser les frais qui tombent à présent à la charge de l'Impératrice, et que par la dite convention du 19-e Novembre 1747 les deux puissances maritimes étaient cependant obligées de porter elles-mêmes.

De plus Sa Majesté Impériale va présentement s'engager à des conditions tout à fait nouvelles, qui ne se trouvaient pas dans la dite convention.

Par exemple, l'équipement et l'expédition de quarante à cinquante galères pour faire descente dans le pays ennemi et l'armement de deux vaisseaux de ligne et autant de frégates pour leur escorte, sont des articles tout nouveaux, mais de la dernière importance et qui exigent de grandes dépenses.

On en omet ici plusieurs autres de même nature; il suffit de dire qu'excepté la seule provision de vivres, Sa Majesté Impériale se charge à présent de tout, au lieu que, dans le cas passé, les puissances maritimes, lorsqu'elles avaient pris à leur service le corps des troupes de trente mille hommes, étaient obligées à faire transporter à leurs frais toutes sortes de munitions de guerre et autres choses qu'on avait besoin d'envoyer d'ici à ces troupes, à leur fournir la poudre et le plomb, à se charger de l'entretien des malades et des blessés, à les faire soigner et traiter par leurs propres chirurgiens et médicaments, à faire conduire jusqu'en Russie également à leurs frais les malades qui ne pourraient suivre l'armée et ceux qui seraient laissés pour les servir, à rançonner ceux de ce corps qui tomberaient prisonniers entre les mains de l'ennemi, et enfin à faire chercher et rendre les déserteurs au général commandant le corps auxiliaire.

C'est aussi un grand article que ces troupes auxiliaires de Sa Majesté Impériale allaient alors se joindre aux autres armées alliées avec cette expresse condition qu'elles ne seraient pas exposées aux fatigues plus que les autres troupes et qu'on observerait en tout une juste égalité entre elles, de sorte que les troupes russiennes pouvaient alors espérer beaucoup de délassement dans leurs travaux. Au contraire, dans le cas présent, le corps de troupes que Sa Majesté Impériale veut donner au secours de Sa Majesté britannique ne peut espérer aucun de ces avantages, mais doit seul porter le poids de la diversion à faire. On doit aussi compter pour un article extraordinaire et bien considérable l'artillerie dont il est nécessaire de pourvoir le corps auxiliaire, car au lieu que dans le cas passé il n'y avait que deux pièces de campagne par régiment, il faut à

présent non seulement en doubler le nombre, mais y ajouter une bonne partie de gros et de petits canons. Enfin ne pouvant se fier à aucun secours d'ailleurs, on est obligé de pourvoir à tout, de crainte que le défaut de quelque chose nécessaire ne fût trop nuisible.

Cette dernière considération produit une autre de beaucoup plus grande conséquence, c'est que Sa Majesté Impériale en se privant d'un corps de troupes si considérable, qu'elle donne au Roi de la Grande-Bretagne par un effet de son amitié pour lui non seulement pour le secourir contre le roi de Prusse, mais aussi pour faire une grande diversion dans les états de ce prince, sera nécessairement obligée pour la sûreté de ses propres frontières et pour pouvoir, en cas de besoin, donner un prompt secours au dit corps d'en tenir un autre pareil en voisinage et tout prêt à se mettre en marche. On laisse aux propres lumières de Sa Majesté britannique à juger, s'il n'est pas juste de concourir aux dépenses onéreuses qu'il faudra faire pour assembler et entretenir ce second corps de troupes.

Quant au seizième article du projet ci-joint, par lequel on engage Sa Majesté britannique, en cas que pendant la guerre en question Sa Majesté Impériale vint d'être attaquée par quelque puissance étrangère, à payer durant tout le temps de cette attaque un subside de (d'im) million (d') écus courants d'Hollande par an; on se flatte que, loin de trouver extraordinaire ou superflue une telle demande, on reconnaîtra en ce cas la générosité particulière de Sa Majesté Impériale et les soins sincères qu'elle prend en amie fidèle des intérêts du Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, puisqu'en cas même d'une nouvelle et propre guerre à soutenir, elle est fermement résolue de n'abandonner jamais son allié, mais de le soutenir toujours avec force et vigueur. Aussi ne demande-t-on ce peu de subside que pour subvenir, en quelque manière, aux frais dans lequel l'augmentation et les levées de troupes doivent indispensablement engager Sa Majesté Impériale.

Enfin on est dans une forte persuasion que Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, après avoir examiné le projet susmentionné, n'aura pas sujet de se repentir de la confiance avec laquelle il s'est adressé à Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies et a remis à sa générosité d'indiquer en ce cas la somme de subsides et les autres conditions; car monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire pourra être le témoin qu'aussitôt que le dit projet de convention sera de retour ici avec le consentement du Roi, son maître, Sa Majesté Impériale ordonnera d'augmenter son armée de soixante mille hommes pour se mettre en état d'exécuter les mesures qu'elle va prendre ensemble avec Sa Majesté britannique.

On espère que monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire verra en son parti-

culier aussi avec plaisir la condescendance qu'on témoigne ici pour faciliter une négociation dont le succès lui acquerrait une gloire proportionnée à la grandeur et à l'importance du sujet. Fait à Moscou le 28 Juin 1753. C. A. Bestouchef. Woronzow. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 5. The original answer signed by the two chancellors, returned by the Empress's order to m-r Guy Dickens's promemoria of the 27-th April, relating to the casus fœderis.

Si dans le promemoria qu'on a remis à monsieur de Guy Dickens, envoyé extraordinaire de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, dans la conférence le 28 Juin, on n'a pas donné une réponse particulière sur son promemoria du 27 Avril touchant le *casus fœderis*, le ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale se trouve cependant d'autant plus en état d'y suppléer par le présent, qu'ayant un ordre exprès de l'Impératrice à promettre un beaucoup plus grand secours que celui du *casus fœderis*, on est encore plus autorisé d'assurer monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire que Sa Majesté Impériale reconnaît le dit cas dans toute son étendue et que c'est dans cette considération qu'elle fonde toutes les démarches vigoureuses qu'elle est intentionnée de faire conjointement avec Sa Majesté britannique et dont on peut se promettre tout l'effet désiré, vu que Sa Majesté Impériale, non contente d'avoir promis simplement dans le projet d'une convention à conclure, qu'on a remis à monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire dans la dite conférence, d'assembler d'abord après la conclusion de la dite convention un corps de 55 m. hommes de ses troupes sur les frontières de Livonie, elle a déjà effectivement ordonné d'y assembler 66 m. hommes de troupes réglées, qui sont effectivement en marche pour y venir, et d'y ajouter encore 6 m. hommes de troupes légères.

Il n'en est pas difficile à comprendre, combien Sa Majesté Impériale est fermement résolue de secourir Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, en cas que ses états fussent attaqués par le roi de Prusse, car si elle ordonne, à présent et sans attendre le consentement de Sa Majesté britannique sur le projet de la convention, d'assembler un corps plus nombreux, que celui pour lequel on demande des subsides, il est aisé de s'assurer avec combien plus de force elle fera agir, quand le besoin le requerra, Sa Majesté Impériale étant accoutumée de ne rien faire à demi. D'ailleurs monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire a déjà remarqué dans le promemoria et dans le projet qu'on lui a remis toutes les autres mesures que l'Impératrice veut prendre sans délai conjointement avec le Roi, pour n'avoir rien à

craindre de la part du roi de Prusse. Fait à Moscou le 2 Juillet 1753.
C. A. Bestouchef. Woronzow. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

**№ 6. Projet de la convention à conclure entre Sa Majesté Impériale
de toutes les Russies et Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne.**

Au nom de la sainte et indivisible Trinité.

Comme Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies et Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne se sont expressément engagées par la traité d'alliance défensive, conclu l'année 1742 et qui subsiste encore si heureusement entre elles, de s'appliquer avec zèle à ce qui peut avancer leurs intérêts communs et pourvoir à leur défense mutuelle, et c'est en vue de procurer par de tels engagements non seulement leur avantage et leur sûreté réciproque, mais de contribuer, autant qu'il dépend de leurs soins, à la conservation de la paix de l'Europe en général et de la tranquillité du nord en particulier, tellement qu'en cas que les secours stipulés par le susdit traité n'y fussent pas suffisants, on est convenu d'y délibérer sans délai et de les augmenter selon que le besoin et les occurrences du temps l'exigeraient, et comme Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne a fait représenter par m-r Guy Dickens, son envoyé extraordinaire résidant à la cour de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies, que dans la présente situation de ses affaires à l'égard de Sa Majesté le roi de Prusse il n'est que trop à craindre que ce prince n'entreprît d'attaquer les états d'Allemagne de Sa Majesté britannique, uniquement à cause des torts qu'il prétend que les armateurs anglais ont faits aux sujets prussiens pendant la dernière guerre et sous prétexte desquels il a déjà fait mettre arrêt sur les capitaux dûs aux sujets de la Grande-Bretagne sur la Silésie, et que dans ces circonstances critiques Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne espère de l'amitié de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies et du zèle généreux avec lequel elle s'est toujours prêtée à appuyer ses alliés et à maintenir l'équilibre de l'Europe qu'elle ne sera pas éloignée à prendre sans délai, de concert avec Sa Majesté britannique, des mesures capables de retenir le Roi de Prusse de toute entreprise sur le Hanovre et de prévenir une nouvelle rupture de la paix générale de l'Europe, Sa Majesté Impériale pour donner à Sa Majesté britannique une nouvelle et réelle preuve de l'amitié sincère et de la considération qu'elle lui conserve, ainsi que de son zèle continuel de détourner tout ce qui puisse porter la moindre atteinte à la paix et à la tranquillité de l'Europe, rétablies depuis peu après tant de troubles et de ruines, et étant très disposée à prendre de concert

avec Sa Majesté britannique, le plutôt qu'il serait possible, des mesures aussi vigoureuses qu'efficaces contre semblables entreprises à craindre de la part du roi de Prusse et si nuisibles à la tranquillité et à la sûreté publiques, a bien voulu ordonner à ses ministres N. N. d'entrer en conférence sur cette affaire avec le dit m-r de Guy Dickens, envoyé extraordinaire de Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, lesquels ministres, en vertu de leurs pleinpouvoirs respectifs, et après avoir conféré et délibéré entre eux sont convenus des articles suivants.

Article 1-mier.

Nonobstant les soins que Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, conjointement avec ses alliés, veut employer auprès de sa majesté le roi de Prusse et sans faire attention à quelque espérance qu'on pourrait en avoir que ce prince, se prêtant aux propositions qui lui ont été faites touchant les capitaux dûs aux sujets britanniques sur la Silésie, s'abstiendra d'attaquer le Hanovre, comme il est à présent à craindre, et que par conséquent la paix et la tranquillité publiques ne seront pas troublées, Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies s'engage, afin de se mettre en sûreté contre toute entreprise imprévue et subite de ce prince, d'assembler sur les frontières de Livonie attenantes à la Lithuanie, aussitôt après l'échange des ratifications de cette convention, un corps de 40 m. hommes d'infanterie de ses troupes réglées, muni de l'artillerie nécessaire, et de 15 m. de cavalerie, composée de trois régiments de cuirassiers, de vingt compagnies de grenadiers à cheval, de deux régiments de hussards et le reste de troupes légères, savoir de Cosaques et Calmouks, chacun à deux chevaux, autant qu'il y aura besoin pour rendre complets les 15 m. hommes de cavalerie, de sorte que le tout, infanterie et cavalerie, formera un corps de 55 m. hommes, et de tenir ces troupes sur les susdites frontières de Livonie, de même que 40 à 50 galères avec l'équipage requis, sur les côtes de ce même duché, en état de pouvoir agir au premier ordre et jusqu'à ce que le danger présent subsistera ou que les deux hautes parties contractantes ne jugeront pas nécessaire de les tenir plus longtemps sur les frontières, comme cela sera expliqué plus amplement par les articles suivants.

Article 2-d.

Pour subvenir aux frais que l'entretien des dites troupes et galères causera à l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies, Sa Majesté britannique s'oblige

de sa part de lui payer un million d'écus courants d'Hollande de 50 styvers par an, à compter du jour des ratifications de cette convention, toujours à St.-Pétersbourg et en entier pour chaque année d'avance. Le paiement pour la première année se fera dans le même temps que l'échange des ratifications.

Article 3-me.

Comme il est incertain quand ce danger cessera tout à fait et qu'il est impossible de prévoir d'autres incidents qui pourraient survenir dans cet intervalle et contre lesquels il est mieux de se précautionner d'avance, on ne borne pas le temps que le dit corps et les galères doivent rester sur les frontières et sur les côtes de Livonie.

Mais comme les événements passés et l'état présent des affaires font voir, combien il est utile et avantageux tant aux intérêts des deux parties contractantes, qu'à ceux de leurs alliés communs, de tenir sur les dites frontières un pareil corps de troupes de Sa Majesté Impériale, et combien cela peut contribuer à l'affermissement même de la paix et tranquillité désirées, Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies et Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne s'engagent: savoir Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies à tenir sans interruption, aussi longtemps qu'il sera possible, le susdit corps de troupes sur les frontières de Livonie, attenantes à la Lithuanie, et le susdit nombre des galères équipées sur les côtes, toujours en état de marcher et d'agir au premier ordre d'un côté et de l'autre, Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne à payer pendant tout ce temps les subsides stipulés d'un million d'écus d'Hollande par an payables en entier pour chaque année d'avance, avec cette seule exception, qu'en cas que Sa Majesté Impériale fût la première qui, suivant les conjonctures du temps et pour son propre besoin, jugeât à propos de retirer le susdit corps de ses troupes des frontières de Livonie et de ne l'y plus tenir pour le service de Sa Majesté britannique, Sa Majesté le Roi ne sera alors tenu de payer les subsides stipulés que pour le temps que ces troupes seront restées sur les frontières pour son service. Mais si c'est Sa Majesté britannique qui jugera à propos et de sa convenance de déclarer à Sa Majesté Impériale qu'elle n'aurait plus besoin d'un pareil corps sur les dites frontières et que Sa Majesté Impériale pourrait l'employer et en disposer selon son bon plaisir, en tel cas Sa Majesté britannique est obligée de payer les subsides stipulés encore pour trois mois après la déclaration.

Article 4 - me.

Quoique l'on espère que par les représentations amiables qui seront faites de la part de Sa Majesté britannique au roi de Prusse, et plus encore par les mesures si vigoureuses qu'on va prendre moyennant cette convention, sa majesté prussienne sera retenue de tout procédé ennemi envers les états d'Allemagne de Sa Majesté britannique, de sorte que les deux hautes parties contractantes n'auront pas besoin pour leur défense et par justes représailles de mettre en exécution ces mesures qu'on a prises uniquement par précaution et pour sa propre sûreté; mais si, contre toute attente, il arrive, au contraire, que Sa Majesté britannique sera attaquée dans ses états d'Allemagne par le roi de Prusse, en ce cas Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies s'engage et, aussitôt que Sa Majesté britannique l'en aura informée et lui aura demandé le secours effectif, donnera ordre à son général commandant le corps qui sera assemblé sur les frontières de Livonie, attenantes à la Lithuanie, de faire, le plutôt qu'il sera possible, une diversion dans les états du roi de Prusse avec un corps de 30 m. hommes d'infanterie, muni de l'artillerie nécessaire et avec tous les 15 m. hommes de cavalerie, ci-dessus mentionnée, et de tenir les autres 10 m. hommes d'infanterie tout prêts à être transportés sur les sus-mentionnées quarante à cinquante galères, pour faire une descente soit en Prusse, soit en Poméranie, suivant le besoin et l'exigence de cas.

Article 5 - me.

Par contre Sa Majesté britannique s'engage à payer à Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies, pendant que ce corps de 55 m. hommes sera effectivement employé dans les opérations militaires pour son service, un subside annuel de trois millions d'écus courants d'Hollande, à compter du jour que ce corps se sera mis en marche des frontières de Russie jusqu'à son retour sur les mêmes frontières, de quelque manière que ce retour se puisse faire, soit que la guerre sera finie, ou que Sa Majesté britannique le juge à propos elle-même. Ce subside sera toujours payé en entier pour chaque année d'avance et remis à Riga entre les mains de celui qui sera exprès autorisé de la part de Sa Majesté Impériale.

Article 6 - me.

Et comme cette diversion à faire par les troupes de Sa Majesté Impériale dans les pays de la Prusse en faveur des états d'Allemagne de Sa

Majesté britannique doit être exécutée tout d'un coup et avec toute la vigueur et activité possibles et, par cette raison, il est d'une nécessité indispensable que tout ce qu'il y faudra fût alors prêt et appareillé, afin que le défaut des choses absolument nécessaires à une entreprise de cette nature ne fît perdre du temps en vain et ne donnât au roi de Prusse, comme attaquant le Hanovre, assez de loisir pour y faire des progrès considérables, avant que les troupes russiennes pussent venir et faire diversion dans ses états; pour cet effet Sa Majesté britannique promet, si tôt qu'elle verra la marche des troupes russiennes indispensable d'envoyer au dit corps un ou quelques commissaires, qui les recevront, lui payeront sur le champ pour une année entière le subside de trois millions d'écus d'Hollande et se chargeront de son entretien à leurs propres frais, tant sur sa marche, que pendant tout le temps qu'il sera au service de Sa Majesté britannique jusqu'à son retour sur les frontières de Russie. Et ces commissaires feront livrer à ce corps auxiliaire les portions et rations *in natura*, savoir: aux bas-officiers, soldats et autres en portions à chaque homme par jour deux livres de pain de seigle, une livre de viande ou du poisson aux jours de carême, ou bien la valeur d'une livre de viande en argent, un quart de livre de gruau, comme aussi deux livres de sel pas moins, et en rations pour chaque cheval par jour six livres deux tiers d'avoine et seize livres deux tiers de foin et en outre du hachis de paille sur le même pied qu'il est généralement de coutume, le tout au pied d'Hollande. Mais en cas quelques-unes de ces provisions, par quelque raison que ce soit, ne puissent pas être livrées *in natura*, il sera permis de s'accorder et de convenir avec le général commandant de ce corps des troupes impériales russiennes et de lui payer ces provisions en argent comptant qu'on aura réglé avec lui. Au reste, la solde des dites troupes leur sera toujours payée, de même que ce corps sera recruté et pourvu des munitions de guerre et d'artillerie de la part de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies.

Article 7-me.

Le grand éloignement du lieu où l'attaque du roi de Prusse est à craindre de celui où la diversion doit être faite par les troupes impériales russiennes ne permettant pas que ces troupes puissent se joindre à celles de Sa Majesté britannique, Sa Majesté Impériale se charge seule de tout le poids de cette diversion, et Sa Majesté britannique s'engage seulement, comme il a été dit ci-dessus, de payer le subside stipulé de trois millions d'écus d'Hollande chaque année d'avance et d'entretenir ces troupes de la manière sus-mentionnée.

Article 8-me.

Quant aux galères à armer et aux dix mille hommes d'infanterie qu'on destine à une descente en Prusse ou en Poméranie, comme il est dit ci-dessus, Sa Majesté Impériale s'engage non seulement de les tenir prêts et proches de Courlande, mais aussitôt que le besoin et la convenance le requerront, de leur faire entreprendre cette descente en faisant escorter et soutenir ces galères dans leurs expéditions en question par deux vaisseaux de ligne et deux frégates de sa flotte. Mais comme il est à présumer qu'en ce cas la Suède, de son côté, en vertu de ses engagements avec le roi de Prusse pourrait au lieu des troupes lui fournir le secours stipulé en vaisseaux, dont ce prince se servirait contre les galères impériales russiennes pour les inquiéter et pour empêcher la descente qu'elles auront à faire, pour cet effet Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne s'engage d'envoyer dans la Baltique une escadre de dix vaisseaux de ligne et de quatre frégates équipés en guerre, non seulement pour rendre plus sûre la navigation des galères russiennes et le transport des troupes qui y seront embarquées et pour soutenir la descente avec plus de force et de vigueur, mais aussi afin que le chef qui commandera cette escadre puisse recevoir ces troupes russiennes embarquées sur les galères et de se charger de leur entretien en vivres pareillement aux frais de Sa Majesté britannique, dès qu'elles seront sorties en mer du premier port, jusqu'à ce qu'elles seront de retour au même port où le dit chef les aura reçues de la manière suivante, savoir pendant le temps que ces troupes seront en mer tant en allant, qu'en retournant, elles recevront la provision en tout sur le pied, comme il est de coutume de la donner aux autres gens de marine; mais après avoir fait la descente, tant qu'elles resteront en terre ferme on leur livrera les portions, comme aux autres troupes de terre, ainsi qu'il a été stipulé dans l'article sixième de cette convention, excepté toutefois le monde et autres servants, que l'on sera absolument obligé à laisser pour la garde des galères, de même que ceux qui seront au bord des vaisseaux et frégates russiennes et auxquels tous on donnera toujours la provision, comme aux gens servant actuellement sur mer.

Article 9-me.

Le chef d'escadre de Sa Majesté britannique sera tenu en cas de descente à pourvoir les troupes impériales russiennes de l'artillerie nécessaire avec tout son attirail et autres munitions de guerre, dont il sera con-

venu au préalable avec le général commandant les troupes russiennes, et ce même chef doit toujours tenir son escadre, autant qu'il sera possible, le plus à portée des galères russiennes soit en temps de leur trajet, soit pendant qu'elles seront à l'ancre, afin de pouvoir leur donner, en tout cas, un prompt secours et assistance. Cependant il sera libre au dit chef de détacher par deux ou trois bâtimens de son escadre ou pour aller prendre information de la flotte suédoise, ou pour conduire d'autres bâtimens qui devront lui porter les provisions de Danzig et d'autres endroits.

Article 10-me.

Et s'il arrive, comme il y a lieu de s'en douter, que la France envoyât pareillement dans la mer Baltique quelque nombre de vaisseaux ou même une partie considérable de sa flotte au secours du roi de Prusse, pour inquiéter les galères russiennes et pour les empêcher de faire descente en Prusse ou en Poméranie, en ce cas Sa Majesté britannique s'engage et promet, de la manière la plus forte, d'envoyer dans la mer Baltique sur le premier avis qu'elle aura d'un pareil dessein de la France, un nombre plus considérable de ses vaisseaux de guerre pour renforcer sa première escadre et pour mieux couvrir la descente.

