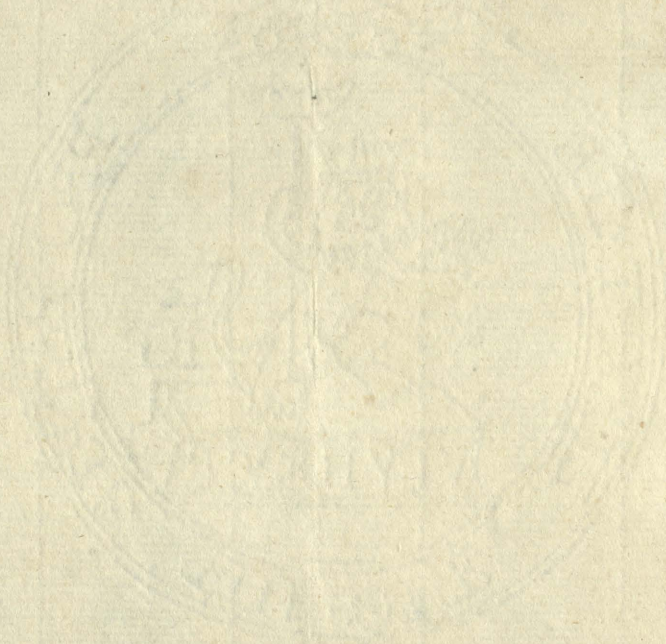


Secret Memoir relating
to the Cabinet of St. Petersburg

~~1764~~ or 1765

by John Koban,
2nd Earl of Buckinghamshire





M^r Paris, with rather a broken
 Constitution, is tumid of fifty years
 of age, from having pass'd some
 time in Sweden he is most
 conversant in the affairs of the
 North, The system he has adopted,
 & from which nothing but the
 finding it impracticable from the
 Indisposition of the other Powers
 will ever induce him to depart,
 is to check the formidable Alliance
 of the Houses of Bourbon & Austria
 by uniting strictly England, Prussia,
 Holland & Russia, & to strengthen that
 League still further by keeping
 Sweden in a state of inactivity,
 & prevailing upon Denmark to quit
 her French Connections; The first he
 imagines is to be accomplish'd by
 constantly keeping ^{up} the animosity of
 the several

M^r Paris cannot but bear the
 greatest enmity to the French
 & Austrians as he is fully
 acquainted with the intrigues
 of their indefatigable emissary's
 to remove him from the
 administration.

the several Factions who distract that unfortunate country, the latter by persuading the Great Duke, when he comes of age, to give up the Duchy of Holstein.

The King of Prussia is his Hero, yet he is not so far blinded by his partiality, as to be insensible of the many imperfections which sully the Character of that Great Prince, or too confident in the duration of those engagements which will not probably outlive the day when they are no longer essential to his interests.

M^r. Pain is reckon'd a Man of honor & integrity in a Country where for the first the Language has no name; Conscious & vain of this Character he will be cautious not to

In a Conversation I once had with M^r. Pain upon this Subject, he seem'd to think a Vote in the Diet of the Empire of less consequence to Prussia than perhaps it really is.

not to swerve from that conduct
which has merited it.

Greatly were it to be wish'd for the
good of Lusia, & the peace & happiness
of the Sovereign, that M^r Panin
& Count Orloff could live in
Friendship; but that Friendship
is incompatible with the Idea
of a marriage, which, it is imagin'd,
the young gentleman still indulges;
an Idea the other can never conceive
at, without forfeiting his reputation,
risking his Popularity, & deviating
from his Duty to that important
charge which an alarm'd nation
thinks only safe in his keeping.

Princeps Daskow is the favorite of
his Heart, Many doubt whether
as his Child or as his Mistress, the
Unnatural aspect as both. He speaks
of her

M^r Panin in the early part of
his life had an intrigue with
the wife of the great Chancellors
Brother Count Roman Woronzow;

She was

of her with affection, is with her almost every moment of his leisure, & communicates the most important secrets to her with that unbounded confidence which a Minister should scarcely place in any Individual. The Empress inform'd of this circumstance, & justly alarm'd that such intelligence should be given to a person whose restless intriguing spirit, & insatiable Ambition, has render'd her, from her bosom friend, her most inveterate enemy; extorted a promise from him, that he should never talk to her upon affairs of state. He gave his word, but in this instance broke it.