Article 11-me.

Il dépendra de Sa Majesté britannique de faire agir toute sa flotte sus-mentionnée offensivement ou défensivement contre les escadres française et suédoise, en cas qu'elles vinssent d'être envoyées au secours du roi de Prusse, ainsi qu'on le présume.

Quant aux vaisseaux et frégates russiennes, elles ne seront employées qu'à couvrir leurs propres galères sans les laisser jamais de vue, indépendamment de ce que les vaisseaux de Sa Majesté britannique seront obligés à défendre de toute leur force les vaisseaux et les galères russiennes et à soutenir la descente des troupes.

Article 12-me.

Comme l'éloignement où les deux cours contractantes sont l'une et l'autre et la distance spacieuse qu'il y a entre le pays où la guerre est à craindre, et celui où la diversion est, en ce cas, à faire, mettent des obstacles à toute délibération préalable sur les plans et les opérations à

exécuter; les deux hautes parties contractantes s'engagent d'agir de toute leur force et vigueur; à cette fin elles chercheront par tous les moyens imaginables à porter dommage à leur ennemi et à prévenir qu'en s'apercevant de la laugeur d'un côté, il ne tournât contre l'autre toutes ses forces.

Article 13-me.

Ces troupes auxiliaires seront commandées uniquement par le général que Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies mettra à leur tête, et duquel dépendra aussi celui qui commandera sur les galères. Cependant le commissaire de Sa Majesté britannique qui sera constitué à pourvoir à l'entretien de ces troupes, de même que le chef de son escadre seront toujours invités et admis aux conseils généraux de guerre qui seront occasionnés par les événements et les circonstances du temps.

Article 14-me.

Tout le butin que les troupes russiennes feront sur l'ennemi de quelque nature et nom qu'il puisse être, restera au profit de ces mêmes troupes.

Article 15-me.

Comme il peut facilement arriver que les troupes auxiliaires impériales russiennes seront obligées de toucher dans leur marche les terres de la république de Pologne, Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne s'engage et se charge du soin d'obtenir de sa majesté le roi et de la république de Pologne le libre passage pour ces troupes par les dites terres.

Article 16-me.

En cas que durant cette guerre à faire eu commun Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies vint d'être elle-même attaquée par quelque autre puissance, nonobstant cela Sa dite Majesté Impériale veut remplir ses engagements pris par la présente convention et elle est intentionnée de ne point rappeler, même dans ce cas-là, ses troupes auxiliaires, mais de continuer sans cesse la guerre contre le roi de Prusse communément avec Sa Majesté britannique. Par contre Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne pour concourir aux dépenses extraordinaires que naturellement causeront à Sa Majesté Impériale les nouvelles levées et l'augmentation des troupes, s'engage

à payer à Sa dite Majesté Impériale, indépendamment des subsides de trois millions d'écus d'Hollande stipulés ci-dessus dans le cinquième article, encore un autre subside annuel d'un million d'écus d'Hollande, pendant tout le temps que Sa Majesté Impériale sera en guerre avec la puissance dont elle sera attaquée.

Article 17-me.

Les deux hautes parties contractantes s'engagent et se promettent de ne faire avec l'ennemi aucune paix séparément l'une sans l'autre, et par conséquent de n'entrer avec lui en aucune négociation sans le consentement préalable de l'autre part, mais les deux parties contractantes tâcheront de toutes leurs forces de se procurer la paix aux conditions honorables et avantageuses à leur intérêts réciproques.

Article 18-me.

Mais au cas qu'après même que la paix sera conclue du consentement unanime des deux hautes parties contractantes et que Sa Majesté Impériale, nonobstant le titre de partie auxiliaire, sous lequel elle fera la guerre, y sera admise, comme une puissance principale contractante, le roi de Prusse voulût cependant rompre cette nouvelle paix en haine d'un si puissant secours à donner contre lui de la part de Sa Majesté Impériale et attaquer l'Empire de Russie soit lui seul, ou conjointement avec la Suède; en ce cas là Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne, en juste réciprocité d'une assistance si réelle que Sa Majesté Impériale veut lui donner, s'engage et promet de la secourir alors d'un million d'écus courants d'Hollande de subside par an, autant que cette attaque durera et par le nombre de vaisseaux de guerre stipulé par le traité de l'année 1742; bien entendu que Sa Majesté britannique sera tenue de donner à Sa Majesté Impériale tout ce secours en subside et en vaisseaux seulement, en cas que le roi de Prusse fit cette attaque conjointement avec la Suède, et de ne lui payer que le simple subside d'un million d'écus courants d'Hollande par an, s'il la fait tout seul; bien entendu aussi que ce secours ne sera prêté qu'en cas de la guerre que le roi de Prusse déclarerait à Sa Majesté Impériale dans le cours de deux premières années après la conclusion de la paix, toute autre guerre qui puisse survenir après n'y étant point comprise.

Article 19-me.

Cette présente convention sera approuvée et ratifiée de deux parts, et les lettres de ratifications seront échangées à Moscou dans l'espace de P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 7. Translation of the advice and opinion of the Senate etc. etc. in a grand council summoned upon m-r Guy Dickens's promemoria of the 15-th April 1753.

Sur ce qui a été proposé par ordre de Sa Majesté Impériale aux membres de la conférence, tenue à la cour le 14-e et le 15-e Mai 1753, les soussignés ont donné leur avis suivant:

1) Comme selon les avis que l'on a, et plus encore par l'expérience du temps passé, il est effectivement à craindre que le roi de Prusse pourrait parvenir à un nouveau degré d'accroissement de puissance par une nouvelle attaque d'un ou d'autre des alliés de Sa Majesté Impériale; par où en conséquence le dit roi se rendrait encore plus redoutable et plus dangereux à cet Empire-ci; on juge en général et sans contradiction qu'il est de la dernière nécessité de ne pas permettre qu'il y parvienne, mais que plutôt il faut tâcher de toute force de le réduire à l'état ancien et modique, où il a été et dans lequel il ne nous sera plus tant à charge et dangereux. C'est pourquoi,

2) L'assemblée dès à présent ordonnée par Sa Majesté Impériale de 60 m. hommes de troupes régulières sur les frontières de la Livonie est non seulement extrêmement nécessaire pour contenir en tranquillité et en bride ce plus prochain voisin, mais encore sera-t-il nécessaire d'y joindre 4.000 Cosaques du Don, 1.000 Calmouks de Wolsky, 500 Calmouks de Tschougoujew et 500 Calmouks des nouveaux baptisés de Stawropol, comme aussi de tenir prêt à cet effet tout ce qui sera besoin, en sorte qu'au cas que le roi de Prusse fit un jour quelques mouvements pour attaquer, soit le Hanovre, soit la Saxe, comme alliés de Sa Majesté Impériale, le dit corps de 60 m. hommes à assembler présentement sur les frontières de la Livonie puisse faire dès aussitôt, de ce côté-ci, une diversion en Prusse sous le nom d'un corps auxiliaire, afin de tâcher par là de défendre celui des alliés de Sa Majesté Impériale qui aurait été attaqué par le roi de Prusse et de ne pas permettre au roi de Prusse de parvenir à une plus grande puissance.

3) Quoiqu'il paraisse qu'un pareil corps de 60 m. hommes à envoyer,

pour faire alors une diversion en Prusse, serait assez suffisant pour atteindre et exécuter le point de vue ci-dessus mentionné, savoir nommément d'empêcher le roi de Prusse de parvenir à un plus grand degré de puissance ou d'empêcher et ne pas permettre que quelqu'un des alliés de Sa Majesté Impériale soit ruiné, la véritable sûreté et tranquillité des dominations de Sa Majesté Impériale ne demande cependant pas moins pour l'avenir que le roi de Prusse soit encore davantage remis dans ses anciennes bornes.

C'est pourquoi, il convient de tenir prêt, autant pour appuyer le corps qui de la manière susdite sera envoyé sur les frontières de la Livonie pour être en état de faire une diversion, que pour la sûreté présente de ces frontières, lorsque ce premier corps se mettra en marche, pour quitter les frontières, un autre corps de 60 m. hommes de troupes régulières et d'irrégulières à proportion, selon que ces dernières pourraient être trouvées nécessaires, afin que le dit dernier corps puisse au plutôt remplacer en partie le premier corps, lorsque celui-ci serait envoyé en Prusse, et en partie se trouver plus à portée et voisin, pour appuyer ce premier et même afin qu'il puisse, selon que la nécessité le demanderait, être envoyés aux postes à ordonner.

4) Pour surplus de précaution, on juge pour nécessaire d'avoir en même temps un corps d'observation de 30 m. hommes de troupes régulières en Finlande et de le tenir assemblé dans ces contrées, afin d'être en sûreté contre les Suédois.

5) Il est extrêmement utile et nécessaire d'apprêter et d'entretenir autant de galères à Reval pourvues de tout pour pouvoir mettre en mer, qu'il en serait nécessaire pour pouvoir y embarquer, en cas de besoin, dix mille hommes.

6) Mais parce qu'il y a non seulement un *déficit* dans les troupes régulières qui présentement se trouvent sur pied dans les dominations de Sa Majesté Impériale et qui y peuvent être employées, mais puisqu'aussi en général dans le nombre des troupes régulières entretenues jusqu'ici, il faut ajouter pour compléter entièrement les trois corps sus-mentionnés, savoir celui de 60 m. hommes, que l'on destine présentement pour les frontières de la Livonie, le second du même nombre pour réserve et le troisième de 30 m. hommes à assembler en Finlande et dans ces contrées, lesquels trois corps font ensemble 150 m. hommes, il est, premièrement, de nécessité indispensable de compléter par des recrues ce qui manque présentement dans le nombre complet de l'armée entière, de la flotte et de l'artillerie; secondement, de faire venir de la Sibérie les deux régiments d'infanterie, qui y sont, pour les avoir de là plus à portée ici; troisièmement, de faire

revenir et rejoindre à leurs régiments tous ceux qui en sont absents, hors ceux qui ont des permissions, lesquels on peut toujours avoir assez à temps et par l'absence desquels les caisses profitent; comme aussi de faire joindre à la première occasion au corps de Finlande les quatre bataillons de Sevsky, qui se trouvent présentement ici à Moscou. Mais malgré cela, pour suppléer entièrement à ce qui pourra manquer au nombre tout complet et à la formation complète des trois corps sus-mentionnés, il sera toujours nécessaire d'établir une levée de recrues et de fixer celle-ci sur un homme sur cent à commencer le 1-er Novembre de cette année, vu qu'une pareille levée, selon un calcul en gros, ira toujours au delà de 60 m. hommes, mais en exceptant de ceux-ci 30 m. hommes pour rendre complet le nombre manquant du vrai complet, on pourra avec le reste rendre complet ce qui peut manquer au nombre complet des trois corps désignés ci-dessus.

7) Pour que ce recrutement devienne, s'il est possible encore, plus facile et moins onéreux à l'Empire, il serait salulaire d'enrôler tous les hommes capables de servir qui, jusqu'à présent, se trouvent dispersés dans tout l'Empire, dans les villes, aux tribunaux et places de judicature, où ils ont été distribués, de même que tant d'autres personnes pareilles propres à servir, et de remplacer leurs places par des invalides, et c'est ce que le Sénat doit examiner et en disposer.

8) Pour ce qui concerne le nombre sus-exprimé de recrues à lever par-dessus ce qui sera nécessaire à rendre complets les régiments, le très humble avis des soussignés est: que l'augmentation de l'armée, qui en résultera, soit uniquement restreinte au temps présent de la nécessité de brider le roi de Prusse, et que cette augmentation n'aura pas toujours lieu; mais que plutôt en après et lorsqu'on aura vu premièrement qu'elle n'est plus nécessaire cette augmentation ne doit servir, que pour rendre par là ensuite complets les anciens régiments. Qu'en outre toute cette augmentation à faire ne doit pas servir pour en former des nouveaux régiments, mais qu'uniquement elle doit servir à augmenter la force et le nombre des anciens régiments; savoir, nommément que parce que chaque régiment d'infanterie consiste présentement en trois bataillons, qui n'ont qu'une compagnie de grenadiers, pendant que l'extrême utilité des grenadiers est assez constatée, les esprits les plus faibles même sont obligés de convenir de la nécessité et de l'utilité de former dans chaque régiment d'infanterie une compagnie de grenadiers pour chaque bataillon, afin qu'il y en ait trois compagnies dans chaque régiment, chaque compagnie de 200 grenadiers, tant nouveaux qu'anciens, joignant à chacune des dernières 50 hommes nouveaux. Pour ce qui regarde ces compagnies des grenadiers et leur nombre, il doit rester

réglé inaltérablement pour l'avenir en le supputant ou comprenant dans le nombre auquel les régiments de trois bataillons sont établis et fixés actuellement.

9) Mais comme après tout, et selon le calcul qu'on a fait, il y aura encore un reste suffisant de recrues nouvellement à lever, on est d'avis que pour éviter des dépenses superflues, ce reste sera réparti auprès des régiments d'infanterie dans les compagnies des fantassins, hors desquelles peut être tiré par la suite ce qui sera nécessaire en après pour tenir l'armée complète il est dit ci-dessus.

10) En augmentant de cette manière chaque compagnie de grenadiers avec 50 hommes et la compagnie de fantassins avec autant d'hommes, qu'il sera besoin selon la supputation à faire, il sera indispensablement besoin d'augmenter aussi le nombre de leurs officiers commandants et de leurs bas-officiers, nommément de mettre présentement chaque compagnie de grenadiers sur 200 hommes avec un lieutenant, un sous-lieutenant, un sergent, un capitaine d'armes et deux caporaux, chaque compagnie de fantassins avec un sous-lieutenant, un sergent, un capitaine d'armes et deux caporaux.

11) En augmentant de cette façon les compagnies et le nombre de ceux qui les commandent il est encore inévitablement nécessaire d'y joindre encore un adjutant du régiment et un sous-chirurgien.

12) En augmentant les régiments, l'armée de Sa Majesté Impériale devient également plus forte, par conséquent, sera-t-il aussi extrêmement nécessaire d'augmenter le nombre des généraux commandants. C'est pourquoi, on propose très respectueusement au gracieux bon plaisir et décision de Sa Majesté Impériale qu'il lui plaise d'ordonner (pour tenir l'armée en d'autant meilleur ordre et pour mieux pouvoir vaquer aux commandements qui pourront avoir lieu) d'augmenter aussi l'état jusqu'à présent fixé de la généralité, nommément outre le général feldzeugmeister, encore avec un général en chef, afin qu'il y en ait 5 avec les 4 précédemment établis; de joindre aux 5 lieutenants généraux encore 5 autres, afin qu'il y en ait en tout dix; de joindre aux dix majors généraux encore autant, afin qu'il y en ait 20, et aux dix brigadiers encore dix autres nouveaux.

13) En augmentant le nombre des hommes des régiments il paraît être nécessaire d'augmenter aussi le nombre de l'artillerie qui se trouve auprès de chaque régiment avec un haubitze et ses appartenances, comme aussi de faire telle augmentation de poudre à tirer, afin d'exercer encore mieux les soldats, que la quantité fixée en soit toujours prête pour une année entière dans les caissons et que la première quantité de la poudre

à tirer soit uniquement employée à l'exercice et que pour tout cela on fixât une somme certaine. De plus laisse-t-on à la décision de Sa Majesté s'il ne lui plairait pas d'ordonner que le collège de guerre, examinant de concert avec la généralité ce qui serait le meilleur et le plus salutaire, établit les exercices sur un pied uniforme et que les dits exercices soient de même manière observés et immuablement conservés dans toute l'armée.

14) On formera des rapports séparés des dépenses qui seront causées par ces augmentations, aussi examinera-t-on de plus près par la suite, s'il conviendra de défendre la sortie des grains de la Livonie.

15) Mais en même temps on est d'avis qu'à moins qu'on se mette effectivement dans un état aussi redoutable et puissant qu'il est détaillé ci-dessus, il serait incommode et dangereux de se charger tout seuls de tout le poids de la diversion à faire en Prusse, si ce n'est que l'on fût d'avance assuré avec fondement et certitude par les ministres de Sa Majesté Impériale que les autres alliés et nommément les cours de Vienne et de Saxe ne resteront pas non plus en tranquillité de leurs côtés, mais qu'elles donnent en même temps leurs secours au Roi d'Angleterre, selon leurs engagements, et agissent aussi contre la Prusse.

A l'encontre, dès aussitôt que nos forces se trouveront dans l'état qu'il est dit ci-dessus on peut alors avec assurance non seulement (au cas que le roi de Prusse attaque le Hanovre) faire seuls une diversion en Prusse, mais aussi on peut, lorsque pour brider ce voisin inquiet et pour la sûreté de cet Empire à l'avenir on le jugera nécessaire de soi-même déclarer la guerre contre lui et la commencer.

16) Les soussignés ont encore examiné, si par là il n'y aurait pas du danger à craindre d'un autre côté, et nommément des Turcs, au cas que l'on assemblât, comme il est dit ci-dessus, tant de forces régulières seulement vers les côtés de la Baltique. Mais on trouve que les 20 régiments de milice qui sont de ce côté et encore 5 régiments de dragons et toute l'armée de l'Ukraine, tout comme aussi les régiments Zaporojiens et Slobodiens sont suffisants pour la sûreté de ces contrées.

Pour le reste ils soumettent très humblement tout ceci au souverain bon plaisir et ordres de Sa Majesté Impériale. Signé: C-te Alexei Bestouchef-Rumin, Knias N. Trubetzkoi, Alexandre Buturlin, C-te Michailo Woronzow, Knias Boris Jousoupoff, Stephan Apraxin, C-te Alexandre Schouwalow, C-te Pierre Schouwalow, Pierre Sumarokoff, Knias Jacob Schachoffskoi, Iwan Bachmetoff, Knias Iwan Tscherbatoff, Knias Alexei Galitzin, Knias Iwan Odoievskoi, Wasily Souworoff, Iwan Pogouwishnikoff, Knias Michailo Beloselskoi. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 294.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 7-th (18-th) July 1753.

Very secret. My lord. If the delivering up the great chancellor's bond for the ten thousand pounds, His Majesty had lent him, gave him pleasure, your grace cannot doubt, but it must have been a great addition to it, when I acquainted him with the further present His Majesty was willing to make to him, if he could procure the Empress's consent to the plan proposed in your grace's letter. I told him likewise what he was to expect, as soon as the russian troops should begin their march, in consequence of the requisition which should be made by His Majesty, and dwelt a very long time upon the third gratuity, I had orders to promise, if he would help me in making the subsidy to be paid as moderate, as possible, and though I am sorry to find it has had so little effect. I have repeated this promise to him above ten times in the course of this negotiation. Nor can I put it out of his head, but the demands made here are very reasonable, but he is so lavish of his own money, that I do not wonder at his not being very sparing of other peoples purses.

Two days after he had received ten thousand ducats from general Bretlack, he lost twelve hundred of them at play, so that in a short time I expect to see him under the same distresses and dangers, as those from which he has been lately, I may say, miraculously relieved.

On this occasion a thought occurs to me, which I cannot help communicating to your grace and is that after the King has fixed in the counter project the quantum of the subsidy, His Majesty will pay, and all the other terms and conditions of this convention, I may have orders to name to the great chancellor the sum he is to have, if he can procure the Empress's consent to it. The sum, in my humble opinion, should not be small, and then I am very much mistaken, or it will stagger him and make him exert his utmost endeavours to have things concluded upon the foot His Majesty shall propose.

They are so craving here for money, that, though they do not know yet the King's thoughts upon all their demands, schemes and projects and whether His Majesty will agree to them, I have been given to understand that I am not to forget the presents usually made, when any treaty or convention is signed here, and in particular the great chancellor begs, as if it were for alms, that his favorite secretary Wolkof may have five

hundred roubles, a part for himself, and exclusive of what shall be given to the chancery.

I must not let your grace be unacquainted that, when I sent to Petersburg for the great chancellor's original mortgage bond, I was obliged, at the repeated instances of the great chancellor, to let baron Wolff into the secret of the first 2.500 pounds the chancellor was to expect, if things went right, and to desire the baron to advance him eight thousand roubles upon that expectation, which the baron has accordingly done, though I plainly told him I did not mean to be in any manner answerable for that money, but I should not do baron Wolff justice, if I did not say that this is not the only instance, during my residence here, in which I found him ready to show his zeal for His Majesty's and the nation's service. R. 20-th August. By Money. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 295.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 7-th (18-th) July 1753.

Very private. My lord. Your grace will easily believe that in the very first conference I had with the great chancellor after the receipt of your grace's dispatches of the 9-th March, I acquainted him with the orders I had received from the King to give an absolute release of the security for the ten thousand pounds His Majesty had lent him about six years ago, if that could be of any service to him under his present distresses, and that His Majesty hoped baron Wolff would be able to get a sum of money advanced upon that security, which might in some measure answer his purpose.

In answer to this the great chancellor desired me to lay him in the most respectful manner at the King's feet and to give the strongest assurances in my power of his most gratefull acknowledgement for this new proof of His Majesty's goodness and generosity, which could not to be sure fail of being of great help and assistance to him. At the same time he desired me to write to baron Wolff and engage him either to lend, or raise twenty five thousand roubles upon this mortgage, which I accordingly did, but how great was my surprise, when, in answer, the baron acquainted me, it was impossible for him to do, what the great chancellor desired. That there was nobody to be found in Petersburg who would lend any money upon that mortgage, and for himself the great chan-

cellor could not reasonably expect such a great advance, besides what he was already indebted to him, which, on their settling accounts a little before the chancellor left Petersburg, was no less than 62 thousand roubles, for which baron Wolff had no other security, but the chancellor's promissory note.

This attempt having failed, I was next desired by the great chancellor to write to baron Wolff to send me the original mortgage bond, which lay in his hands, which the said baron has done, and I have delivered and given it up to the great chancellor, pursuant to His Majesty's commands, signified to me in your grace's very private letter of the 9-th of March last.

As this mortgage bond could not come by the post and that the chancellor would not permit me to send the messenger I had here for fear of giving any mistrust, I was obliged to borrow one of general Bretlack's servants who went to Petersburg under pretence of preparing matters for the arrival of count Esterhazy, the new imperial ambassador. As soon as I am informed of the expences of this journey, I shall repay them to general Bretlack and charge them in my bill of extraordinaries. R. 20-th August. By Money. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 296.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 7-th (18-th) July 1753.