Upon these accounts, as well as from undoubted intelligence that
the Princeps

she was Mother to the Worsason
latey Minister in England, to
Elizabeth Peter the 3^d Mistress
to the wife of Count Butteria
the present Russian Envoy in
Spain, & to the Princeps Tashkov
This Lady upon her deathbed
apud M^r Pavin that the
Princeps Tashkov, who was then
present, was his daughter.

As he always unaffectedly speaks
of her with tenderness, as he
never attempts to conceal how
much of his time is pass'd with
her, & more particularly, as those
who know him best assert, what
is extremely probable, that he
is no longer qualify'd for the
essentials of Gallantry, Candour
must believe that his affections
are merely paternal, & their
intercou

⁺ the Princeps us'd every art to alienate the hearts, not only of M^r Panin, but of many others, from her person & Government, she has determin'd to send her from Peterburgh, which resolution is probably by this time carry'd into execution.

intercourse innocent.

In a Conversation I had with her Imperial Majesty at Sanshou selo upon the subject of the Princeps Dushkow, she assur'd me that Lady should not remain in Peterburgh two Months longer.

⁺ Some few days before the Empress set out for Riga, information was brought me, that the Princeps Dushkow had been seen in Men's cloaths at the Barracks of the Horse Guards.

The Character of General Panin will best be understood from what his Brother said of him upon a late occasion.

The General's wife died, & he was thought to be so strongly affected at the loss
at the loss

the loss as to indanger his health. The Empress sent Schubin to him to assure him of her regard & Friendship, & to intreat him to take care of his health at a time when his services were most essentially necessary to her.

M^r. Panin upon hearing this expres'd himself in the following terms, (as nearly as they can be render'd in English).

Affectionately love my Brother, I regard him as born from that womb to which I owe my being, yet this do's not blind me as to his Character, very inferior in point of ability, he is enterprising & desperate, & surely it must be some desperate purpose for which his services can be necessary to the Empress.

General Chernichow is incontestibly the best Officer

+ an old servant in whose experienc'd activity, fidelity, & attachment Her Imp: Maj: places the greatest confidence; when the Revolution was in agitation he was the great channel of communication between her & the Conspirators.

Formerly he was Master of her private Wardrobe, but now she has given him the Rank of Chambellan. He has the care of the son boon at Moscow Christmas 1762.

Brother to the Chernichow, Minister formerly in England & afterwards Ambassador in France.

the best Officer in the Russian service, he has method, application, & intelligence, if he is wanting in a day of Battle, it will more probably be the fault of his heart than of his head.

From News Papers & other superficial reading he had imbib'd some wild notions of Liberty, & in consequence upon a slight provocation resign'd his employments. The Empress dismiss'd him without any apparent reluctance, & gave him full leisure to repent, at last he was oblig'd to humble himself before the Man whom most ⁺ he hates, & was only through his intercession restor'd to his former situation. Many suspect him of not being very sincere, however he certainly is the best of the [⊕] three Brothers, which indeed is not a very exaggerated Compliment.

He is Vice President of the Council of War, & performs the functions of the Secretary at War in England.

The Chernichow's are attach'd to Mr. Panin; in Politics they are rather inclin'd to the Court of Vienna.

+ Count Orloff

He told me at first that, having acted as a Man of honor & spirit, he would never be mean enough to offer any excuses for a conduct, the propriety of which was self-evident. I answer'd him, that as he had been too hasty, submission to his Sovereign was equally necessary, & becoming.

In the end he follow'd my advice, for which he since has thank'd me, but I suspect that in his heart he has not

&
Compliment. This Gentleman is
suppos'd to have been a favorite of
Her Imp: Maj: when Great Dutcheff
after Soltikow, & before Potiatowski
was known in Russia.

Alufion is a Man of an easy
address & a Polite Scholar, Latin
& most of the Modern Languages
are familiar to him, a happy
memory, & a Judicious Taste make
his knowledge appear less
superficial than perhaps it might
be found upon a nice examination.
The table is his first passion, Women
the second, affluence sufficient
lavishly to indulge these his
third, Ambition brings up the
rear. When press'd, his application
is infinite, but as his rage for
pleasures is too decided for him
not to force his Constitution to
the last possibility of enjoyment,
already

has not forgiven the Empress.

• The eldest has been already
mention'd, his quality & abilities
are fully understood in England.
He is well receiv'd by his Sovereign
but not consulted either by her
or her Ministers.