Holstein. My lord. His imperial highness the great duke, whose distresses, both here and in Holstein, are as great as those of some others of your grace's acquaintance, sent to me a few weeks ago his chamberellan and secretary m-r Bromse, who after many strong assurances of his master's great respect for the King and of his great inclination to do whatever lay in his power for the good and service of the common cause, told me that the distracted situation of the great duke's affairs in Holstein not being unknown to me, I would not be surprised to hear that the body of troops he had in that dutchy, small and little as it was, put him to an expence that he was not able to bear. Therefore his imperial highness would be very much obliged to me, if, out of my personal friendship and regard for him, I would use my endeavours to persuade His Majesty to take those troops into his pay, upon what footing he pleased. A few days after the great duke took me aside at court and talked to me for near

an hour upon the same affair, in so strong a manner, that I could not avoid assuring him I would do what he desired.

To fulfill therefore my promise, I herewith transmit to your grace the state, or list of this little army, as it was delivered to me. Though it appears a little confused, for I only observe in general that it consists of one regiment of dragoons and two bataillons of foot, but the great duke told me it should be increased, if His Majesty pleased, and all recruited with the best and choicest men in Holstein. As to the *généralité* mentioned in this list, I must tell your grace that the great duke and his consort, the great dutchess, are the two major generals, so I should think will not insist on any pay, though I can assure your grace they want it as much, as the poorest cornet or ensign in the Holstein troops.

Some people think it might have a very good effect and secure this young prince to the King's interest, if His Majesty complied with his request, which it was the more worth while to think of at present, as the dutchess, his consort, is certainly near three months gone with child, though it is not yet declared. Another thing they say to be considered is that, if His Majesty refuses these troops, the great duke will probably offer them to the king of Prussia, which he has perhaps been withheld from doing hitherto, least it should give offence to the Empress, but rather than disband them, which would go to his heart, he will certainly do it.

PS. The messenger who is the bearer of these dispatches, having begged of me to bear testimony to your grace of his diligence and good behaviour here, I cannot refuse doing him the justice he desires and recommending him, as a very proper person to be employed upon any the like service. R. 20-th August. By Money. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

Etat des frais ordinaires pour l'entretien des troupes de S. A. I. monseigneur le grand duc de Russie, duc régnant de Sleswig-Holstein.

Les troupes holsteinoises de S. A. I. consistent en un régiment de dragons du corps et deux bataillons.

	Par Rs.	an. Bc.
Il faut pour la généralité.	4.200	—
Pour le régiment de dragons du corps.	22.045	12
» » premier bataillon.	15.623	12
» » second »	16.638	—
Somme	Rs. 58.506	—

La généralité.

	Rs.	Bc.
1 général major de cavalerie	1.200	—
1 » » d'infanterie	1.200	—
1 brigadier de cavalerie	900	—
1 » d'infanterie	900	—
Somme	4.200	—

Le régiment dragons du corps.

L'état major.

1 colonel commandant.	742	24
1 lieutenant colonel	—	—
1 major.	500	—

L'état du régiment.

1 quartier-maître du régiment	168	—
1 ober-auditeur	190	—
1 auditeur	142	24
1 adjutant	142	24
Au chirurgien pour médicaments pour ce régiment	15	—
Somme	1.900	24

Le petit état.

1 munster-schreiber avec l'habillement de dessous	71	—
8 musiciens, trompettes, waldhornistes et hautboistes.	608	—
1 timbalier	96	—
1 tambour-major	71	—
1 gewäldiger du régiment	71	—
2 garçons de chirurgien avec l'habillement de dessous	138	—
1 fahn-schmidt avec l'habillement de dessous	61	—
2 prévôts	96	—
1 stekken-knegt	48	—

La compagnie des grenadiers.

	Rs.	Bc.
1 capitaine	500	—
1 premier lieutenant.	142	24
1 second lieutenant	142	24
2 wagt-meisters avec l'habillement de dessous .	142	24
1 quartier-meister	71	—
3 caporaux	144	—
2 tambours	81	—
30 grenadiers	1.215	—

La compagnie du corps.

1 stabs-capitaine	216	—
1 lieutenant	142	24
1 enseigne	133	24
1 standaerd-junker avec l'habillement de dessous.	71	—
1 wagt-meister.	71	—
1 quartier-meister	71	—
3 caporaux	144	—
2 tambours	81	—

La 3-me compagnie.

1 capitaine	500	—
1 lieutenant	142	24
1 enseigne.	133	24
1 standaerd-junker avec l'habillement de dessous.	71	—
1 wagt-meister	71	—
1 quartier-meister	71	—
3 caporaux	144	—
2 tambours	81	—
30 dragons du corps	1.215	—

La 4-me compagnie.

1 capitaine	231	36
1 lieutenant	142	24
1 enseigne	133	24
1 standaerd-junker avec l'habillement de dessous.	71	—
1 wagt-meister	71	—

	Rs.	Bc.
1 quartier-meister	71	—
3 caporaux	144	—
2 tambours	81	—
30 dragons du corps	1.215	—

L'habillement.

Le petit état.

1 munster-schreiber avec le galon	13	—
9 musiciens	117	—
1 tambour-major	13	—
1 gewäldiger du régiment	13	—
1 fahn-schmidt	9	12
2 prévôts	18	24
1 stekken-kuegt	9	12
Somme	Rs. 12.526	12

12 bas-officiers, comme standaerd-junkers, wagt- meisters et quartier-meisters avec les galons des chapeaux	156	—
12 caporaux	132	—
8 tambours avec les galons	104	—
120 grenadiers et dragons du corps	1.110	—

Le fourrage.

L'état major.

1 colonel commandant	5 chevaux.
1 lieutenant colonel	5 »
1 major	4 »
1 quartier-maître du régiment.	2 »
1 auditeur	2 »
1 adjutant	2 »

Le petit état.

9 musiciens	5 chevaux.
2 prévôts	1 cheval.

La compagnie de grenadiers.

		Rs.	Bc.
1 capitaine	3 chevaux.		
2 lieutenants	4 »		
2 wagt-meisters	2 »		
3 caporaux	1 cheval.		
2 tambours	1 »		
30 grenadiers	15 chevaux.		

La compagnie du corps.

1 capitaine	3 chevaux.		
1 lieutenant.	2 »		
1 enseigne	2 »		
2 wagt-meisters	1 cheval.		
1 standaerd-junker	1 »		
3 caporaux	1 »		
2 tambours	2 chevaux.		
30 dragons du corps	15 »		
Somme .		Rs. 14.028	12

La 3-me compagnie.

1 capitaine	3 chevaux.		
1 lieutenant.	2 »		
1 enseigne	2 »		
2 wagt-meisters	1 cheval.		
1 standaerd-junker	1 »		
3 caporaux	1 »		
2 tambours	1 »		
30 dragons du corps	15 chevaux.		

La 4-me compagnie.

1 capitaine	3 chevaux.		
1 lieutenant.	2 »		
1 enseigne	2 »		
2 wagt-meisters	1 cheval.		
1 standaerd-junker.	1 »		
3 caporaux	1 »		
2 tambours	1 »		
30 dragons du corps	15 chevaux.		
		124	chevaux.

Le foin.

	Rs.	Bc.
Par mois 3.844 rations à 5 — revient par an.	4.805	—

L'avoine.

Par mois 2 tonnes par cheval font 248 tonnes à 1 rs. la tonne fait par an	2.976	—
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L'argent pour les médicaments.

Pour tout le régiment 3 rs. par mois	36	—
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L'argent pour les recrues.

Par mois d'avance rs. 16 à 32—fait. . . .	200	—
Somme . Rs.	22.045	12

Le premier bataillon.

L'état major.

1 lieutenant colonel	600	—
1 major	362	12

L'état du régiment.

1 quartier-maître du régiment	168	—
1 adjutant	142	24
1 auditeur	142	24
1 prêtre	—	—

Le petit état.

1 munster-schreiber	48	72
1 tambour-major	48	72
7 hauboistes	346	24
1 gewäldiger	48	72
5 garçons de chirurgien avec leur habillement .	300	—
2 prévôts	54	—
1 stekken-knegt	27	—

La compagnie des grenadiers.

1 capitaine	231	36
3 lieutenants	427	24

	Rs.	Bc.
1 sergent commandant	48	72
2 sergents	99	—
1 capitaine d'armes	43	24
1 fourrier	43	24
5 caporaux	135	—
	Rs. 3.321	—
4 tambours	80	—
44 grenadiers	880	—
6 charpentiers	120	—

La compagnie du corps ou 2-de compagnie.

1 stabs-capitaine	216	—
1 lieutenant	142	24
1 enseigne	133	24
1 sergent commandant	48	72
1 sergent	48	72
1 gefregt-caporal	43	24
1 capitaine d'armes	43	24
1 fourrier	43	24
4 caporaux	108	—
3 tambours et pfeiffer	60	—
40 mousquetiers	720	—

La 3-me compagnie.

1 stabs-capitaine	238	24
1 lieutenant	142	24
1 enseigne	133	24
1 sergent commandant	48	72
1 sergent	48	72
1 gefregt-caporal	43	24
1 capitaine d'armes	43	24
1 fourrier	43	24
4 caporaux	108	—
3 tambours et pfeiffer	60	—
40 mousquetiers	720	—

La 4-me compagnie.

	Rs.	Bc.
1 stabs-capitaine	216	—
1 lieutenant	142	24
1 enseigne.	133	24
1 sergent commandant	48	72
1 sergent	48	72
1 gefregt-caporal	43	24
1 capitaine d'armes	43	24
1 fourrier	43	24
4 caporaux	108	—
3 tambours et pfeiffer	60	—
40 mousquetiers	720	—

La 5-me compagnie.

1 capitaine	231	36
1 lieutenant	142	24
1 enseigne	133	24
1 sergent commandant	48	72
1 sergent	48	72
1 gefregt-caporal	43	24
1 capitaine d'armes	43	24
1 fourrier	43	24
4 caporaux	108	—
3 tambours et pfeiffer	60	—
40 mousquetiers	720	—

L'habillement de dessous.

13 hommes du petit état.		
25 bas-officiers.		
21 caporaux.		
16 tambours et pfeiffer.		
210 mousquetiers.		
285 hommes à 8 bc. par mois	570	—
	Rs. 11.447	12

Le pain.

18 hommes du petit état. .
 25 bas-officiers.

	Rs.	Bc.
21 caporaux.		
16 tambours et pfeiffer.		
210 mousquetiers.		
290 hommes à 24 bc. par mois	1.740	—

L'habillement.

10 hommes du petit état à 40 bc. par mois .	100	—
25 bas-officiers à 40 bc.	250	—
21 caporaux à 32 bc.	168	—
16 tambours et pfeiffer à 40 bc.	160	—
210 mousquetiers à 24 bc.	1.260	—
3 prévôts et stekken-knecht à 24 bc.	18	—

L'argent pour les recrues.

4 hommes par compagnie à 2 rs. par mois 8 rs.		
et pour 5 compagnies	480	—
Somme	Rs. 15.623	12

Le second bataillon.

L'état major.

1 colonel	742	24
1 lieutenant colonel	483	36
1 major.	362	12

L'état du régiment.

1 quartier-maître du régiment	231	36
1 adjutant	142	24
Le fourrage pour 1 cheval en 31 jours rs. 5:11 bc.	62	36
1 auditeur	142	24
1 prêtre	—	—
1 chirurgien du régiment	130	—
L'argent pour les médicaments pour les 2 batail- lons	58	—

Le petit état.

1 munster-schreiber	48	72
1 garnisoens-cantor	96	—

	Rs.	Bc.
1 tambour-major	48	72
7 hauboistes	346	24
1 gewältiger	48	72
5 garçons de chirurgien avec leur habillement .	300	—
2 prévôts	54	—
1 stekken-knegt	27	—

La compagnie des grenadiers.

1 capitaine	231	36
3 lieutenants	427	24
1 sergent commandant	48	72
2 sergents	99	—
1 capitaine d'armes	43	24
1 fourrier	43	24
5 caporaux	135	—
4 tambours et pfeiffer	80	—
44 grenadiers	880	—
6 charpentiers	120	—

La seconde compagnie ou celle du corps.

1 stabs-capitaine	216	—
1 lieutenant	142	24
1 enseigne	133	24
1 sergent commandant	48	72
1 sergent	48	72
1 gefregt-caporal	43	24
1 capitaine d'armes	43	24
1 fourrier	43	24
4 caporaux	108	—
3 tambours et pfeiffer	60	—
40 mousquetiers	720	—

La 3-me compagnie.

1 stabs-capitaine	216	—
1 lieutenant	142	24
1 enseigne	133	24
1 sergent commandant	48	72
1 sergent	48	72

	Rs.	Bc.
1 gefregt-caporal	43	24
1 capitaine d'armes	43	24
1 fourrier	43	24
4 caporaux	108	—
3 tambours et pfeiffer	60	—
40 mousquetiers	720	—
	Rs. 8.657	12

La 4-me compagnie.

1 stabs-capitaine	216	—
1 lieutenant	142	24
1 enseigne	133	24
1 sergent commandant	48	72
1 sergent	48	72
1 gefregt-caporal	43	24
1 capitaine d'armes	43	24
1 fourrier	43	24
4 caporaux	108	—
3 tambours et pfeiffer	60	—
40 mousquetiers	720	—

La 5-me compagnie.

1 capitaine	231	36
1 lieutenant	142	24
1 enseigne	133	24
1 sergent commandant	48	72
1 sergent	48	72
1 gefregt-caporal	43	24
1 capitaine d'armes	43	24
1 fourrier	43	24
3 caporaux	108	—
3 tambours et pfeiffer	60	—
40 mousquetiers	720	—
	Rs. 11.892	—

L'habillement de dessous.

13 hommes du petit état.
25 bas-officiers.

	Rs.	Bc.
21 caporaux.		
16 tambours et pfeiffer.		
210 mousquetiers.		
285 hommes à 8 bc. par mois	570	—

Le pain.

18 hommes du petit état.		
25 bas-officiers.		
21 caporaux.		
16 tambours et pfeiffer.		
210 mousquetiers.		
290 hommes à 24 bc. par mois	1.740	—

L'habillement.

10 hommes du petit état à 40 bc. par mois.	100	—
25 bas-officiers à 40 bc. par mois	250	—
21 caporaux à 32 bc. par mois	168	—
16 tambours et pfeiffer à 40 bc. par mois	160	—
210 mousquetiers à 24 bc. par mois	1.260	—
3 prévôts et stekken-knegt à 24 bc.	18	—

L'argent pour les recrues.

4 hommes par compagnie à rs. 2 par mois rs. 8		
et pour 5 compagnies par an.	480	—
Somme	Rs. 16.638	—

P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 297.

Baron Wolff to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 12-th (23-d) July 1753.

My lord. I herewith do myself the honour to inform your grace that about two months ago I received a letter from colonel Guy Dickens in Moscow, intimating that by His Majesty's command he was ordered to demand of me count Bestuchef's mortgage bond for his house for 10.000 pounds sterling and desired that I might send it him up to Moscow, which I did accordingly. But as I had no immediate orders from your grace concer-

ning this matter, therefore I beg the favour that your grace would be pleased to order a few lines to be wrote me, approving of this transaction and thereby you will encrease the obligations I already owe your grace. 20-th August. By Money. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 298.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 12-th (23-d) July 1753.

My lord. I received lately, under the cover of an english merchant at Petersburg the honour of your grace's letter of the 1-st June with a copy of a paper which sir Joshua Vanneck had delivered to you, concerning his claim to be admitted as a creditor of m-rs Cramond, Shark and company, an english house at Petersburg.

These affairs being out of my way here at Moscow, I have wrote about them to baron Wolff, His Majesty's consul at Petersburg, who, I am persuaded, will use his utmost endeavours that justice may be done to sir Joshua Vanneck upon that occasion, but as baron Wolff has wrote to me there will be very little to divide, if sir Joshua's claim be admitted. Now I can assure your grace that Money, the messenger, is no more here, and that he left this place on Wednesday last at noon the 18-th instant n. s. R. 22-d August. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 299.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 19-th (30-th) July 1753.

My lord. It having been intimated to general Bretlack, the imperial ambassador, and to all the foreign ministers here, that it would be agreeable to the Empress, if they went to the cloister of Troitza and visited all the curiosities to be seen there, we sat out accordingly, on Monday last, for that place; where we were received and entertained in the most polite and elegant manner for two days, together, by the abbot and heads of that convent.

On my return to town, I found a letter from sir Charles Hanbury Williams, from Dresden, of the 3-d instant n. s. giving me an account of the intrigues, carrying on to get m-r Funk, the saxon minister at this

court, recalled in order to bring about the removal of m-r Gross, the russian minister at Dresden, and fix there count Bestuchef. I need not repeat more of the contents of this letter, as sir Charles Hanbury Williams acquaints me that he had sent a copy of it to your grace. The very day, we set out for Troitza, m-r Funk received a letter from count Brühl with the same informations, as those contained in sir Charles Hanbury Williams letter to me acquainting him, at the same time, that he was to expect soon his letters of revocation.

On our return from Troitza, we communicated our respective letters to the great chancellor who was in the utmost surprise at such an unexpected piece of news, for, though he had had some hints in a letter from m-r Gross, they were so obscure, that he did not understand them rightly. The great chancellor was as much at a loss, how to act in this affair, since the Empress's name and hand, in what manner soever obtained, appeared in it; at last, however, he took the resolution to send m-r Gross's letter, obscure as it was, to the Empress, with a short remark, that he did not understand it, nor could give credit to it; as he was persuaded that, if there was any foundation for the changes, m-r Gross so obscurely hinted at, Her Imperial Majesty would not have let him (the great chancellor) be unacquainted with the resolution Her Imperial Majesty had taken. This letter was sent, on Friday last, to the Empress at a cloister, called Jerusalem, where she proposed to stay, or in that neighbourhood, as long as the present fine weather lasts, so that we must now wait untill the Empress sends an answer to the great chancellor, or order him to come to her. In the meantime, we clearly see, how this whole affair has been managed. Count Bestuchef's aversion to return to this place is known to your grace; the vice-chancellor is, on his side, afraid of it, as the Empress has often declared, her intention was to place count Bestuchef about the great duke, by which means count Shoglokoﬀ, a near relation of the vice-chancellor by marriage, who now fills that post would be removed, so that it was easy for the vice-chancellor and count Bestuchef to join in a plot, which was agreeable to both their views and inclinations; and the share, which; it too plainly appears, m-r Brühl has in it, proceeds from the impertunity of his mistress, countess Moshinska, whose good offices there is no doubt, but countess Bestuchef will have solicited, as her desire must be as great, as her husbands, to stay in Saxony, which is her native country; that the Empress has been led into the step she has taken, I am not surprised at, as her personal dislike to m-r Funck is generally known, as well as the poor pittyful reason of it, which is because he squints.

To return to count Brühl, the great chancellor is in the utmost astonishment at his precipitate proceedings in this affair and how he could, as sir Charles Hanbury Williams told him very rightly, persuade the king of Poland to take so hasty a step, as to promise m-r Funck's recall, upon informations that were not authentic, count Bestuchef not being accredited to that court. Had m-r Brühl simply taken the thing *ad referendum* and afterwards informed m-r Gross of what m-r Bestuchef had said to him and desired him to write hither, to know what credit was to be given to it, all this fine-spun intrigue had been knocked on the head, to the confusion of the authors of it. And as it is, we are pretty sure it will turn out so, at last count Bestuchef is now certainly on the road from Dresden hither; but has left his wife behind him, which will very much displease the Empress; as one of the motives for pressing count Bestuchef's return hither, was curiosity of seeing a lady, who had had the courage to marry a man, whose first wife was alive; and how much must she afterwards be, naturally, provoked, when the proposal will be made to her of sending count Bestuchef back to Dresden, as minister? The whole intrigue will be opened to her and make her sensible of the views and designs of those who led her into the step she has taken. So that I believe I may venture to assure your grace that count Bestuchef will never see Dresden again. But, if he be obstinate, does not accept of the post the Empress designs him and will not send for his wife and order her to come to him, he may, very possibly, tread upon his late wife's steps and be sent to Siberia.

All that has happened in this affair must necessarily give, at other courts, the same opinion which sir Charles Hanbury Williams has of the great chancellor's interest and make them look upon his fall to be near at hand. But things are not to be considered in that light here, there is nothing more frequent, than such surprises, and I wonder sometimes, they do not happen oftener with a princess who gives herself up so entirely to her pleasure, and who is, sometimes, three months, without seeing or speaking with her ministers.

M-r Funk has wrote to m-r Brühl at the desire of the great chancellor, not to send him yet his letters of revocation; and should they come before he receives that letter, no use will be made of them before the court returns to Petersburg. R. 27-th August. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 300.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 2-d (13-th) August 1753.

My lord. The very fine weather we have had here for some weeks past and which continues still, makes this town very thin. The Empress, however, is returned hither from the cloister of Jerusalem and yesterday there was a drawing room, but she did not appear. To-morrow or next day Her Imperial Majesty proposes to go to another cloister, which lyes about seventy, or eighty wersts from hence, and after she is gone, most of her ministers will remove to their country houses, where they have leave to reside for a couple of months. The great dutchess, who I acquainted your grace in one of my former letters was with child, has had the misfortune to miscarry and to the great grief of the whole court, it proved to be a prince.

Since my letter of the 30-th July n. s., which is my last, I have another letter from sir Charles Hanbury Williams of the 7-th July n. s., relating to m-r Funk, the saxon minister's, recall, by which I find the court of Dresden have changed their resolution and that his polish majesty will not take any step in this affair, untill he is better and more regularly informed of it. I immediately informed the great chancellor, who was in the country, of this resolution, by a trusty friend, and yesterday I had some conversation with him upon it at court. But he seemed to think count Brühl had spoiled every thing by promising so hastily, as he did at first, that m-r Funk should be recalled. The place being too public to talk long about business, he put off explaining his thoughts to me upon this incident, untill another opportunity. In the meantime, I cannot help saying to your grace that he confirmed me in the opinion I have long had of him, which is that he is the most timorous first minister I ever knew, when any the least thing happens that is not agreeable to his wishes.

We now expect here soon count Esterhazy, the new imperial ambassador; according to our last advices, he had passed Riga and we doubt not but our next will bring us an account that he is at Petersburg. R. 11-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 301.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 9-th (20-th) August 1753.

My lord. A few days ago I received by an austrian courier the honor of your grace's letter of the 22-d June acquainting me with the advices you had received, that the French were actually renewing their treaty of subsidy with Sweden. I did not fail to give immediate notice to the great chancellor and of the new engagements proposed to be taken therein, relative to the affairs of Poland and the case of the vacancy of the throne there. The great chancellor thought this advice of very great importance and said, the Empress should be informed of it that very day; but told me, we were under a mistake to think the Swedes desired that this negotiation should be kept secret, least it should make this court more difficult in adjusting any points which may still remain in dispute between Sweden and Russia; for by the very last letters they had received from the russian commissaries appointed to adjust with those of Sweden the disputes, relating to the limits of Finland, the latter began to threaten not only to break off the conferences, but even to come to an open rupture, if this court would not agree to their demands, which the great chancellor said are unreasonable. I find, by my letters from m-r Porter, His Majesty's ambassador at Constantinople, that the Swedes make a merit there of having refused to renew their treaty with this court, but this is also a mistake, for the only treaty between the two courts is that of Abo, which is perpetual.

On Monday last, arrived here a Frenchman, whose name is Maubrun or something like it. By his discourse it seems he has been at Constantinople; but he comes now from Stockholm, where he has staid some time waiting for the return of an express, which that court had sent to baron Posse, their minister here. As this man pretends to have no kind of business here, being come only, as he says, out of curiosity, I told the great chancellor, a few days ago, as I dined with him that I suspected very much this man was the minister France intended to send to the great duke, under pretence of negotiating some affairs of commerce; which suspicion the great chancellor thought so well founded, that he acquainted the Empress with it, that same evening, and orders have since been given to proper persons to have a very watchfull eye upon all this man's motions and the company he keeps. R. 17-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 302.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 24-th August 1753.

Sir. Money, the messenger, arrived here on Monday night last with your letters of the 6-th (17-th) and 7-th (18-th) past and the several memorials, answers and papers therein inclosed.

I cannot conceal from you His Majesty's great surprise and disappointment at the contents of them, after the very strong and repeated assurances which you had sent me in your letters, that «the court of Russia would come into His Majesty's plan and in such a manner, as would be entirely agreeable to him»; and particularly in that of the 13-th (24-th) May: «that the delay did not proceed from any difficulties you had met with in your negotiation, for *that all His Majesty had desired had been granted and argeed to*».

You must have suffered yourself to be extremely deceived, as to the disposition of the court of Russia or to have greatly misunderstood, what were the King's views and expectations, if you could think that the project now transmitted by you *contained all His Majesty had desired*.

You was expressly told, in my letter of the 9-th March, that the King did not think proper to give any subsidy in all events; but, only, when the russian troops should, upon an attack having been first made, be required by the King; and that then, *the subsidy* was to be a reasonable one; whereas, by this project not only an immediate subsidy is insisted upon in all events for keeping the army in Livonia; but such an enormous one, as one million of dutch crowns, amounting to 230.000 pounds sterling, which is within 70.000 pounds as much, as was given for the whole corps of russian troops, when they were actually employed in the year 1748; and besides this, a further subsidy of near 700.000 pounds sterling per annum, is demanded, when the troops shall be required to act and subsistance etc. amounting to near 300.000 pounds more; though it is not proposed that these troops should ever be employed, at any distance from their station on the frontiers, and though they will in that case, always have an enemy's country to live upon and, what is still more one year in advance is proposed to be paid, both of the immediate subsidy and of the eventual one, whenever the troops are required.

You must forgive me, if I say that it is scarce to be imagined, that you had read the papers, containing these exorbitant conditions and the

etters which I sent you by the King's order; by which you ought to have governed yourself; and I cannot any way account for the manner in which you represented in all your previous letters the disposition that the court of Petersburg was in upon this subject.

I am sorry to tell you that His Majesty extremely disapproves your conduct throughout the whole: in having first given such strong assurances which appear to have been without foundation and in having afterwards transmitted such exorbitant and absurd proposals so contrary to what you knew was the King's intention; and that, without having made (by what appears) any serious remonstrance or protestation against them.

His Majesty is also extremely offended that you took upon yourself, without order, to give a memorial in writing, particularly a memorial of such a nature, as this; of which you could not be certain what use may be made; and experience should have showed you that a very improper use had been made of such indiscreet proceedings before.

The King also observed that you have suffered them in their answers and projects to put the whole singly upon the representations made by you and the danger His Majesty was in of being attacked by the king of Prussia; whereas, it appears, by the opinion of the russian Senate given solemnly and in the greatest form, that the measures which they advised the Empress, their mistress, to take were formed upon what they conceived to be the essential interests of Russia. By which turn in the projects and answer the whole load and weight of this measure is laid upon the King, and His Majesty's interests conceived to be so essentially concerned to carry it into execution, that the russian ministers thought, that whatever they asked must be granted.

The fact is very far from what the russian ministers seem to imagine. Whatever umbrage some measures might have given, which were supposed to be taking, at the beginning of the year, by the king of Prussia for assembling troops and etc. on the frontiers of the King's german dominions; those were very soon at an end by most explicit assurances given by the king of Prussia's order to the King's ministers at Hanover; and had there been any immediate danger in the beginning of March, this answer delayed untill near the end of August would have been but of little use to His Majesty.

The King's zeal for the preservation of the public peace and for the defence and support of the interests of his subjects did and does dispose him to enter into proper measures with the Empress of Russia for that purpose; and the unanimous opinion of the Senate very justly shows,

how much they think the interests of the russian Empire are concerned in the measures which the Empress is now taking.

Is it then reasonable that His Majesty should comply with such extravagant demands for the immediate support of troops which are or ought to be, at present, in those very stations for the security of Russia itself? Or, afterwards, give such immense subsidies for the employment of those troops (if the case should happen) upon services acknowledged by the Senate to be indispensably necessary for the maintenance of the honor and interests of the russian Empire? You must be sensible that His Majesty's plan (to which, indeed, I thought, by your letters, that the court of Russia had entirely agreed) was founded upon the repeated advices which you had sent me, that the Empress of Russia had between 50 and 60.000 men in Livonia; whereas I am afraid, from some accounts which I have seen, that there are not or were not very lately above 21.000 men in Livonia and Courland; but their own interest and their own security independently of all other considerations, require, by their own confession, that they should be greatly encreased.

His Majesty was glad to see, by the *promemoria* of the 2-d July signed by the chancellor and the vice-chancellor, that the Empress had ordered 60.000 men of regular troops to be assembled upon the frontiers of Livonia, which were actually on their march hither, and to add 6.000 irregulars to them, without waiting for the King's consent to the project of the convention transmitted by you.

His Majesty hopes that this will not have been delayed, though I wonder that you make no mention yourself of any number of troops having yet been actually on their march thither; or have said anything in these last letters of general Apraxin's being appointed commander of that army; or of the deligence which you formerly mentioned, that he was employing to have it compleat as soon, as possible.

This resolution, if really executed, will not fail to have an immediate good effect; and the King hopes soon to hear of the actual arrival of the greatest part of these troops at the place of their destination.

Though you will see by what I now write and by what you must have known, that the conditions, contained in this project, are not, in any degree, admissible; yet the King, as I said before, is willing to come to a reasonable agreement with the Empress of Russia *upon the principle of my letter of the 9-th of March last*. The russian ministers, themselves, I find expect that great deductions will be made, and very great ones they must be. And as you desire a counter project from hence, which

may contain His Majesty's *ultimatum*, the King has ordered one to be prepared, which I hope soon to be able to transmit to you; and which will contain the utmost lengths which His Majesty can or will go.

The memorials, projects and answers, though they contain very monstrous demands, will, however, be all considered, and due regard will be had to what is reasonable on both sides.

The defensive engagements already subsisting between the King and the Empress of Russia and the quotas or contingents in consequence of them, must be the basis and foundation of this counter project; and the additional engagements, which His Majesty may be disposed to enter into with Russia, in order to enable the Empress to be more useful to the King and his allies, may possibly be most properly introduced by way of supplement to the succours already stipulated by former treaties. But this will make no essential difference.

You will see, by my letter of the 9-th of March, what were His Majesty's general views; those are still the same. The preservation of the public peace, the support of the interests of His Majesty's own subjects and the independency of his allies are all greatly concerned in this question; and the unanimous advice of the Russian Senate strongly confirms His Majesty's opinion, as far, at least, as relates to the Empress, their sovereign and her Empire.

I send this letter by count Colloredo's courier to Vienna to be forwarded from thence by one from count Kaunitz to the imperial ambassador at Moscow. By count Colloredo's courier. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 303.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 24-th August 1753.

Secret. Sir. You will see by my other letter the inconveniences which are justly apprehended from the unguarded step you took in delivering a memorial in writing, of which the same or a worse use may be made, than was of the declaration or memorial which you gave relating to the steuer.

It is, therefore, extremely to be wished that you should get back your memorial again; and you will have a very fair pretence for doing it by acquainting the Russian ministers that your having given any thing

in writing was without order; that His Majesty disapproved your having done so and that, therefore, out of regard to you, you did expect that they would return you your memorial again; that they are thoroughly apprised of the contents of it and can have no further use for it and that, therefore, out of particular attention to you, you hoped they would make no difficulty of returning it to you; as by that they might remove the displeasure which you had incurred by giving it without order; and for the future you are never to present any memorial without receiving positive orders for doing so.

You will do this in such a manner that m-r Bestuchef may see that it is for your own sake that you ask it, and not, as if you had received any orders for it or your court could have any particular view in your desiring it.

I have reason to think that there is a negotiation now carrying on with the Senate of Sweden, for renewing their alliance with France.

It is kept very secret, and the senators in the french interest are extremely jealous of m-r de Cedercreutz, who is almost the only one who is not so. They are particularly careful, never to bring on any thing relating to the renewal of the french alliance, when m-r de Cedercreutz is present in the Senate, as they apprehend that he would not fail to communicate it to m-r Panin, with whom he lives in the greatest intimacy. You will, therefore, suggest to the chancellor Bestuchef to write forthwith to m-r Panin and to direct him to give a hint of this to m-r de Cedercreutz, that he may be as seldom absent from the Senate, as possible, and take particular care that nothing upon this subject may pass there without his knowledge.

The Senate is a good deal embarrassed, how to renew their treaty with France (which, however, they will certainly do), after they had so lately refused to renew their treaty with the Empress of Russia, on pretence that their present treaty would still be in force for some time; and, I believe, that with Russia will expire as soon or sooner, than that with France.

PS. I may add in this secret letter one consideration which makes it absolutely necessary for the Empress of Russia to have this number of troops on the frontiers of Livonia for her own interest and at her own expence, except she intends to abandon Poland and give it up to the king of Prussia and, at the same time, all her weight and influence in Europe, which are singly owing to the acquisitions made upon Sweden and the opportunities from thence of being useful and formidable to the several powers of Europe.

If a vacancy of the crown of Poland should happen (and it is thought that the king of Poland's health is precarious) and the Empress of Russia have no troops in the neighbourhood, that crown would, probably, be seized by the king of Prussia for such person, as should be devoted to him, and some parts of its possessions, viz-t: Polish Prussia, be taken for his prussian majesty himself and in all probability, neither the one, or the other be to be got back afterwards. By count Colloredo's courier. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 304.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 24-th August 1753.

Very private. Sir. I am now to acknowledge your *very private* and *very secret* letters of the 7-th (18-th) past.

The chancellor Bestuchef must be sensible of the very distinguished marks of favor and regard which His Majesty has shown him and of the disposition which the King is in to give him still further proofs of them, if m-r Bestuchef is willing and able to deserve them.

These late dispatches can give him no pretence to expect any more, but, when the counter project comes, it will then be seen, whether he is willing to merit His Majesty's further favor. And, therefore, when I transmit to you that counter project, I shall then have the King's particular orders with regard to the chancellor.

I am amazed that they should think of receiving presents upon the proposals now transmitted. But, whenever a treaty or convention is made, the officers of the chancery will, of course, have the usual presents; and the chancellor Bestuchef's favourite secretary may be particularly distinguished. By count Colloredo's courier. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 305.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 24-th August 1753.

Holstein. Sir. I have laid before the King your letter of the 7-th (18-th) past, containing the applications made to you: first, by the duke of Holstein's minister, and afterwards by his imperial highness himself, that His

Majesty would take the two Holstein regiments into his pay. You will make a civil excuse, by the Holstein minister, to the duke, and assure him that the King will always be glad of an opportunity of showing the regard His Majesty has for his imperial highness, but that the King cannot think of taking any particular foreign regiments into his pay at this time.

As to your supposition that the great duke might let the king of Prussia have these troops, His Majesty does not think that possible, for the Empress of Russia would not certainly suffer any thing of that kind to be done; and if you see that there is any apprehension of this kind, you will speak to the chancellor to prevent it, for nothing would have such an ill appearance and so dishonourable for the Empress, as for the great duke to let his troops out to the king of Prussia, at the same time that the Senate of Russia have made the representation which you have sent me. By count Colloredo's courier. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 306.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 19-th (30-th) August 1753.

My lord. M-r Funk the saxon minister's affair has taken a new turn, which has quieted all the great chancellor's fears, the king of Poland having wrote a friendly expostulating letter to the Empress of Russia, desiring to know, what his minister here could have done to have given Her Imperial Majesty occasion to desire his recall. The copy of this letter is here, but the original is not yet come, m-r Bestuchef at Dresden having refused to transmit it, because his polish majesty did not accompany it with m-r Funk's letter of revocation; but count Brühl acquaints m-r Funk that it shall be sent by another canal. And as we can hardly believe that the Empress will alledge m-r Funk's squinting, as the reason of her dislike (and we know of no other), we have hopes that this dirty, little intrigue will turn to the confusion of the authors and that m-r Funk will keep his post here.

Notwithstanding the repeated orders, m-r Bestuchef, at Dresden, has received to repair hither, he had not begun his journey according to the last letters, under pretence of his wife's having miscarried. I am not yet informed of what the Empress thinks of this new excuse, but, not long ago, I know, she declared to the great chancellor that, if his brother did

not return hither, according to her repeated orders, she would have him hung up in effigy.

The suspicions of the Frenchman who lately arrived here being an emissary from France, grow daily stronger, but he has hitherto acted with so much caution, as not to give any, the least, hold upon him, all those who have seen him give him the character of a man of very good sense; which we the more readily believe, as France would not have sent one she could not depend upon on such an errand.

General Bretlack, the imperial ambassador, has communicated to the russian ministers the treaty lately concluded between his court and the duke of Modena and acquainted them, at the same time, that it was the King, whom their imperial majesties had to thank for the success of this important measure.

Count Esterhazy, the new imperial ambassador, is on the road from Petersburg hither. R. 27-th September. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 307.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 30-th August (10-th September) 1753.

My lord. The Empress and all her ministers spending most of their time in the country, your grace will easily believe, little can occur here during their absence worth giving you the trouble of a letter. Two days ago Her Imperial Majesty was however pleased to come to town, in order to celebrate to day the feast of St. Alexander Newsky, and proposes staying here untill next Sunday, which is her name's day and is to be celebrated with great magnificence, but immediately after, she will leave town again and in all probability not return before the bad weather drives Her Imperial Majesty out of the country.

Count Esterhazy, the new imperial ambassador, arrived here on Thursday last, but general Bretlack, whom he is to relieve, being confined to his bed by a violent fit of rheumatism, no day is yet fixed for either of those ambassador audiences.

I, lately, spent a day with the great chancellor at his country house, which is about twenty english miles from hence, where, discoursing with him upon different matters, I had occasion to find, I committed an error in telling your grace, in my letter of the 20-th of August n. s., that the only treaty between this court and Sweden was that of Abo; for, it seems there

is another, which is a defensive treaty and was signed here about a year after; but as this last treaty was made in the honeymoon of the peace and the settlement of the succession in Sweden in the manner this court had desired, they have, here, no thoughts of renewing it, the chief object of it being to prevent Denmark giving any troops to Sweden on account of the eventual election made in favor of the present king of Denmark, who was then prince royal. The great chancellor told me this treaty had, still, three years to run, and that Sweden not only made a merit at Constantinople, as m-r Porter had wrote to me, of their declining to renew it, but that both the french and swedish ministers had had the impudence to assure the Porte that they were raising here fifty thousand recruits in order to force them to it, which has extremely piqued the Empress and made her say that she plainly saw, she was never to trust either of these perfidious powers.

Though the abovementioned defensive treaty was concluded when general Bretlack was here, the first time he had entirely forgot it and confirmed me in the opinion of there being no other treaty, but that of Abo between the two courts. R. 8-th October. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 308.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 18-th September 1753.

Cypher to the end. Sir. I received yesterday your letter of the 9-th (20-th) of August, as I have done those of the 19-th (30-th) July and 2-d (13-th) of August, since the arrival of Money, the messenger.

I believe, you may be assured that the negotiation for renewing the french treaty of subsidy with Sweden, for five years, is far advanced and that there will be an article in it, relating to the affairs of Poland and the case of the vacancy of the throne there. But it is very certain that this negotiation is kept as the greatest secret.

The great chancellor does very well to have the Frenchman, who goes by the name of Maubrun, narrowly watched. It is most probable that he comes upon some business of importance and is employed upon some commission, which is not favourable to the great chancellor's views and mesures.

I had, yesterday, an account of the arrival at Vienna of my letters to you in answer to those brought by Money; so that, I hope, you will

now receive them in a short time and that you will send me some answer, as soon as possible.

I am a little surprised that neither in those letters or any since, you have sent any particular account of the march or arrival of the russian troops on the frontiers of Livonia, though we have advices concerning them from many other places. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 309.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 13-th (24-th) September 1753.

My lord. If I give your grace the trouble of this letter, it is only to tell you that I have nothing to write. The Empress who we thought, as I acquainted your grace in my letter of the 10-th instant n. s., would have kept her name's day here in town, altered her mind and went to the cloister of Jerusalem, where, with a select company, Her Imperial Majesty staid untill the day before yesterday, when she returned to town, in order to give the two imperial ambassadors their audiences, but the day is not yet fixed. A few days before Her Imperial Majesty went to Jerusalem, there was a great party of hunting and afterwards a magnificent supper at count Rasumowsky's house about four miles from hence, at which the Empress assisted and to which, by her order, all the foreign ministers were invited. R. 22-d October. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 310.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 2-d October 1753.

Sir. You was, or should have been fully apprised by my letter of the 9-th of March last of the principles upon which His Majesty entered into the negotiation with the court of Petersburg for securing a body of russian troops to be quartered in Livonia and to enter into the King's pay from the time, and not before, that they should be required by His Majesty in the cases and according to the terms and conditions to be agreed upon in the treaty.

You will also have seen by my letter of the 24-th of August last, how repugnant and inconsistent the project transmitted by you in your

letter of the 7-th (18-th) of July and the proposals and demands therein made, were, in His Majesty's opinion, to those principles and consequently how inadmissible they were in every particular.

You will therefore not be surprised that the counter project which the King has now ordered me to transmit to you and which I here inclose, should be, in almost every article, so very different from the project given you by the russian ministers; and I find, by your letter, that they themselves (conscious of the extravagance and absurdity of their own proposals) expected that it would be so.

The russian project is founded on a supposition that His Majesty would be immediately attacked in his german dominions by the king of Prussia, on account and in consequence of the disputes subsisting between his prussian majesty and the King, which relate singly to this country; that the assistance of Russia was absolutely necessary; and the conclusion from thence was that the russian ministers might ask, whatever terms they pleased and they must be complied with.

As this supposition is without foundation, and as the preservation of the public peace, the maintenance of the just rights belonging to each party and the rendering the union and alliance between His Majesty and the Empress of Russia more solid and useful to both parties are the chief view and design of this treaty, the counter project is formed entirely upon that principle; wherein the mutual interests of both parties are equally confident and ample satisfaction given for any extraordinary expence, that the Empress of Russia may, at any time, be at on account of this treaty.

That the interest of Russia is particularly concerned (independently of all other considerations) that the peace should be preserved and that no further incroachments or acquisitions should be made, in defiance of it, by the king of Prussia, sufficiently appears, by the solemn and unanimous opinion of the russian Senate.

That that can be done, no way, but by having a strong force in Livonia, must be notorious to every body who knows the situation of those countries.

That that was the measure generally followed by Russia, is also beyond dispute; and that there was reason to think from many of your letters that a force, consisting of 60.000 men, was actually quartered between Narva and Libau, at the time when this negotiation began, is also certain.

From these premises it was very surprising to the King, that a subsidy of 230.000 pounds per annum should be demanded, singly for ha-

ving such a body of troops in those places, where the interest of Russia required they should be, and where, from your accounts, His Majesty had reason to think they actually were. For, otherwise, it would been very improper to have said in my letter of the 9-th of March: «If (upon an attack from Russia) the Empress of Russia will assist His Majesty with 30 or 40 m. men, *now quartered in Livonia*». But, as the fact comes out to be otherwise and as the Empress has (as is alleged) been at very considerable expence for the march of such a body of troops to Livonia and must be at still greater for the maintaining them there for the term of four years, His Majesty, in consideration of the great use that such a force so stationed may be of for the preservation of the peace and the other purposes abovementioned, is pleased, by a secret article (a draught of which I here inclose) to give the large sum of 200.000 pounds sterling to be paid at two different terms, viz-t: the first 100.000 pounds one year after the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty, and the other 100.000 at the end of the four years, when the treaty is to expire; on condition that the counter project, herewith transmitted to you, shall be approved and signed in the terms therein expressed, and that the treaty shall be made for four years accordingly, and that His Majesty shall be at liberty to send a commissary, once each year, to review the said troops so stationed on the frontiers of Livonia.

I come, now, to explain the particular articles of the counter project.

You will see that the preamble is conformable to and made upon the principles abovementioned, which, may be avowed every where, are honorable for both parties and cannot give any just offence to any power whatsoever.

The first article is only a renewal of the treaty of 1742 and of the contingents therein specified.

The second gives the reason for this additional succour to be held in readiness on the frontiers of Livonia.

The third article relates singly to the galleys.

The fourth expressly stipulates that these troops shall not be required, but in case of an attack made on the King or his allies, and provides that in that case the russian general shall march on requisition made by His Majesty.

The fifth determines the *casus fœderis* of the treaty of 1742 to extend to the King's german dominions, if attacked on account of disputes or *démêlés* that regard His Majesty's Kingdom of Great Britain.

The sixth, and most material, article relates to the *quantum* of the

subsidy and stipulates that the subsidy shall not be paid, untill the troops shall, in consequence of the requisition, made by the King, have actually marched out of the russian dominions.

His Majesty has fixed *the quantum* of the subsidy upon what appears to be reasonable on both sides, and to be as conformable, as the difference of the circumstances of the case will admit to the precedent of the treaty of 1747.

The maritime powers were then to have 30.000 men to be employed in Flanders, for 300.000 pounds per annum. In this case, the King is to have 40.000 foot and 15.000 horse, out of which are to be deducted the russian contingent of 10.000 foot and 2.000 horse. For, these troops are, by the express condition of the 4-th article, not to be required except His Majesty or his allies should be attacked; so that the 40.000 foot are, by this means, reduced to 30.000; and of the 15.000 horse, now proposed, there are not 3.000, which are not irregulars; so that the regular horse exceed very little the 2.000 horse to be furnished by the treaty of 1742. And

The seventh article gives a very ample subsidy of 50.000 pounds for those irregulars and the galleys, the troops on board the galleys being comprehended in the former article.

The eighth explains the reason, why nothing is stipulated either for the march of the troops or for their subsistence.

The situation and circumstances of the countries, where these troops are to be employed, make both the one and the other unnecessary.

There is scarce any countrey to pass from that where these troops will be quartered, so that where the diversion is to be made, and, as soon as they are in the enemy's country, they will live upon that, at no expence to Russia, which was not the case the last war in Flanders; and for which reason only it was then thought proper to make an allowance for their march and subsistence so many hundred miles from their own country.

The ninth article secures to the Empress of Russia His Majesty's contingent in case she is attacked.

The tenth provides that, in case of a war, the King shall have a squadron of men of war in the Baltick.

The eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth articles are pretty much the same with those in the russian project upon those points.

The 14-th fixes the time of the duration of the treaty for four years.

The 15-th stipulates the payment of three months subsidy after the return of the troops into the russian dominions, agreeably to what is proposed by the russian project.

I have, now, gone through all the articles of the treaty. The secret article, herewith transmitted, you will see is agreeable to what is mentioned in the first part of this letter, to answer the expence which the Empress of Russia has very unexpectedly been at.

This expence, I suppose, is made, made, indeed, directly contrary to what you was directed to declare to the russian ministers, and, consequently, His Majesty is not under the least obligation, in honor, to give one single farthing towards the support of it, which ought greatly to raise the merit of it.

The King, however, unwilling that so salutary a measure for the preservation of the public peace should be lost, and in order to put himself in a condition, by defensive measures, to support the honor of his crown and the just rights of his people, their trade and commerce, disputed and threatened from many quarters, has been pleased to consent to it and to give so large a sum as 200.000 pounds to be paid at two payments, provided His Majesty can be assured that this body of troops shall remain in Livonia, the only place from whence they can operate or be of any use, in any european consideration, for the term of four years; during which time it is to be hoped that the peace of Europe may be so settled, that all ambitious views to disturb it will, from their disappointment, be laid aside and the rights of the King's crown and the just pretensions of His Majesty's subjects be fully and effectually secured and complied with.

The King cannot doubt, but the russian ministers will see the great advantage of these conditions and readily advise the Empress, their mistress, to accept them, and, upon that persuasion, His Majesty has ordered me to send you a full power to conclude this treaty; but it is His Majesty's express order that it should be upon these conditions, and no other.

The subsidies demanded in the russian project, both immediate and eventual, are so exorbitant and indecent, that I shall pass them over without entering at all into them. I shall, only, observe that, if the court of Russia should refuse to accept 200.000 pounds for keeping their troops four years, where, I hope, they now are and where it is so much for their honor and interest that they should be, and afterwards (in case that those troops should be required by the King) should refuse a subsidy of 350.000 pounds for doing that which the Senate of Russia have advised without any consideration, a subsidy calculated very nearly according to the rule and proportion observed in the agreement made with Russia by the maritime powers in 1747 for a body of troops to be employed so many hundred miles from their own countrey.

If these conditions are now rejected, the russian ministers will be responsible to the Empress, their mistress, for having acted directly contrary to the solemn advice of the Senate, to the known interest of Russia and to that of the common cause of Europe; and any ill consequences arising from the miscarriage of this measure, will be to be charged singly upon them. The generous offers, now made by His Majesty, will always justify the King and any part, which His Majesty may, hereafter, think proper from necessity to take

I must, in the strongest manner, acquaint you that it is the King's express command that you should give nothing in writing, but what is directly prescribed by His Majesty's orders which you will receive by this messenger. By Cleverly. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

Projet de convention etc.

D'autant que l'amitié sincère et intime qui unit Sa Majesté britannique et Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies, aussi bien que les engagements qu'elles ont contractés par le traité d'alliance défensive de l'année 1742, les obligent en tout temps de veiller à la tranquillité publique et à leur sûreté réciproque, et que, dans la conjoncture actuelle des affaires, la conservation de la paix générale et la défense de leurs états, droits et sujets respectifs leur ont paru exiger nécessairement qu'elles se garantissent contre les attaques dont elles pourraient être menacées de la part de quelque puissance que ce soit, en s'assurant d'un corps de troupes capable de faire une puissante diversion en cas de telles attaques, et comme, vu la situation présente, les contingents des secours stipulés par le traité sus-mentionné ne rempliraient point tous les objets susdits: Sa Majesté britannique et Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies ont jugé convenable de concerter d'avance les mesures ultérieures de prévoyance que la tranquillité générale et leurs intérêts et sûreté communs paraissent demander, et, pour cet effet, elles ont autorisé leurs ministres respectifs, savoir, Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne le sieur [two lines blank] et Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies les sieurs [two lines blank].

Lesquels, s'étant communiqué leurs pleinpouvoirs respectifs et ayant conféré ensemble sont convenus des articles suivants.

Article 1.

Les hautes parties contractantes renouvellent expressément par cette convention le traité d'alliance défensive conclu entre elles le 11 Dé-

cembre 1742, à Moscou, dans tous ses articles et confirment les stipulations des secours à donner réciproquement, comme elles sont contenues dans l'article 4 du dit traité; lesquels secours seront fournis, de part et d'autre, de la manière et aux conditions, y énoncées.

Article 2.

Comme il est porté par l'article 17 de l'alliance sus-mentionnée: «que si les secours y stipulés ne suffisent point, alors les parties contractantes conviendront, sans différer, des secours ultérieurs qu'elles devront se donner»; et comme cela n'atteindrait pas les buts proposés et qu'il pourrait arriver des cas qui ne leur laisseraient pas le temps de convenir là-dessus, afin d'obvier aux inconvénients qui résulteraient nécessairement d'un pareil délai, elles se sont accordées à fixer, dès à présent et à tout événement, les moyens de leur défense. Dans cette vue, Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies a non seulement fait marcher vers les frontières de la Livonie, attenantes à la Lithuanie, mais s'engage aussi d'y tenir, tant que cette convention durera, aussi près de ces frontières que les quartiers pourront le permettre, un corps de ses troupes montant à cinquante cinq mille hommes, c'est-à-dire, quarante mille hommes d'infanterie de ses troupes réglées, munis de l'artillerie nécessaire, et quinze mille de cavalerie, composée de trois régiments de cuirassiers, de vingt compagnies de grenadiers à cheval, de deux régiments de hussards et le reste, de troupes légères, savoir, de Cosaques et de Calmouks, chacun à deux chevaux, autant qu'il faudra pour rendre complets ces quinze mille hommes de cavalerie, de sorte que le tout, infanterie et cavalerie, formera un corps complet de cinquante cinq mille hommes.

Article 3.

Sa Majesté Impériale s'engage, en outre, de faire tenir prêtes, durant le temps marqué ci-dessus, sur les côtes de la province sus-mentionnée, quarante à cinquante galères avec l'équipage requis, en état d'agir au premier ordre.

Article 4.

Le corps de troupes et les galères, mentionnés dans les deux articles précédents, ne devront être mis en activité, que dans le cas où Sa Ma-

jesté britannique ou aucun de ses alliés serait attaqué; et, dans ce cas-là, le général commandant en chef le dit corps, qui pour cet effet sera muni d'avance des ordres de Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies, se mettra en mouvement dès qu'il recevra la réquisition de la part de Sa Majesté britannique, et fera, le plustôt qu'il sera possible, une diversion avec un corps de trente mille hommes d'infanterie, pourvu de l'artillerie nécessaire, et avec tous les quinze mille hommes de cavalerie sus-mentionnés, et embarquera, en même temps, les autres dix mille hommes d'infanterie sur les quarante à cinquante galères, pour faire une descente, suivant l'exigence des cas et l'utilité du service.

Article 5.

En cas que les états de Sa Majesté britannique en Allemagne soient envahis, pour des intérêts ou des démêlés, qui regardent ses royaumes, Sa Majesté Impériale déclare qu'elle considérera une telle invasion, comme un cas de l'alliance susdite de 1742 et que les dits états y seront compris à cet égard.

Article 6.

En considération d'une augmentation si importante du secours stipulé par le traité d'alliance défensive mentionné ci-dessus, Sa Majesté britannique promet et s'engage de faire payer à Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies la somme de trois cent mille livres sterling par an, à compter du jour que le corps de ses troupes aura passé les frontièrès de ses états, en conséquence de la réquisition faite par Sa Majesté le Roi de la Grande-Bretagne. Cette somme sera payée à Riga, et toujours quatre mois en avance, par le commissaire que Sa Majesté britannique tiendra auprès du corps auxiliaire, comme sera dit ci-après, et le premier paiement s'en fera le jour que ce corps sortira des états de Sa Majesté Impériale.

Article 7.

De plus, en considération de l'utilité que les intérêts de Sa Majesté britannique et le service commun pourront retirer du corps de cavalerie irrégulière et des galères dont Sa Majesté Impériale renforce ce secours, Sa Majesté britannique consent de lui faire payer, outre ce qui est accordé dans l'article précédent, une somme annuelle de cinquante mille livres ster-

ing, à compter du même jour que ci-dessus et payable de la même manière.

Article 8.

Comme Sa Majesté Impériale de toutes les Russies est particulièrement intéressée à la conservation de la tranquillité du nord et à ce qu'il n'arrive point d'innovation dans le voisinage de ses états, vu aussi la proximité des pays où la diversion, dont il s'agit, doit, probablement, se faire et la facilité que ses troupes auront de subsister, d'abord en pays ennemi, elle se charge seule, pendant une telle diversion, de la subsistance et du traitement des dites troupes par mer et par terre, comme aussi de la grosse artillerie dont elles pourront avoir besoin et des détails qui y appartiennent.

Article 9.

Sa Majesté Impériale s'engage de continuer la diversion à faire et de ne point rappeler ses troupes, quand même elle serait attaquée par quelqu'autre puissance. De l'autre côté, Sa Majesté britannique promet qu'en cas que Sa Majesté l'Impératrice soit troublée dans la dite diversion ou qu'elle soit attaquée elle-même, Sa Majesté britannique lui fournira d'abord le secours stipulé par le traité de 1742.

Article 10.

En cas que, contre toute attente, la guerre vint à s'allumer, Sa Majesté britannique s'engage d'envoyer dans la mer Baltique une escadre de ses vaisseaux d'une force convenable aux circonstances, et l'amiral de cette escadre agira de concert avec l'armée impériale russe, autant qu'elles seront à portée l'une de l'autre.

Article 11.

Pour faire les paiements sus-mentionnés et pour la commodité et la promptitude de la correspondance, Sa Majesté britannique tiendra auprès du corps auxiliaire (qui sera commandé, uniquement, par le général que Sa Majesté l'Impératrice mettra à leur tête, duquel dépendra aussi celui qui commandera sur les galères) un commissaire, lequel, aussi bien que l'amiral de l'escadre britannique, en cas qu'il y en ait, sera toujours invité et admis aux conseils généraux de guerre et aura d'ailleurs communication de tout ce qui peut regarder le service commun.

Article 12.

Tout le butin que les troupes russiennes feront sur l'ennemi, de quelque nature et nom qu'il puisse être, restera au profit de ces mêmes troupes.

Article 13.

En cas que ces troupes auxiliaires fussent obligées de toucher, dans leur marche, les terres de la république de Pologne, Sa Majesté britannique se charge du soin de leur obtenir de sa majesté polonaise et de la république de Pologne, le libre passage par les dites terres.

Article 14.

Cette convention durera l'espace de quatre années, à compter du jour que les ratifications en seront échangées.

Article 15.

En cas que la paix se fît ou que l'objet de la diversion à faire n'existât plus, avant l'expiration des quatre années mentionnées ci-dessus, le susdit corps auxiliaire retournera aussi, avant ce temps-là, dans les états de Sa Majesté Impériale, et Sa Majesté britannique consent qu'après le retour, il jouisse de trois mois du subside accordé. Mais, dans le cas que la paix ne se fît point avant ce terme, alors les parties contractantes conviendront ultérieurement de la prolongation de cette convention.

Article 16.

La présente convention sera ratifiée etc. P. R. O. Russia. 17 53. № 66.

Article secret.

Comme Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de toutes les Russies a fait représenter à Sa Majesté britannique que la marche des troupes, tant infanterie que cavalerie, stipulées dans le traité signé aujourd'hui, vers les frontières de la Livonie, comme aussi l'artillerie, avec ce qui y appartient, dont Sa Majesté Impériale s'est chargée, et la dépense requise pour les y entretenir pendant quatre années, aussi bien que les préparatifs nécessaires pour tenir prêtes les galères durant le dit terme ont déjà coûté et doivent coûter encore de grands frais par dessus ce qu'il aurait fallu autrement pour le service ordinaire de ces troupes.

En considération de ce que dessus et de la grande utilité dont sera

le séjour d'un tel corps de troupes dans la province susdite, pour le terme de quatre années, et pour mettre Sa Majesté Impériale d'autant plus en état d'en suppléer les frais, Sa Majesté britannique a bien voulu s'engager et s'engage, par cet article, de fournir la somme de deux cent mille livres sterling indépendamment du subside promis par le traité pour ces troupes, lorsqu'elles seront en activité, de laquelle somme cent mille livres sterling seront payées une année après l'échange des ratifications, et les autres cent mille livres sterling à l'expiration des quatre années que ce traité doit durer. Bien entendu qu'il sera libre à Sa Majesté britannique d'envoyer, une fois chaque année, dans la dite province de Livonie un commissaire pour voir et examiner le nombre et l'état des dites troupes. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 311.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 2-d October 1753.

Secret. Sir. You will have seen, by my letter of the 24-th of August, by the austrian courier, how justly dissatisfied the King was with your conduct in consequence of His Majesty's orders sent you in my letter of the 9-th of March last.

I hope, you will have been so fully convinced of your mistake, that it is altogether unnecessary to give you the strictest charge to adhere, in every thing, to the letter of the orders now sent you. It is, in that firm persuasion, that the King has thought proper to trust you with the execution of them.

The offers which you are authorised to make of the two considerable sums of 100.000 pounds sterling each (the one to be paid, at the end of the first year and the other at the end of the fourth, when the treaty expires) and of the subsidy of 350.000 pounds for the troops, when they shall enter into His Majesty's pay upon requisition from the King, are so ample, that it is not to be supposed that the court of Russia can refuse them or make any objection to them. And, therefore, His Majesty forbids you, upon pain of his highest displeasure, to let anything drop either to the russian or austrian ministers, or to any person who may convey it to them, that you are not enjoined by your orders to break off the negotiation, and send back your courier with an account that you have done so, if any alteration is made, either in the articles

of the counter project, or in the secret article relating to the 200.000 pounds. But, in case you shall find that it is absolutely impossible to conclude upon the foot of the counter project and the secret article, as they now stand, and not otherwise, you may agree that the last 100.000 pounds, which was to be paid at the end of the fourth year, should be paid at the end of the second; provided it is expressed in the article that the King shall be at liberty to send a commissary, the two remaining years, to see and inspect the troops in their quarters, that His Majesty may be satisfied as to their numbers and the places of their quarters.

In this case the whole two hundred thousand pounds will be paid within two years from the exchange of the ratifications. By Cleverly, P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 312.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 2-d October 1753.

Very secret. Sir. I acquainted you, in my last *very secret* letter, in answer to that which I had received from you upon the subject of the great chancellor, that I should send you His Majesty's pleasure upon that head, at the same time, that I should transmit to you the counter project of the treaty.

The King having given up the bond, the ten thousand pounds, formerly lent, are by that release an absolute gift, now, to count Bestuchef.

You was further authorised to promise 2.500 pounds upon the signing of the treaty and 2.500 more upon the march of the troops. Besides a further expectation in case the great chancellor should deserve it, by lessening the quantum of the subsidy to be given for the troops, when taken into pay. Since that, His Majesty has been pleased to offer 200.000 pounds to the Empress of Russia for the march and continuance of the troops in Livonia for four years; so that indeed the merit of m-r de Bestuchef will be the less, when the King gives the Empress, his mistress, so great a consideration. But however, as His Majesty has offered 2.500 pounds at two different periods, I may now acquaint you that the King will put these two sums together and make a present of 5.000 pounds to the great chancellor, if he shall procure the treaty to be made and ratified upon the terms and conditions, contained in the counter project now sent you, inclosed in my other letter.

But, if the treaty miscarries, whatever money may have been raised by the chancellor in consequence of the hopes, given him by you, in case the treaty had succeeded, will then turn upon himself and be to be reimbursed by him. And if you represent this to him in this light, it must engage him for his own sake to exert himself upon this occasion.

You seem not to doubt the great chancellor's power, his interest is certainly as clear, as his power, and if he has the power, and it is his interest, I should hope that you would not have any great difficulty in making it his inclination to do so.

You say, that *«the sum in your opinion should not be small, and then you are very much mistaken or it will stagger him and make him exert his utmost endeavours to have things concluded upon the foot, His Majesty shall propose»*.

Five thousand pounds cannot be reckoned a small sum, especially after the release of the bond for 10.000.

M-r Keith and the court of Vienna know nothing of any letter to you, but the great one, inclosing the counter project; and you will, therefore, keep the contents of the others an absolute secret from the imperial ambassador at Moscow. By Cleverly. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 313.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 2-d October 1753.

Most secret. Sir. I am, in the greatest confidence, to acquaint you that I know for certain that the king of Prussia is under the greatest alarm, that he says that the russian troops in Livonia encrease every day and that he concludes that the agreement between the King and the Empress of Russia must be made, though he has no certain knowledge of it. It would, therefore, be the most unfortunate thing, if, in these circumstances, this negotiation should now miscarry from the obstinacy of the court of Russia and the extravagance of their demands. I hope, therefore, you will exert your utmost ability and attention to prevent it. You know upon what conditions it may be concluded and you must, therefore, know, whose fault it will be, if it miscarries.

I must, upon this occasion, put you in mind that you gave it as your opinion, the last year, that a subsidy of 50.000 pounds a year would be accepted. What is now proposed is, at least, equal to that, in all events;

besides the very advantageous conditions in case the troops should be employed.

There are many other considerations now that did not exist then; which make it the interest of the Empress and of the russian minister to accept these conditions.

I am amazed that I have heard nothing further from you of the march of the russian troops, nor any thing relating to this negotiation, since the departure of Money from Moscow. By Cleverly. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 314.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 23-d September (4-th October) 1753.

My lord. On Sunday last general Bretlack, the imperial ambassador, had a courier from his court, by whom I received the honor of your grace's several letters of the 24-th August, but my astonishment at the contents of them is so great, that I must beg to be excused from returning my answer, untill the arrival of the other dispatches which were soon to follow. When these come to hand, I shall write to your grace upon all the points which seem to give you so much uneasiness, and with the freedom becoming a man, who is conscious of his warm and, at the same time, my lord, permit me to say, prudent zeal for the King's and the nation's service. R. 3-d November. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 315.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 12-th October 1753.

All in cypher. Sir. I received, since my last of the 2-d instant, your letters of the 30-th of August and 10-th September last n. s.

I cannot conceal from you the King's surprise, that at so critical a conjuncture, as the present, when letters from almost every court are full of the march of the russian troops to the frontiers of Livonia and are assigning causes for it, you should continue your silence, either as to their numbers, their setting out, their progress, or the supposed time of their arrival in Livonia, or whether any particular general officer is appointed

to command them. And it is the more extraordinary that, as you had had an opportunity of being alone with the great chancellor at his country house, you should send no account of any thing that had passed, either relating to your negotiation, or to any one single point of business of importance. For it is very immaterial to the King or the public, whether there is one or two treaties subsisting between Moscovy and Sweden.

His Majesty has received an intelligence for which the King hopes that there can be no foundation, though His Majesty has ordered me to send you an account of it.

It is given out that the Empress of Russia is grown quite weary of business and that she has entirely lost her steadiness and personal authority; so that the great chancellor is unable to do any thing of moment and but carely keeps his post. That there is a scheme on foot to transfer the administration of affairs, if possible, to the grand duke, by the means of the french party; to which end m-r Hoffner is to be placed about his royal highness by the recommendation of the king of Sweden. And, as the presence of a french minister is necessary to form, animate and direct the party, it is proposed to send an accredited person to the grand duke upon pretence of negotiating a treaty of commerce between France and the dutchy of Holstein, since the court of France cannot, at present, address a minister immediately to the Empress.

The great view is to detach Russia from her present allies, to unite the three northern powers and to make them all dependent upon France. The great chancellor's fall, you may imagine, is a necessary part of this supposed design; from whence I conclude, they would infer, that all the chancellor's enemies are to take part in it. And, if one could give any credit to such a notion, one should necessarily conclude that this m-r Maubrun, whose arrival and stay at Moscow cannot but give some suspicion, is concerned in this affair.

Though the King is persuaded that these intrigues, if really set on foot, will miscarry of themselves; yet His Majesty would have you communicate this letter to the great chancellor. One may easily imagine, from whence these schemes, if there are any such, originally took their rise. It, therefore, deserves the chancellor's utmost attention, to prevent any appearances, either on the part of the Empress, or in that of the grand duke, which may give the least encouragement to the french and prussian party to make any such attempts; for, the very surmise of them will not fail to do mischief and to lessen the weight and credit of the court of Russia, and to discourage their friends in all places.

M-r Bestuchef will, undoubtedly, take care to have m-r Maubrun very narrowly watched; and, perhaps, it would be advisable to send him out of the country; as there is reason to think that he may be employed upon some secret commission. It is remarkable that, some time ago, I acquainted you that it was thought that the court of France had a design to renew a correspondence with Russia by the means of a person who was to be sent under a pretence of negotiating some business with the grand duke, as duke of Holstein, and that that is now made a part of the present scheme; and it is a material circumstance that there is actually at Moscow a french gentleman who appears to be a man of sense and consideration, whose business is not known and who, possibly, may be the person designed to be charged with the abovementioned commission to the grand duke, though he has not yet thought proper publicly to declare it.

Upon your communicating that intelligence to the great chancellor, he, then, told you that the Empress would stop any such person upon the frontiers and not suffer him to come into her dominions. The sending m-r Maubrun away in a civil manner (for which many pretences might be taken) would not be so strong a part as that and might, probably, be the best and shortest way of defeating any attempts of this kind.

It is His Majesty's pleasure that you should send constant accounts, by every post, of what passes and that you should be very particular, as to every thing that relates to the russian troops, which are supposed to be on their march towards the frontiers of Livonia. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

Papier de réflexions remis par le comte de Colloredo le 5 Septembre 1753 (copie).

Réflexions.

Le sort de l'Europe est actuellement entre les mains de la cour de Londres. La sûreté commune, la guerre ou la paix, tout, enfin, va dépendre du parti qu'elle prendra sur le projet de convention qui vient de lui être proposé de la part de la cour de Pétersbourg.

Aucune des considérations possibles sur l'important objet, dont il s'agit, n'échappera, sans doute, à la supériorité des lumières de Sa Majesté britannique, à la prudence de son ministère et au zèle de la nation anglaise pour tout ce qui intéresse sa liberté et celle de ses alliés.

On est très éloigné, par conséquent, d'imaginer pouvoir rien suggérer

que la cour de Londres n'ait pensé d'avance. Mais il est des circonstances dans lesquelles, par la moindre dissimulation, on manquerait à ce que l'on se doit entre amis, et celle dont il s'agit est si bien de ce genre, si importante et si délicate et même si décisive, que l'on croit ne pouvoir se dispenser de lui communiquer sans réserve les réflexions que l'on a faites sur la matière.

La cour de Vienne sent fort bien qu'il doit être embarrassant et difficile à celle de Londres d'accorder, en temps de paix, un subside d'un million d'écus d'Hollande par an et trois millions en cas de guerre pour un corps de troupes russiennes, indépendamment du considérable objet de leur entretien. Elle se met à sa place, elle ne se dissimule aucune des difficultés qu'il peut y avoir, elle est même très convaincue que telle dépense quelconque qui pourrait faire tort à un allié tel que l'Angleterre, lui en ferait à elle-même; et si cela peut être agréable à Sa Majesté britannique, elle n'épargnera point les instances les plus pressantes pour porter la cour de Pétersbourg à donner les mains à des conditions moins onéreuses.

Mais lorsqu'elle réfléchit cependant en même temps, sans prévention sur l'immense utilité de la convention, et, en même temps, sur les dangers et le tort irréparable qui résulteraient de l'épargne de la somme en question, elle ne saurait envisager que comme une vérité incontestable, que jamais, en temps de paix, dépense n'aurait été faite plus à propos et que la nation, ainsi que la cause commune en retirerait des avantages inestimables.

La France ne peut faire la guerre avec apparence de succès, qu'en autant que par le moyen du roi de Prusse elle pourra compter diviser les forces alliées. Ce prince étant donc dans le cas de devoir rester tranquille, on peut répondre, pour ainsi dire, du maintien de la tranquillité générale, et il est pourvu, par conséquent, par ce moyen, s'il existe, à la sûreté de la nation anglaise et à celle des alliés en général.

Moyennant un million d'écus d'Hollande par an, l'Angleterre disposera non seulement de 60 m., mais même de 150 m. hommes des troupes faciles à recruter et de la meilleure espèce. Elle décidera de la balance dans le nord, dans toute l'Europe même, et disposera à son gré des Russes qu'elle gouvernera en ce cas et qui ne pourront prendre aucune mesure militaire sans sa volonté.

La somme d'un million d'écus peut donc être regardée comme un moyen d'épargne certain de millions sans nombre que coûterait nécessairement une nouvelle guerre possible tous les jours, attendu la façon de penser et les projets notoires des ennemis de la cause commune.

La cour de Londres est trop éclairée pour pouvoir perdre de vue et oublier un instant, quelles que puissent être les manœuvres politiques et les protestations de la France, que le commerce et la puissance de la nation anglaise sont constamment le principal objet de son attention et de sa jalousie, que l'affaiblissement et la destruction de l'un et de l'autre est son but invariable, et qu'elle y parviendrait. s'il lui réussissait d'arrêter ou d'affaiblir seulement tôt ou tard la source de puissants secours et diversions, la plus féconde et la plus importante que puisse avoir la cause commune.

Jamais le danger n'en a été plus prochain. La cour de Londres sait, à n'en pouvoir douter, quels sont actuellement les pernicioeux projets de la France et du roi de Prusse et que l'on est dans le cas de ne pas pouvoir compter raisonnablement, pour ainsi dire, du jour au lendemain, sur la durée de la tranquillité publique.

Le seul moyen, mais infaillible, de mettre fin à un état si violent, c'est de tenir le roi de Prusse en échec, en lui opposant une puissance aussi considérable que la Russie. Cela suppose, il n'est pas vraisemblable, qu'il s'exposera au risque d'une guerre, et en ce cas, il l'est également que la France abandonnera l'idée de ses vastes projets.

On croit donc pouvoir conclure que, tout comme on doit s'attendre à une guerre universelle, s'il arrivait que les troupes russiennes rentrassent dans l'intérieur de la monarchie, il n'y en a nulle à craindre, si la convention peut avoir lieu.

L'appréhension seule d'une guerre possible et les incertitudes qui en résultent gênent et entraînent souvent des suites très fâcheuses dans les mesures du cabinet. Que n'en résulterait-il pas, si elles se réalisaient? Les conséquences, sans doute, les plus sérieuses et les plus tristes pour la cause commune et les intérêts de la nation anglaise en particulier.

Un subside d'un million d'écus décidera donc de la guerre ou de la paix, en rendra la cour de Londres l'arbitre, pourra épargner, en même temps, à la nation des sommes immenses et la mettre à couvert des dangers de la perte ou au moins de l'affaiblissement de son commerce; et comme tôt ou tard, aussi bien s'il survenait une guerre, on ne pourra pas se passer de la Russie et que l'on sera, par conséquent, dans le cas de devoir lui accorder peut-être des conditions plus fortes encore, si on est pressé par le besoin, le meilleur et seul moyen de les épargner paraît être celui d'accorder le subside en question.

La cour de Vienne pense donc que l'article de ce subside de paix pour les troupes russiennes est l'objet le plus important et que c'est sur

ce point qu'il pourrait convenir d'être plus facile et de tâcher de satisfaire la Russie.

De l'arrangement d'ailleurs de la convention, indépendamment de la guerre ou de la paix, l'Angleterre en retirerait encore beaucoup d'autres avantages très importants.

La gloire de la nation anglaise veut que son différend avec le roi de Prusse soit terminé convenablement; cela sera dès que ce prince verra la fermeté anglaise étayée par une armée auxiliaire aussi formidable.

L'Angleterre augmentera par là son crédit et sa considération vis-à-vis de toute l'Europe; elle rendra ses ennemis plus mesurés, enhardira et encouragera tous ceux de son parti.

On sait, de science certaine, que le ton qu'a pris le roi de Prusse, à l'occasion de son différend avec l'Angleterre, n'est dû qu'à la circonstance que les forces de la Russie se trouvaient dans l'intérieur de l'Empire et qu'à l'avis qu'il croyait certain que les Tartares aient déjà commencé des hostilités vis-à-vis de cette puissance, il n'avait plus rien à craindre de ce côté-là. Mais il est apparent que, quoiqu'il ne perde jamais de vue son objet, il changera de ton et se gardera bien d'exécuter ses menaces, dès qu'il verra les troupes russes à portée et prêtes à donner, au besoin.

Les différends qui subsistent encore entre la France et l'Angleterre et auxquels le commerce des deux nations donne occasion tous les jours, prendraient bientôt aussi une face plus favorable.

La cour de Dresde qui n'attend pour se décider sur son accession au traité défensif de Pétersbourg que le sort de cette négociation ne balancerait plus vraisemblablement et à celle de Madrid, entre autres, des mesures de l'Angleterre aussi solides que le seraient celles dont il s'agit ne pouvant qu'y augmenter considérablement le crédit de la nation, être très favorables dans les occasions aux intérêts de son commerce.

Enfin, la cour de Vienne croirait manquer essentiellement à Sa Majesté britannique qui a bien voulu la requérir de lui communiquer ses idées sur le moyen de renforcer l'alliance et d'affermir le système de la cause commune, si elle lui dissimulait qu'elle ne voit et ne connaît aucun autre moyen capable de produire cet effet salutaire, d'autant plus désirable qu'il devient, de jour en jour, plus nécessaire que celui d'opposer aux mesures solides et essentielles de nos ennemis, des mesures défensives qui ne le soient pas moins; attendu que la France et le roi de Prusse sont notoirement en état de mettre en campagne, de jour à autre, de nombreuses armées; que la France prodigue en tout lieu des subsides et tient à sa disposition des troupes auxiliaires, même au sein de l'Allemagne; que sa majesté

l'impératrice, quoiqu'elle fasse tous ses efforts pour être aussi puissamment armée qu'elle l'est, n'est néanmoins pas en état de pouvoir tenir, elle seule, contre un si grand nombre de voisins puissants et que malgré toute la dépense que l'Angleterre pourrait être disposée à faire, le cas de guerre effective existant, l'on serait exposé ou à ne point trouver du tout le nombre de troupes nécessaires, si on attendait le moment d'être pressé par le besoin, ou au moins à ne pas les trouver assez promptement pour parer les coups qui pourraient être portés à l'un ou à l'autre des alliés.

Il est donc très certain, moyennant toutes les vérités dont on vient de faire mention, et qui sont d'autant plus fâcheuses qu'elles sont incontestables, que le mal est grand.

Heureusement cependant, non seulement il n'est pas sans remède, mais il en est un, et il est infaillible.

Que la cour de Londres en accordant, si elle le peut, à la Russie le subside de paix, qui se trouvera être nécessaire, se mette dans le cas de pouvoir disposer du corps considérable de troupes qui lui est offert, et il sera pourvu à tout.

La paix, ainsi que la liberté commune, pourra dès lors être regardée comme assurée, et un corps d'état aussi respectable mettra le comble à la gloire et à la considération de Sa Majesté britannique et de la nation anglaise vis-à-vis de toutes les cours de l'Europe.

Mais si, tout au contraire, malheureusement on ne s'arrangeait pas sur la convention, alors la Russie n'étant point en état de tenir longtemps ses troupes rassemblées en Courlande et en Livonie et encore beaucoup moins d'exécuter la levée de 60 m. hommes de recrues, bien loin de recueillir tous les avantages susdits, on s'attirerait certainement de sa part le reproche amer de l'avoir engagée dans les frais considérables; on perdrait vraisemblablement le grand chancelier Bestouchef. Il en résulterait peut-être de plus fâcheux événements encore, du moment que la Russie verrait qu'elle ne doit plus se flatter d'aucun subside; et il serait à souhaiter enfin, si cela pouvait arriver, qu'il n'eût jamais été question de la marche des troupes russes; puisque n'étant pas à douter que la France et le roi de Prusse ne prennent des mesures réelles à l'avenant, il est clair que si la marche susdite n'avait pas lieu ou ne pouvait être soutenue, l'on serait beaucoup plus mal, que l'on n'aurait été, s'il n'en avait jamais été question.

A Dieu ne plaise que cela n'arrive! Un pareil événement entraînerait la perte du crédit et de la considération vis-à-vis de nos amis et de nos ennemis et mille autres suites affreuses à imaginer pour le maintien du système.

La cour de Vienne a une trop haute idée des grandes vues et de la pénétration de Sa Majesté britannique, pour ne pas se flatter qu'elle prendra dans cette occasion qui décidera, quant à présent, de la guerre ou de la paix et pour toujours de la sûreté de tous et un chacun des alliés, le seul parti capable de sauver la cause commune, et elle espère aussi que la cour de Londres prendra en bonne part la communication amiable de ses réflexions sur cet important objet. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 314.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 7-th (18-th) October 1753.

My lord. I received, by the last post, the honor of your grace's letter of the 18-th September. As soon as the great chancellor comes to town I shall not fail to communicate to him the advices you have received of the forwardness, in which the negotiation for renewing the french treaty of subsidy with Sweden is and that there will, in all probability, be an article in it relating to Poland and the case of the vacancy of the throne there. It will be, also, proper and necessary that I should discourse him upon the subject of the Frenchman Maubrun, whom your grace mentions in your abovementioned letter, for advices, from all parts, speak of him, as of a very dangerous man; but he begins not to be thought so here, for notwithstanding the orders given to have all his motions very narrowly watched, he is suffered to creep and insinuate himself, as a man of letters into the acquaintance and family of persons here of the first distinction and, in particular, with a declared young favourite now about the Empress, to whom the great chancellor himself is obliged to pay the greatest court. This man gives out that he had been banished France for some satirical writings he has published, and at the same time affects to speak very ill of that court, all which may be language he has been taught to hold, in order to conceal the better the commission he is charged with, though there are several here inclined to believe that what he says is true.

As I find, by your grace's abovementioned letter, that you were in expectation of receiving, soon, from me an answer to your dispatch of the 24-th of August upon those I wrote by Money, the messenger, I must repeat what I said, in mine of the 4-th instant n. s., that, untill the arrival of the other dispatches, which were soon to follow, it will be difficult for me to do it, for the ministers, here, will not explain themselves,

untill they see the terms and conditions of His Majesty's counter project; besides, the great chancellor is in the country; however, I have informed him, in general, through a trusty person, who goes between us, of some of the principal points of your grace's letter of the 24-th August, in order to prepare him for the King's counter project and to induce him to exert his best endeavours with the Empress, his mistress, that she may enter into the reasonable proposals which shall be made by His Majesty, but I have received no answer yet with respect to the march of the russian troops into Livonia. I had said so much of the orders issued for that purpose, several weeks before Money, the messenger, left this place, that I thought it needless to repeat the same in the dispatches I wrote by that messenger or in any of my letters since, especially as you had a confirmation of these advices by the promemoria of the 2-d July, signed by the two chancellors, which went by Money, the messenger. I have, now, before me a list of all the regiments which should be in that province in consequence of the abovementioned orders, consisting of three regiments of cuirassiers, 13 regiments of dragoons and 22 regiments of foot, exclusive of six thousand *irréguliers*. If these regiments be compleat and upon the foot they ought, according to the lists I sent your grace in November last, they must make near seventy thousand men; but, unless I had the mustering of them or the monthly returns, I cannot answer for the numbers, nor, hereafter, pretend to affirm, if all these corps be got to the places of their destination, which lye at near two hundred german miles distance from me.

This I can assure your grace to be true. First, that not two months ago, near three hundred of the choicest men were draughted out of the regiments here in Moscow and sent to Livonia, to fill up part of the non-effective in the regiments there; and 2-dly, that about the same time arrived here an express from Revel, to acquaint the Empress that fifty of her best gallies lay ready in that harbour, to put to sea at an hour's warning, upon any expedition she should be pleased to order.

The general who is to have the command in chief of this army is not yet appointed; whenever he is, the choice will in all probability fall upon general Apraxin, but they will not be, here, at the expence of naming general officers, nor proceeding to the raising the sixty thousand recruits, they want, to compleat their whole army, before they see if the proposals that shall be made by His Majesty will defray, in part, these and many other extraordinary expences which they must unavoidably run into, if, from being on the defensive, they put themselves in a condition to act offensively. R. 21-st November. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 317.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 14-th (25-th) October 1753.

My lord. Towards the latter end of last week, the great chancellor came to town with an intention to stay here the whole winter. He has not thought proper, yet, to give me an opportunity of speaking to him, but, two days ago, I received a message from him in answer to mine acquainting him, in general, with some of the principal points of your grace's dispatch of the 24-th August, by the austrian courier.

With respect to the displeasure I had incurred for taking upon me, without orders, to give a memorial in writing, the great chancellor desired me to tell your grace that it is impossible you should be unacquainted that, at this court, there are only two methods of transacting affairs with foreign ministers, which are equally the same: the one, by way of pro-memoria; the other, in a conference with him and the vice-chancellor, where every thing is taken down at *protocollum*; that, were this not the established rule, his, the great chancellor's, surprise would not be the less great at it's being expected in England, that, upon a loose verbal report, he should have taken upon himself, without the privity and communication of the other ministers of his department, to induce the Empress to enter into measures of such great importance, as those proposed, which, without any extraordinary or unforeseen events, may engage this Empire in three wars at once. That he was persuaded, your grace would be as cautious in any affair which might be attended with the same consequences, with regard to England; therefore, he must, freely, declare to your grace that, if we were not content, in England, to conform to the established method of treating affairs here, the best way would be to give over all thoughts of having any serious or important transactions between the two courts. For, in any affairs, on which it was necessary the Empress should come to a resolution, he would not take the least step, unless they were proposed to him in one of the abovementioned methods.

As to the point relating to the subsidy demanded here, which I sent word to the great chancellor was thought very exorbitant for the reason's alleged in your grace's abovementioned letter of the 24-th August, he desired your grace should be acquainted that he could not explain himself upon this article or make any the least use of the sentiments of our court upon it, before he had seen the counter project I expected soon to receive

and untill, then, he hoped I would not take it amiss, if he refused seeing me.

In the message I sent the great chancellor having dwelt much upon the unanimous opinion of the Senate, he is, I find, in a great alarm, lest, an improper use should be made of that paper and desires I would write to your grace that, if when the counter project comes, you found any of the arguments to persuade this court to enter into it upon the abovementioned paper, he cannot charge himself with one or the other that your grace may easily guess, from whom I received that paper and that it would be a very ill return for his confidence, to make any use of it which may expose and, perhaps, ruin him. As the imperial ambassador talks of dispatching a courier one day next week, I shall make use of that opportunity to answer all the other points of your grace's letter of the 24-th August.

This day at noon, general Bretlack went with the usual ceremonies to the castle and had his audience of leave of the Empress, and next Sunday is fixed for count Esterhazy's having his first audience.

One day last week died here doctor Boerhave, Her Imperial Majesty's first physician. R. 23-d November. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 318.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 26-th October 1753.

All in cypher. Sir. Though I suppose the chancellor Bestuchef may have had fuller accounts from the russian minister at the Porte, yet His Majesty has ordered me to send you an extract of m-r Porter's last letter, whereby you will see the insinuations which the french ambassador is making upon the supposed march of the Russians to Livonia; which, however, do not appear to have made any great impression.

It is now said that the report of the march of a great body of russian troops into Livonia was without foundation and that there were no more than were necessary, to make up the numbers which were usually kept there.

I cannot conceal from you that the King is extremely dissatisfied that he has, yet, no certain account from you with relation to the march of these troops and that you have neither contradicted, nor confirmed what you said about them so many months ago, so that His Majesty is absolutely at a loss what judgement to make upon it.

PS. It is His Majesty's express command that you should, forthwith, send an account of the numbers of the russian troops which were in Livonia before the orders which you mentioned, to have been given, in your letter of the 4-th of June last n. s., and, also, of the numbers which have been actually sent thither in consequence of those orders, and when they went and, at what time they arrived there. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 319.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 6-th November 1753.

All in cypher. Sir. I received on Saturday last your letter of 23-d September (4-th October), by which I find that you had had my letters of the 24-th of August by an austrian courier.

You will not be surprised that His Majesty was dissatisfied with some expressions in your letter, when you consider that what I wrote to you was by the King's express command and that the disapprobation of your conduct was by His Majesty's order.

I am sorry that, notwithstanding, you saw by my letter of the 24-th of August, that the King expected to have had some account from you of the number of troops that had actually marched towards the frontiers of Livonia; you should not have made the least mention of it in your letter, so that His Majesty still remains in the same uncertainty he was in, when I wrote and I am afraid may continue so for some time, as you said that you should defer writing any thing untill the arrival of the counter project, an event which, from the nature and importance of it must have been uncertain, as to the time, and in fact the counter project was not dispatched from hence, untill six weeks after the sending away those orders; and the arrival of it at Moscow was not, in the least, material for enabling you to send the King the necessary informations with regard to the march of the russian troops.

I will, however, hope that upon reflection and in consequence of the repeated orders which you will have received, you will send some account of the march of the russian troops, whether it has yet taken place and in what manner; for, at present, that whole affair appears very misterious to the King and His Majesty will probably remain in the same uncertainty about it for two months longer, if you wait for the arrival of the counter project, before you send any further accounts of it.

I acquainted you in several of my letters with the intelligence which I have received of the methods proposed by the court of France to renew their correspondence with Russia and to bring that court into their views and interests and those of the king of Prussia. I have, now, reason to think that one abbé Minoret, who was put about the elector of Cologne and who was employed by France to detach that elector from his alliance with the King, about three years ago (in which he succeeded), was lately at Hamburgh and is now gone or going to Copenhagen and, from thence, is to proceed to Moscow, undoubtedly upon a secret commission.

He has been lately at Berlin and has received his instructions from the king of Prussia, himself. You will, therefore, immediately acquaint the great chancellor with this intelligence; and I suppose, he will take care, according to the assurances which he gave you, to have this person stopped, as soon as he arrives upon the frontiers of the Empress's dominions. But if notwithstanding any precautions which the great chancellor may take, the abbé Minoret should get to Moscow, you will use your utmost endeavours to inform yourself of his business and to prevent his doing any mischief. The King can have no doubt, but you will find the great chancellor ready to exert himself to the utmost in order to prevent so dangerous a person from being suffered to come to Moscow; and that he will take effectual care to disappoint the success of his commission. He certainly will be an agent and instrument of the king of Prussia and is sent by him to Moscow. M-r Titley is directed to send you all the intelligence which he can procure about him ¹⁾. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 320.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 1-st (12-th) November 1753.

My lord. The austrian courier, by whom I proposed writing to your grace (as I acquainted you in my letter of the 25-th past), by the usual delay, which the dispatch of all kind of business meets at this court, is still here, and I suspect, very much, he has been detained, in part, on my account; for on Thursday last, most unexpectedly, I was called to a conference with the two chancellors, where I was asked, in a peevish

¹⁾ При этомъ письмѣ приложенъ второй экземпляръ контръ-проекта конвенціи, отосланнаго при письмѣ отъ 2-го Октября.

manner, if I had yet received no answers from England to the dispatches I sent by Money, the messenger, on the 18-th July last n. s. That the time drew near, that they were to raise the sixty thousand recruits they want to compleat their army and which could only be done in this season of the year. For, if they went about it in the summer, they should lose several thousand boors who, as on former occasions, would run and hide themselves in the woods, not to be inlisted and afterwards, especially on the side of Poland, steal out of the country.

My answer was very short, that your grace had acknowledged the receipt of the abovementioned dispatch and acquainted me that the King had ordered a counter project to be prepared, in which due regard would be had to what was reasonable on both sides. As soon as I received it, I would communicate it to their excellencies. This was all I thought proper to say in the presence of the vice-chancellor, so the conference was very short. But before I went away the great chancellor told me, with the same ill humour he had shown in the beginning of this conference, that I should soon be further acquainted with the Empress's thoughts upon this extraordinary delay of my court in an affair of such very great consequence, but I have not heard from his excellency since and I hope now to furnish him matter for new thoughts. For, yesterday morning, very early, Cleverly, the messenger, arrived here and delivered to me your grace's several letters of the 2-d October n. s. The same evening I sent word of it to the great chancellor and that, as the counter project I expected was come, I hoped he would give me an opportunity of speaking to him and to him alone, as soon as possible, so that I am now waiting for his answer.

I received, also, by the last post, the honor of your grace's letter of the 12-th October n. s. and shall not fail to make a proper use of the contents of it, when I see the great chancellor. In general, I will, however observe to your grace that, if you consider how much we have been all scattered, this last summer, it will not appear surprising that I have not mentioned anything in relation to my negotiation or any point of business, since the departure of Money, the messenger, nor would your grace think it strange, if you entered a little into the situation of a foreign minister at this court, when he writes too little or too much. For every thing is done here by starts and in extremes. When I was with the great chancellor at his country house, I avoided purposely speaking to him about our affair, as I knew, all I could say would not persuade him of the unreasonableness of their demands, before I had received an answer from your grace. Therefore, all that passed between us, upon that

subject was calculations about the time, when I might expect another messenger from England.

Having since my last got a sight of the regulations made here for the quarters of the army for the ensuing year, I am now able to assure your grace that there is actually in Livonia or on the frontiers of that province and Lithuania, an army of sixty two thousand five hundred men. Besides which there lyes, between Narva and Petersburg, nine regiments of foot, of three battalions each, making above twenty thousand men ready to join the abovementioned army, if necessary.

I will get a copy of this regulation and transmit it to your grace by the first safe conveyance.

The Empress has now declared her intentions of returning to Petersburg at the latter end of next May only. Her reason for not going in winter, as usual, is that, as she had never seen the country but covered with snow, she would be glad to have a view of it in summer, and of the several beautifull situations and prospects which lye between this and Petersburg.

As I was going to sign this letter, I heard canons firing, drums beating and bells ringing and was told that the whole town was in confusion and alarm, the Empress's palace, by what accident I am not yet informed, being all in flames. Whereupon I sent immediately a servant on horse back to examine how things were, who being returned tells me that two thirds of the winter palace is already reduced to ashes, and that the Empress and the great duke and dutchess were retired to the summer palace, which by its contiguity was likewise in great danger. This was all he could learn, so that I must defer untill the next post giving your grace farther particulars of this melancholy event. R. 11-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 321.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 4-th (15-th) November 1753.

My lord. Just as the post was going out on Monday evening last I informed your grace of the confusion this town was in, on occasion of the fire that had broke out in the Empress's winter palace. The next morning, I heard that no part of the said palace was remaining, but all burnt down to the ground and that Her Imperial Majesty went the evening before

to Pokrofskoie, a little country house, about three wersts from town. This accident was entirely owing to the negligence of some servants who were heating the stoves.

The moment the Empress was informed of it, she ordered her coach to be got ready and went herself to the place, where the fire had begun and observing that the whole palace was in danger, if some immediate stop was not put to it, she ordered six cannon shot to be fired into that part, where it burned with the greatest fierceness, but this having no effect and Her Imperial Majesty apprehending from the great crowds of people gathering together, that some accident might happen, she put a stop to the firing of the cannon and ordered that they should let the whole building burn to the ground, which being all of wood was done in less than three hours time. During all the time the Empress was present at the fire, she showed the greatest unconcern and gave her directions with all the calmness of mind imaginable. The next evening Her Imperial Majesty came from Pokrofskoie to see a comedy acted at the play house which lies close to the ruins of her winter palace.

The great chancellor, who cannot avoid on this occasion being very assiduous in paying his court to the Empress at the abovementioned country house, has not been able yet to fix me any particular day or hour, for seeing or speaking to him; but, when this present confusion is over and the Empress settled in the new habitation, she shall think proper to chose, I hope the chancellor will fall seriously to work and not let me be as long in redispaching Cleverly, as I was Money, the messenger.

The swedish minister has lately given in here a very angry promemorial, threatning that his court would break off the conferences for regulating the limits, if no regard was had on this side to their just demands and pretensions. R. 15-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 322.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 8-th (19-th) November 1753.

My lord. Though I have twice sent to the great chancellor since my letter, by the last post, earnestly desiring him to fix some day and hour for me to see him, I have obtained no satisfactory answer yet, being put off from one day to another under some frivolous pretence or other. As he is prepared that great deductions are made in their demands, I wish

he may not be afraid to see me alone; so that, as happened last Thursday was sennight, I shall, perhaps, be called to a conference with both the chancellors, before I have spoke and settled matters with the great chancellor, and which would not puzzle me a little. But, at all events, your grace may be perfectly easy, as, at present, I shall certainly rather err by being too cautious than too little so. I could only have wished, something had been sent to me in return to the Empress's friendly and affectionate declarations, contained in the papers I transmitted to your grace by Money, the messenger. For, it is not her fault, if general Apraxin, who has the drawing up of all the military estimations, would make us now pay for the rich sword he has been so long expecting.

Since the damage and losses occasioned by the late fire are discovered, a great deal of ill humour reigns at court, though they conceal it as much as they can. Not only the Empress's great wardrobe has been all consumed, but a great deal of money and several jewels have been lost or stole, to the value, including the wardrobe, of near one million of roubles.

The affair of m-r Funk the saxon minister's recall seems to be entirely dropt. M-r Bestuchef at Dresden, though proper to charge himself at last with the king of Poland's letter to the Empress upon that subject and sent it to the vice-chancellor, who, we know, has received it. But neither the Empress, nor he having taken the least notice of it to the great chancellor, we suppose Her Imperial Majesty has altered her mind. At least, we have reason to think so from her present behaviour to m-r Funk. R. 18-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 323.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 11-th (22-d) November 1753.

My lord. All I have to trouble your grace with, by this post, is to let you know that this day I have had a message from the great chancellor, appointing me to come to him, after to-morrow towards noon, when he should be at leisure to hear all I had to say and to fix the conference, on which I may execute the orders I am charged with. Count Esterhasy, the new imperial ambassador, is in the same case with me, having been sending almost every day for this fortnight to the great chancellor, without being able to speak to him. R. 27-th December. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 324.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 15-th (26-th) November 1753.

My lord. According to the great chancellor's appointment, which your grace was informed of, in my letter by the last post, I waited on him on Saturday last. After the first compliments were over and that we were seated, I pulled out of my pocket the counter project and secret article, which your grace transmitted to me in your letter of the second October by Cleverly, the messenger, and read over to the great chancellor, both the one and the other, explaining every article, as I went on in the very literal words of your grace's abovementioned letter.

As I was reading these papers and giving these explanations, the great chancellor shook, often, his head and, when I came to the secret article, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and cryed out he should be the victim of this affair; that he expected deductions would have been made and considerable ones too; but, nothing like what was now proposed by my court. Here he made a pause and then, growing very angry, said that he plainly saw our intention was to make the cats-paw of them, but God be thanked, the engagements between the two courts had not many years more to run. From this he was entering into calculations of what the raising sixty thousand recruits would cost and the difference of keeping such an army, as they offered, in a constant readiness to take the field or lying quiet in their quarters. But I interrupted him and said, these were not mercantile affairs; that the grand point was to know, whether the interests of this Empire were concerned in the measures proposed? That, as he had often declared to me, he was firmly of opinion, they were, I should be glad he would tell me why, in God's name, the Empress should not bear a little share of the expences, supposing the King's offers did not answer them fully; that this was not the way of treating between great princes and that, I thought, that he, as first minister of such a great Empire, should be ashamed to have the world think the Empress, his mistress, could not be moved by the consideration of acting so great a part in the affairs of Europe, as she had, now, an opportunity to do, by entering into the measures proposed by His Majesty. The great chancellor rose up here from his chair, saying he had a hard card to play, but would try and do his best; that he could not yet fix me a day for a conference with him and the vice-chancellor, but, if I would write to him, to-morrow,

desiring one in form he would, then, let me know, when they should be at leisure to receive me, which I shall accordingly do.

All I have to add is, that I thought I perceived in my conversation with the great chancellor that he had no very material objections to the counter project; but, the secret article was from the beginning to the end of hard digestion to him. R. 31-st December. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 325.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 18-th (29-th) November 1753.

My lord. I received, by the last post, the honor of your grace's letter of the 26-th October n. s., with an extract of m-r Porter's last letter, relating to the insinuations made by the french ambassador at the Porte, upon the march of some russian troops to Livonia. This court has received the same advice, and that the said ambassador hinted, at the same time, that the Porte would do well to attack this Empire on their side, as the Swedes could not avoid doing, on their's, in case the king of Prussia should be attacked. But the russian minister writes, as well as m-r Porter, that these insinuations had made no impression, the Porte having answered that those affairs did not concern them.

Your grace had in my letters of the 7-th October and 12-th November all I had been able to learn here, at Moscow, concerning the russian troops, which were ordered, in May last, to march towards Livonia. Since then, I have got a copy of the regulation, mentioned in the last of my abovementioned letters, for the quarters of the army, from September last 1753 to September next 1754, which, as it is in russian, I am getting translated, and shall transmit it to your grace by the first safe opportunity. As to the number of the russian troops, which were in Livonia and on the frontiers of that province, before the orders I mentioned in my letter of the 4-th of June to have been given, your grace has actually an account of them in your own office, by the regulation I sent your grace in November last for the quarters of the army from September 1752 to September 1753; so that, when your grace receives a copy of this new regulation, by comparing them both together you will see, what number of troops is in Livonia etc. etc. this year and what number was there the last. In the meantime, I propose sending your

grace an extract of this new regulation by the post, as soon as it is translated. I must sincerely tell your grace that, if you had not mentioned these troops to me, I should not have wrote one word concerning them, having seen a letter in August last, by which it appeared that the first advice I sent of the motion of these troops had given alarm in England and raised suspicions, as if it had been done at the instigation of the court of Vienna, who was desirous of war.

The day before yesterday, I wrote to the great chancellor, as we agreed, desiring a conference with him and the vice-chancellor upon some orders I had received from my court. I have got no answer yet, but am hourly expecting it. R. 6-th January 1754. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 326.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 22-d November (3-d December) 1753.

My lord. It was only to day, after repeated messages since my last, that I had a conference with the two chancellors, where I have at last executed the orders I had received by Cleverly, the messenger; but, as I am come home too late to write much by this post, all I shall say is that now this affair is in the way of being quickly dispatched, if the ministers please; but it is more than I can hope from the ill humour in which I found and left them. I plainly perceive, general Apraxin is not our friend in this negotiation by the new rules of arithmetic, which the great chancellor has learned since my private conference with him.

The Empress goes to-morrow to the cloister of Troitza, where she proposes to celebrate the anniversary of her accession, which is on Thursday next the 25-th instant. R. 10-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 327.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 25-th November (6-th December) 1753.

My lord. In my last, your grace had an account of my having had, that day, a conference with the russian ministers, in which I informed them of the orders I had received, by your grace's letter of the 2-d Octo-

ber, by Cleverly, the messenger. I shall now acquaint your grace with what passed at this conference.

On my arrival at the great chancellor's, I found him and the vice-chancellor ready to receive me and a secretary standing behind them, who was to hold the protocollum. As I expected things would be in this order, I had promised myself with a short extract out of your grace's above-mentioned letter, of what I proposed to say, in delivering to them His Majesty's counter project together with the secret article, which consisted in what follows.

That I had the honor to bring to their excellencies His Majesty's counter project, in answer to the project they had delivered to me in the conference of the 28-th June last.

That this counter project, as their excellencies would observe, was in almost every article different from the project given me by them, but, as it was founded on treaties subsisting between the two courts and that the opinion was general, that the interest of this Empire required absolutely Her Imperial Majesty's keeping a respectable corps of troops in Livonia and on the frontiers of Courland and Lithuania, my court hoped His Majesty's offers would be thought just and reasonable. Especially as the interest of both parties were equally considered in this counter project and ample satisfaction given for any extraordinary expence that the Empress of Russia may at any time be at, on account of this treaty.

I concluded by acquainting the two chancellors that I had received a full power, authorising me to sign a treaty with them upon the terms and conditions of the said counter project.

This being taken down at protocollum by the secretary who attended at the conference, I proceeded to the reading over the counter project and secret article, both which after I had done, I laid upon the table before the two chancellors.

The answer returned to me, at first, by the two chancellors was very short, viz-t: that they would not fail to make a report to the Empress, their mistress, of all that had passed in this conference and inform me, in due time, of her intentions thereupon. But, afterwards, the great chancellor thought proper to say that, as an instance how disproportionable the King's offers were to their expences, he would only mention the article of the sixty thousand recruits, which would cost them above six millions of roubles; to which the vice-chancellor added, that, as they were under no apprehension of being attacked themselves from any quarter, he did not see, why they should be at such a great expence, without any ne-

cessity. They then made a comparison between what England had formerly given for twelve thousand Hessians and six thousand Danes and the offers contained in the papers, I had delivered to them. And as I found, they were running into farther heats and that I could not speak freely in the presence of the vice-chancellor, I put an end to the conference by getting up and telling them, at the same time, that, when they had weighed and considered the papers, I had put into their hands, I hoped they would not only be of another opinion, but persuaded that the mesures proposed were as much for their interests and security, as His Majesty's.

By what passed at this conference I plainly perceived, as I acquainted your grace in my last, that the great chancellor must have had, since I saw him, in private some conversation with general Apraxin upon our affairs and I am, since, informed that I was not mistaken, but I have reason to hope, the great chancellor is come to another way of thinking again, it having been hinted to me, at his desire, that the chief difficulty with him lay, how to persuade the Empress to conclude matters upon another foot, than the convention for the 30.000 men, which were kept on the frontiers during the last war. But, if this be his only objection, we are not without hopes of it's being got over, at least, I am told so by general Bretlack, who has seen the great chancellor, since the conference of Monday last and confirmed him in the resolution of exerting his best endeavours to persuade the Empress to conclude matters upon the foot His Majesty has proposed.

The Empress being now at Troitza, nothing can be done in these affairs, untill after her return, which will be on Saturday or Sunday next; but next week, the great chancellor promises, he will fall seriously to work and retard, as little as he possibly can, the return of Cleverly, the messenger.

Having now got a translation of the regulation of the quarters of the russian troops for the ensuing year, I shall send your grace a short extract, how those in Livonia and the adjacent provinces are distributed. I shall begin by the foot of which there are two regiments in Courland, nineteen in Livonia and two in Estonia; in all twenty three of foot, of three battalions each, which three battalions making in compleat two thousand two hundred and ninety eight men, the total of the foot is fifty two thousand eight hundred and fifty four men. The horse consists in the following regiments, viz-t: one regiment of cuirassiers in Courland, one in Livonia and one in Esthonia; each regiment being of nine hundred and seventy three men makes two thousand nine hundred and nine horse. At Smo-

lensk and on the borders of Poland lie two regiments of dragoons; each of one thousand two hundred and fifty one men, which make two thousand and five hundred and two dragoons. At Pleskow and that neighbourhood, are quartered two regiments of hussars, which being of nine hundred and sixty three men each make nineteen hundred and twenty six hussars. On the great road to Riga lie a regiment of Cossacks of two hundred and forty one men and around Smolensk lie another body of four thousand Cossacks, so that the total of the horse, dragoons and Cossacks amount to eleven thousand eight hundred and eighty eight men; which added to the foot makes an army of sixty four thousand seven hundred and forty two men, all chosen troops and in excellent order, as I am assured by persons lately arrived here from Livonia and those parts. In the lists I shall transmit to your grace the names of every regiment of horse and foot are set down. About Novgorod, Ladoga and those parts lie for the convenience of the forages several regiments of dragoons, which in seven or eight days time can join the troops in Livonia and compleat the horse to the number of fifteen thousand, if necessary. R. 11-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 328.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 27-th November (S-th December) 1753.

My lord. Count Esterhasy dispatching two couriers out of four he has upon his hands to Vienna, I shall make use of that opportunity to transmit to your grace the two inclosed papers containing an account, how the whole russian army is distributed throughout this Empire, since the alteration made in their quarters, by the orders issued in May and June last, and I can assure your grace that it is not without some difficulty that I have obtained a communication of these new regulations, strict orders having been given that they should be kept secret.

In the paper marked № 1, your grace will see the quarters of the whole army by their several divisions, and though under the third is comprehended all the troops now in Livonia and the adjacent provinces, I have thought proper to add in another paper marked № 2 a more particular account of the troops in the abovementioned provinces with a calculation of the numbers they make, if they are compleat.

These lists His Majesty may entirely depend upon, which, I now find,

was not the case of that on which I made a report in my letter of the 7-th (18-th) October, for instead of thirteen regiments of dragoons, set down there as having marched into Livonia, there are no more than five, three of which lye at Novogrod and Stara Russa and are not included in the calculations made in the paper marked № 2. There are likewise no more, than five regiments of foot added to the regiments which were quartered there before, so that the total of the augmentation made to the troops in the abovementioned provinces amounts, including the 4.541 irregulars, to 18.488 men, which being deducted from the total of the army there at present, making 64.742, it will appear that there were in those provinces 46.254 men before this augmentation was made, and not 21.000, as some advices had reduced them to, and which we doubt not come out of some prussian forge, as well as the accounts published of the operations of prince Heraclius and of the motions of the Turks and Tartars in the frontiers of this Empire.

Having given your grace a full account by the last post of the state of my negotiation to that day, I have nothing to write upon it by this opportunity, only that the Empress is not yet returned from Troitza.

I here inclose to your grace, also, the copy of a *note* delivered to me, some time ago by the russian ministers, relating to some intrigues that are carrying on in Poland. 30-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 1. Liste générale de la répartition des troupes russes.

Première division.

Dans le gouvernement de Moscou.

Le général en chef Buturlin.

Infanterie.

Butirskoi	} à Moscou.	Lieutenant-général Teschneff?
1-mier Moskowskoi		
Jaroslawskoi		
Kurinskoi.	Serpuchow.	Majors- /Tsarévitsch Grusinski
Novaginskoi	Dimitrow.	généraux {de Tettau
Tinginskoi	Kislar.	commandent dans la ville de
Schirwanskoi.	} Kasan.	Moscou.
Nascheburgskoi		

Dragons.

Kiewskoi	{ dans le district de Tula.	Lieutenant-général de Dewitz.
Novogorodskoi	{ près de la ligne Tsaritsa.	Major-général Dawidow.
Asowskoi	{ district de Arsamas et Pen-	Brigadiers { Chomutow. Kosturin. Frauendorff.
Wolodimerskoi	{ sa.	
Rijskoi	Ieletz.	
Astrachanskoi	Schatzk.	
Kargapolskoi	{ Rjew et Wo-	
	{ lodimir.	
Nischegorodskoi	Subzow.	
Rostowskoi	Koslow.	
Régiments	{	Infanterie. . . 8
	{	Dragons . . . 9
		17

Seconde division.

St.-Pétersbourg.

Général en chef Alexandre Schuwalow.

Infanterie.

Ingermanlandskoi	Pétersbourg.	Lieutenant-général prince de Holstein.
Astrachanskoi	{ à St.-Péters-	
Permskoi		
Tobolskoi		
Tschernigowskoi	{ Narva.	Major-général Soltikow à Narva.
Uglitzkoi		
Schlussemburgskoi	Ladoga.	
Narwskoi	{ Peterhoff et	
	{ Crasno Selo.	
Kasanskoi	Novogorod.	Major-général prince Proso-
		rowsky.
Muromskoi	{ Strellna-Mysa	
	{ et autour de A Ladoga ou Novogorod.	
	{ Pétersbourg.	

Beloserskoi	Cronstadt.	Brigadiers	Mordwinow à Cronstadt.
Welikalutskoi	Wibourg.		Knutow à Novogorod.
Kabardinskoi			
Wolodimerskoi	Kexholm.		Baumann à Friedrichshaven.
Koporskoi	Friedrichshaven.		

Dragons.

Sibirskoi	dans les environs de Novogorod.
Narwskoi	
Wiatskoi	Stara Russa.
Hussards Gnissins	Kexholm.
Quelques compgies	

Auprès ce corps une partie de l'artillerie.

Régiments	Infanterie	15
	Dragons	3

18 outre les hussards.

Troisième division.

En Livonie.

Général en chef Peter Schuwalow.

Cuirassiers.

Régiment de corps de Sa

Majesté en Livonie. Lieutenant-général Lopuchin en Livonie.

Régiment de S. A. impériale

m-gneur le grand duc . . en Esthonie. Lieutenant-général de Browne en Esthonie.

Régiment le troisième . . en Courlande.

Dragons.

Tobolskoi { aux confins de Major-général comte de Golowin en Livonie.
Pologne.

Nowotroitzkoi.

Infanterie.

Nischegorodskoi } en Courlande. Général quartier-maître de Lieven en Courlande.
Kiewskoi }

St.-Pétersburgskoi . . .	Major-général de Werthern à Dorpat.	Briga- diers	{	Bodan en Livonie. de Lieven » Pleskow. Ritter » Smolensk.
Ladogskoi				
Archangelogorodskoi. . .				
Rostowskoi				
Susdalskoi				
Wiburgskoi				
2-d Moscowskoi				
Woronejskoi				
Novogorodskoi				
Wiatskoi				en Livonie.
Pskowskoi ou de Pleskow.				
Riazanskoi				
Wologodskoi				
Kexholmskoi				
Abscheronskoi				
Newskoi				
Smolenskoi				
Sibirskoi				
Asowskoi				
Troitzkoi				
Nisowskoi				Esthonie.

Hussards.

Serbskoi	{ Pleskow et à l'entour.
Wengerskoi	Toropetz.
Les cosaques Tschugujewski autour de Riga.	
4.000 cosaques Donskoi dont il y a	
3.000 autour de Wiasma et Dorogobusch.	
1.000 près de Serpuchow et Meschewsk.	

Auprès ce corps tout le reste de l'artillerie.

Régiments	}	Cuirassiers	3
		Dragons	2
		Infanterie	23
		Hussards	2
		Cosaques	1
		31	outre les
		4.000	Cosa-
			ques Donskoi.

Dans l'Ukraine et la Petite Russie.

Général en chef comte Soltikow.

Dragons.

Ingermanlandskoi	} Petite Russie.	Majors-généraux	{ Frolow.
Pskowskoi			{ Barkow.
Kasanskoi			
Twerskoi		Brigadiers	{ Polosow.
Jamburgskoi			{ v. Roden.
St.-Petersburgskoi			{ Witkowitz.

Riazanskoi { auprès les Slobodskoi régiments.

Archangelogorodskoi . . . } de la Province
Permskoi } Belegorod.

Hussards de Moldavie à Isum.

Miliciens réglés Ukrainiens

avec des fonds en terre assignés	9 régiments	} qui dépendent aussi du commando du ci-devant nommé général en chef de Soltikow et sous lui
Miliciens sans fonds	11 »	

Le lieutenant-général Tschernzow.

Majors-généraux { Kantimir.
Comte Devier.
Brigadiers { de Gehema.
de la Fonds.

Régiments	Dragons	9
	Hussards	1
	Miliciens	20

Sous le commande du conseiller privé et gouverneur d'Orenbourg Neplujeff.

Dragons.

Moscowskoi	Les quartiers sont réglés du gouverneur.	Brigadiers	{ Barduchewitz. de Beausobre.
Revalskoi			
Troitzkoi			

Gouvernement de Livonie.

Dragons.

Olonetzkoï	Les quartiers dépendent de la chancellerie du gouverne- ment.	Brigadier Kraft.
Lutiskoi		
Wologodskoi		

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№ 2. Liste des troupes russiennes qui depuis les derniers arrangements se trouvent actuellement sur les frontières en Courlande et Livonie.

Cuirassiers.

Hommes.

1. Régiment du corps.
 2. Celui de S. A. I. le grand-duc.
 3. Le troisième cuirassiers.
- Chacun à 973 têtes sont 2.919

Dragons.

1. Tobolskoi } chacun à
2. Novotroitzkoi } 1.251 têtes sont 2.502

Hussards.

- Serbskoi } chacun à
- Wengerskoi } 963 têtes sont 1.926

Cosaques.

- Le régiment de Tschujugew
sur la grande route de Riga 541

De plus 4.000 cosaques du	
Don qui sont distribués autour	
de Wiasma, Dorogobusch et	4.000
lieux circonvoisins.	
Total de la cavalerie	
et troupes légères	11.888

Infanterie.

1. Nischegorodskoi.
2. Kiewskoi.
3. Peterburgskoi.
4. Ladojskoi.
5. Archangelogorodskoi.
6. Rostowskoi.
7. Susdalskoi.
8. Wybourgskoi.
9. Moskovskoi, le second
10. Woronejskoi.
11. Novogorodskoi.
12. Wiatskoi.
13. Pleskowskoi.
14. Riasanskoi.
15. Wologodskoi.
16. Kexholmskoi.
17. Abscheronskoi.
18. Newskoi.
19. Smolenskoi.
20. Sibirskoi.
21. Asowskoi.
22. Troitzkoi.
23. Nisowskoi.

Chaque régiment étant de trois bataillons et de 2.298 têtes, le total de l'infanterie monte à . . . 52.854 hommes.

Outre les troupes ci-dessus spécifiées qui se trouvent actuellement sur les frontières de la Courlande et de la Lïvonie et sur les lisières et confins de la Lithuanie et qui doivent y garder leurs quartiers d'hiver.

On a mis les régiments ci-dessus nommés à portée de pouvoir, s'il est besoin, joindre en peu de temps les ci-dessus nommés.

Infanterie.

1. Astrachanskoi.
2. Permskoi.
3. Tobolskoi.
4. Tschernigowskoi.
5. Uglitzkoi.
6. Schlussemburgskoi.
7. Narwskoi.
8. Kasanskoi.
9. Muromskoi.

Tous ces neuf régiments de la division du général comte Alexandre Schuwalow consistent chacun en trois bataillons et de 2.298 têtes, ce qui fait un corps de 20.682 hommes et qui est sous le commandement du lieutenant-général prince de Holstein-Beck et du major-général Soltikow.

Les troupes en Livonie, Courlande et sur ces frontières sont commandées sous le général comte Pierre Schuwalow, qui a cette division, par

Les lieutenants-généraux	{	Lopuchin.
	{	Browne.
Les majors-généraux	{	Comte Golowin.
	{	Baron Werthern.
Le quartier maître général		de Lieven.
		de Roden.
Les brigadiers	{	de Lieven.
	{	de Ritter.

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Note touchant les affaires de Pologne pour l'envoyé extraordinaire de Sa Majesté britannique m-r de Guy Dickens.

Le chancelier de la couronne comte Malachowsky a confié en secret au sieur Rzyzewsky, secrétaire de légation de Sa Majesté Impériale, qu'il se trouvait maintenant à Paris un certain Spinec qui avait été auprès du feu primat Potozcki, ainsi qu'un certain Jacubowsky, homme de beaucoup de capacité, et dont le premier servait dans les armées du roi de France en qualité de lieutenant colonel et l'autre en celle de colonel et que ces deux personnes faisaient actuellement des intrigues secrètes avec quelques seigneurs polonais, ainsi qu'avec les ministres de la cour de France. Le dit

comte Malachowsky a souhaité à cette occasion qu'on tâchât de la part de la Russie à pénétrer dans le mystère de ces intrigues et de lui faire savoir ce qu'on aura appris sur ce sujet.

Or l'intérêt commun de l'Empire de Russie et de la république de Pologne exige naturellement de tâcher à découvrir à temps et à prévenir l'effet des susdites intrigues dont les suites ne peuvent être que très préjudiciables à la cause commune.

C'est pourquoi, le ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale a jugé nécessaire d'écrire là-dessus au comte de Czernichew pour qu'il fasse tout son possible, afin que la cour de la Grande-Bretagne veuille envoyer sans délai un ordre à son ambassadeur en France, milord Albemarle, de mettre tout en œuvre pour apprendre, s'il est possible, jusqu'aux moindres circonstances les machinations et intrigues de ces deux Polonais et de lui enjoindre en même temps que, pour ne point perdre du temps, il fasse savoir directement ce qu'il en aura appris à monsieur l'envoyé extraordinaire, lequel est requis de demander préalablement à sa cour la permission d'informer directement et sans délai le ministère de Sa Majesté Impériale de ce que milord Albemarle lui aura écrit là-dessus. Moscou, ce 11 Octobre 1753. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 329.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 29-th November (10-th December) 1753.

My lord. On Friday morning last, two mails out of three, due from England, came in; by which I received the honor of your grace's letter of the 6-th November n. s.; and, very luckily, count Esterhazy, the imperial ambassador, having dispatched the next day a courier to his court, I transmitted to your grace, by that opportunity, the new regulations, which I have so often mentioned to you, for the repartition of the russian forces, for the ensuing year; by which I hope all the uncertainties His Majesty may have been under, with regard to the number of troops that are, actually, in Livonia and the adjacent provinces, will be entirely removed.

These lists are the only accounts that are to be depended on, as they are signed by the Empress; which, through her usual indolence, she did not do before the middle of October, so that I could not procure them sooner and, even, had difficulties in doing it now, orders having been given (for what reason, I know not) that they should be kept secret.

The moment the great chancellor returns from Troitza, where he is with the Empress, he will be informed of what your grace writes to me, concerning the abbé Minoret and the subject of his errand hither; and, as this person may probably come through Sweden, I doubt not but the great chancellor will take care to have orders sent to Finland, as well as Livonia, to prevent his passing the frontiers of either of those provinces. This intelligence will be the more acceptable to the great chancellor, as it will renew his suspicions about the Frenchman Maubrun of whom, I found in my last conversation, that he began to entertain a better opinion, as well as other people.

M-r Esterhasy tells me that, before the Empress went to Troitza, he had had a long private conversation with the great chancellor upon the subject, matter of my negotiation, in which he had made use of some arguments suggested to him by his court, to show that the Empress his mistress's honor, as well as interest required her accepting the offers now made by His Majesty; but that they had not been very well received, the great chancellor showing a great deal of ill humour and accusing his court of being partial. This ambassador, nevertheless, begins to hope, as well as I, that they will be very cautious here, how they break off the negotiation.

The Empress is not yet returned from Troitza, having taken the resolution to keep there the feast of St. Andrew, which is to-morrow. R. 11-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 330.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 2-d (13-th) December 1753.

My lord. On Monday evening last the great chancellor returned from Troitza and, the next morning, early, was fully informed of the advices I had received from your grace, concerning the abbé Minoret; and, since then, I have had a message from him, desiring me to assure your grace that he will take effectual measures to prevent so dangerous a person from coming hither.

In my letter of the 25-th past o. s., your grace will have seen that general Bretlack had not, yet, left this court, which is owing partly to his ill state of health and partly to the badness of the roads; and I am not sorry for this delay, as he may be of great service, in my negotia-

tion; for having observed, as well as I, that general Apraxin was piqued at the disappointment of the present, he expected from England, general Bretlack has undertook to make him desist from the objections which he is continually starting to the great chancellor against the offers, made by His Majesty. And I have the greatest hopes of general Bretlack's succeeding in his endeavours, as there always was a great intimacy and friendship between him and general Apraxin. The Empress is expected this evening or to-morrow from Troitza. Her palace which was burnt down, about a month ago, is almost rebuilt and part of it, especially her own apartments ready to receive Her Imperial Majesty when she comes to town. R. 19-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 331.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 14-th December 1753.

All in cypher. Sir. I am very glad to find by your letter of the 1-st (12-th) November that Cleverly was arrived at Moscow. I hope soon to hear what you shall have done, in consequence of the orders which he brought you and that the ill humour of the great chancellor is quite removed.

The King was glad to see that you had reason to believe that there were more than 60.000 men actually in Livonia, though His Majesty will be better satisfied, when you are able to send a more particular account of their numbers and quarters. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 332.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 6-th (17-th) December 1753.

My lord. I received by the last post the honour of your grace's letter of the 16-th November u. s. with the several inclosures, viz-t: the King's speech to both Houses of Parliament upon the opening of the session and also the address of the House of Lords and the resolution of the House of Commons upon it.

On Friday last, the Empress came from Troitza to her summer palace here in town and, next week, Her Imperial Majesty proposes to re-

move from thence into the appartments of her winter palace that are ready for her reception.

I am, now, in expectation of hearing soon that the two chancellors have laid before the Empress the papers, I delivered to them, in my last conference, with their remarks upon them, which, if I may depend on the assurances, given to me by the great chancellor, will be as favourable, as lies in his power.

Baron Korff, the russian minister in Denmark, wrote hither in his letter, by the last post, that abbé Minoret was arrived at Copenhagen; but does not seem to have any notion of the said abbés being to proceed farther north. R. 14-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 333.

The duke of Newcastle to m-r Guy Dickens.

Whitehall. 18-th December 1753.

All in cypher. Sir. Since my last, I have received your two letters of the 4-th (15-th) and 8-th (19-th) November.

His Majesty is a little surprised that, after the impatience expressed by the great chancellor for the arrival of the courier, he should delay so long the giving you an opportunity of acquainting him with the substance of what that courier brought and that you should fear that he would not see you alone, to receive the first communication.

M-r Bestuchef must have expected great abatements in their exorbitant demands. He was, as you said, prepared for it, even when Money was dispatched from Moscow. And I may venture to assert that the King has been pleased to go much greater lengths, than even you from your former instructions had any reason to expect.

The sword, you mention, has been ready these last two years and was not sent singly by your representing that it would not be accepted.

As to general compliment of His Majesty's regard for the Empress of Russia, my letters, in general, are so full of that, that you are sufficiently authorised to say any thing upon that subject, that you may think necessary or useful. But the King could not order a compliment to be made upon proposals which His Majesty thought so exorbitant and inadmissible. However, I will still hope that, upon reflection, this negotiation will be brought to a happy conclusion. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 334.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 9-th (20-th) December 1753.

My lord. Since my letter, by the last post, general Bretlack has told me that it was with pleasure he could assure me he had brought general Apraxin into such a way of thinking, as would facilitate and quicken the conclusion of my negotiation; that he would not conceal from me that general Apraxin, in the beginning of the conversation, they had together, made great complaints against my court: first, for the manner in which the corps of 30.000 men, furnished, in consequence of the convention of 1747, had been used and next, for the slights shown to himself, even after he had asked the Empress's leave to accept a present which had been promised him. To which general Bretlack, to avoid entering into any discussion about these matters, returned no other answer, than that he was unacquainted with them and then asked general Apraxin, if he had seen the counter project, I had delivered to the two chancellors.

General Apraxin said, he had and declared, plainly, his dissatisfaction at the King's offers by the arguments, he had suggested to the great chancellor of the difference between these offers and the subsidies, usually given by England to the princes of Germany. Upon which general Bretlack told him that those offers and subsidies would not be admitted of any comparison; as England had more in view, by the latter, the securing an interest and majority in the empire, than the troops those princes furnished, as an instance of which he named the court of Dresden. General Bretlack made it appear to him that the King's offers would answer fully all the extraordinary expences, they would be at here on account of the engagements proposed to them. For that he, general Apraxin, must agree that the least they could keep in Livonia and those parts, was a corps of 30.000 men; that the 12.000 men, due to His Majesty by treaty, being added to them made 42.000, so there remained only 13.000, the difference of whose subsistence, between being kept in Livonia or any other parts of the Empire, could not possibly exceed His Majesty's offers; these arguments together with the figure which general Bretlack represented to him, this Empire would have an opportunity to make in the affairs of Europe and he, in particular, by having the command of the army, which His Majesty took into his pay, entirely prevailed upon general Apraxin and made him promise general Bretlack, he would contribute all in his power

towards the success of this negotiation. This point being now gained of securing general Apraxin, I shall be more pressing with the great chancellor to bring matters to a conclusion, which, I was afraid to do before, least the great chancellors good intentions should be rendered ineffectual by any opposition from the college of war, to whose department these affairs entirely belong. R. 19-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 335.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 13-th (24-th) December 1753.

My lord. Since my last, the great chancellor and general Apraxin have had several conferences together upon the subject matter of His Majesty's orders to me of the 2-d October, by Cleverly, the messenger; I am not exactly informed yet of what was resolved and agreed upon between them in these conferences; but, I know for certain that, since then, the two papers I delivered to the two chancellors, in my conference of the twenty second November o. s., have been laid before the Empress, whose orders they are, now, daily expecting, to know when they shall attend her and receive her commands upon them; so that, in a very few posts, I hope to send your grace clearer accounts, than I have hitherto done of the issue this negotiation is like to have.

The weather and general Bretlack's state of health permitting him, at present, to set out on his journey home, he proposes to leave this place on Wednesday next. R. 1-st January. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 336.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 16-th (27-th) December 1753.

My lord. Your grace will have seen, by my last, that the two chancellors were in daily expectation of receiving the Empress's orders upon the papers they had laid before her, relating to the negotiation I am charged with, but I do not yet hear that she has sent for them or appointed any day for them to attend her, though, on Tuesday last, they got the cabinet secretary to lay before Her Imperial Majesty a little memorandum, putting

her in mind of these affairs and urging the necessity of bringing them to a conclusion.

I am told that, in the conferences which the great chancellor and general Apraxin have lately had together, they came to very favourable resolutions, but, according to their usual custom, they will not enter into particulars with me and let me into what they consist, so that I expect to remain in this uncertainty, till things are communicated to me, in a ministerial manner, and, whenever this happens, I wish, notwithstanding all their fair promises, I may not be obliged to write for new orders and instructions.

Yesterday, general Bretlack set out from this place on his journey home. R. 29-th January. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 337.

Colonel Guy Dickens to the duke of Newcastle.

Moscow. 20-th (31-st) December 1753.

My lord. On Saturday last the 18-th instant being the Empress's birth day, it was kept at the new palace, which is now entirely rebuilt and furnished. There was no court at noon, as usual, because of the excessive cold, but in the evening there was a ball, illuminations and a magnificent supper at a table which held near three hundred people. Before we sat down to supper, finding the two chancellors by themselves in a corner of the room, I asked them if they did not think it was time for them to enable me to redispach Cleverly, the messenger, who, in a few days, will have been here full two months. Upon which they both shrugged up their shoulders and said, I knew how things went; but that I might depend upon it, they would do their utmost to prevail on the Empress to fix them one day, this week, on which they might receive her commands on the affair in agitation. If they do not, I shall have no hopes of sending back Cleverly this month yet, as we shall fall in the Christmas holidays, during which, and a full week after, no kind of business is done here.

It has been hinted to me, since my last, at the desire of the great chancellor that, upon new calculations, it appearing to them that the demands contained in their project did really run too high, it was in a manner resolved that, upon the whole, there should be a deduction of two millions of dutch crowns, but how and upon what particular articles, this is to be done, not being explained to me, I have no clear notion of the

matter. This only I think, I may infer from it, that there will be also alterations made in the King's counter project and consequently that this negotiation cannot be brought to a conclusion, before I have His Majesty's orders and instructions upon these alterations. 1-st February. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

№ 338.

Baron Wolff to the duke of Newcastle.

St. Petersburg. 30-th December 1753.

My lord. I have lately received a letter from his excellency the grand chancellor count Bestuchef in Moscow, the original of which I send here enclosed.

But as I do not know what answer to give to its contents, therefore I shall be attending your lordship's commands, how to behave in this particular.

Here is nothing stirring in public matters, worth your lordship's attention; in the meantime I am and shall allways continue to remain unalterably at your devotion, as being full of profound respect and perfect esteem etc. R. 15-th March. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.

Lettre du comte A. Bestouchef au baron Wolff.

Moscou. Décembre 1753.

Monsieur.

Ce n'est que par un effet de l'ancienne confiance que je vous porte, monsieur, que je vous écris ces lignes, afin que vous en fassiez l'usage le plus utile aux endroits où il conviendra.

Vous savez apparemment et au cas que vous l'ignoriez, je suis bien aise de vous le dire, monsieur, que lorsque milord comte de Hindford, ci-devant ambassadeur de Sa Majesté britannique, votre maître, devait quitter cette cour-ci, pour s'en retourner en Angleterre, ce fut Sa Majesté l'Impératrice, ma souveraine même, qui voulut qu'il s'employât auprès du ministère anglais pour que m-r de Guy Dickens fût nommé pour le relever ici en qualité d'envoyé extraordinaire auprès de Sa dite Majesté Impériale.

Ce fut effectivement en conséquence de ces insinuations de cette cour-ci que ce dernier fut nommé et envoyé comme tel ici, et Sa Majesté l'Impé-

ratrice aussi bien que son ministère ayant eu tout lieu d'être contents du zèle, de l'ardeur et des bonnes intentions dont ce ministre donne des preuves éclatantes tant avant qu'après son arrivée et séjour ici, on serait assurément bien aise de le garder encore longtemps ici dans la ferme persuasion où l'on est que son ministère ne pourrait dorénavant qu'être utile et avantageux aux intérêts réciproques et généraux des deux cours.

Comme il y a cependant plusieurs circonstances qui laissent supposer, ou que le dit m-r de Guy Dickens soit par rapport à son âge et ses infirmités, soit par un désir naturel de rejoindre un jour sa famille en Angleterre après bien des années d'absence pût enfin demander à être rappelé de cette cour-ci, ou bien que du côté du ministère de Sa Majesté britannique même on conçoive tôt ou tard l'intention de lui donner un successeur, animé comme je suis du désir constant de contribuer, autant qu'il peut dépendre de moi, au bien et à l'avantage des intérêts des deux couronnes et de la bonne cause en général, ne connaissant d'ailleurs que trop aussi, combien il est important de choisir en pareil cas des sujets propres à entretenir les liaisons nécessaires pour atteindre un but aussi salulaire, j'ai cru qu'il ne serait peut être pas hors de propos de songer d'avance à quelque personne qui, pour le bien commun, eût les qualités requises pour s'attirer les suffrages et l'approbation de cette cour-ci, sauf les hautes lumières de Sa Majesté britannique et l'agrément de son ministère.

Enfin si le cas dont il est question, soit de l'une ou de l'autre façon, vient à exister, on souhaiterait ici en conséquence des notions avantageuses que l'on a des talents, du caractère, du cœur et des manières de m-r le colonel de Yorck, à présent ministre britannique à la Haye, que Sa Majesté le Roi et son ministère voulût bien préférentiellement daigner se déterminer en sa faveur pour l'envoyer à cette cour-ci revêtu du caractère d'ambassadeur, honneur qu'on ne manquerait pas de réciproquer dûment de la part d'ici par un sujet également agréable et distingué et muni du même caractère.

Il ne sera pas besoin que je vous répète, monsieur, que les insinuations ci-dessus ne partent que de l'entière confiance que je mets dans votre prudence et discrétion reconnues; je me borne seulement à vous laisser le maître d'en faire usage envers son excellencie monsieur le duc de Newcastle, auquel, si vous le jugez à propos, vous pouvez communiquer confidentiellement l'original de cette lettre même (y joignant en même temps en mon nom des compliments des plus amiables et sincères) que vous aurez cependant soin de lui faire parvenir par une voie des plus sûres. J'ai l'honneur d'être etc. etc. P. R. O. Russia. 1753. № 66.