The Youngest, who was destin'd for
the Congress of Augsburg, has
now the direction of the Admirals
till he accompany'd the Empress to
Riga, he hardly knew a Man of
War from a wherry. This last
has a great deal of vivacity, a
flow of words, & a sort of knowl
which enables him to reason
superficially upon many subjects.
He do's the English the honor to
allow them to be the best Seamen
in the Universe, also that they
excell all other Nations in the
great general Idea's of Commerce
but esteems the French to be or
superior.

already gouty, corpulent, & unwieldy, it is not to be expected that he can long maintain any degree of activity or consequence.

superior in all the little refinements of it. He is very fond of the Parliament of Great Britain, & desired me to get the Acts (I suppose he meant the Statutes at large) translated into French at his expence, & send them to him. Without making any remark upon his request, I promis'd he should have them, when translated.

⁺ Perhaps Nature never form'd a more villainous Countenance than that of Teplow, or an Individual whose Character more precisely corresponded to his appearance.

From having read a great deal without Judgment, in a Country where (very few hours excepted) a book is a Phenomenon, long application

⁺ He is one of the Emperor's Secretary's & principally consulted by her in the affairs of Commerce & Manufactures. The

cultivation of the Tobacco in the Ukraine is directed by him.

He is also a great encourager of the Idea of Russia's carrying on a trade to Spain & Italy herself.

application has enabled him to form plausible systems upon false facts which the uninform'd are captivated with. By flattering the Empress with the Idea of Russia's exporting her own Commodities, that in time by proper attention & encouragement she may enable her subjects to supply their own consumption in almost every article at home, & carry their productions in Russian Vessels to Foreign Markets, his credit is so well establish'd, that his wild schemes are adopted, & Orloff, who hates him, has in vain labor'd his removal.

He is an enemy of Mr. Parin's, & attach'd (from interest as I suspect) to the House of Austria.

The Laughers of the Court of
Peterburgh

himself.

He engag'd the Hetman in the last Revolution, & since, tho' he owes every thing to him, he is suspected of having prejudic'd him in the sovereign's favor.

He was one of those who had the care of Peter the third in confinement, & many, who imagine that unhappy Prince was strangled, are persuaded he held one eye of the Cord.

The conclusion of the Treaty of Commerce, upon terms agree'd to England, was prevented by his insinuations.

even whom they suspect with reason of being their enemy's. At the time of General Chernichov's disgrace they were the warmest sollicitors for him, tho they could not doubt of the ill will he bore them.

Yet the Man who was to attempt to gain the Empress's affection would run great risques unless he proceeded with the most particular circumspection, & must take care that the moment which marks his success must be that of the disgrace of the Orloffs ~~to such an extent as will~~ put it out of their power to hurt him.

Toedor, the youngest of the three in Ruspia, is the pride & ornament of the family, if a travel'd Lady was to describe him she would tell you, that he had the features of the Apollo in the Belvedere, with the

+ A young Gentleman, whose figure & address prejudice greatly in his favor, seem'd some Months ago to be regarded by her with preference. Some of M^r Paris's friends, who were also his, encourag'd him to push his point, at first he attend'd to their advice, but soon after neglected the brilliant Fortune which evidently offer'd itself. It was not unnatural to imagine, that at his disinterested time of life, when passion is reason, & love & present enjoyment seem every thing, +++ his attachment to a Lady, with whom he liv'd in intimate connection, had occasion'd this inconsistency in his behavior; but at last he own'd in confidence to a near relation, that he fear'd the threats the Orloffs threw out against any person

with the strength & Muscles of the Hercules Farnese. His address is easy, & his manner engaging, at present, from his expressing himself with difficulty in French, he can converse little with Foreigners.

The Empress has plac'd him in an office of business, & he is said to be diligent & intelligent.

As, when the critical services & good-fortune of his Brother establish'd their consequence, he was still young enough to learn something, he may in time qualify himself for the highest employments, & hereafter, support the decline of those, whose fortunate beginnings rais'd him.

The Chambellan Papich is the Officer who was arrested the day immediately preceding the Revolution, he was a

any person who should dare to supplant their Brother; & had not Ambition sufficient to venture his life in the attempt

⊕ He is at present in the possession of a decay'd Beauty the only one who dared to be handsome in the presence of the Empress Elizabeth! Fine features, great art & extravagance of dress, together with a wildness of manners, which savours not a little of the air of Moor fields have captivated him for the moment, nay possibly the Illusion may last some time as the Lady is frequently admitted to her Imp: Maj: Party of Pleasure.

+ During her reign all the handsome Women were oblig'd when they went to Court rather to display their Beauty

he was a great friend of the
Orloffs & in many respects of the
same Character, but with an
equal degree of resolution, his
Ideas, his information, his habits
similar, he is more reserved,
more artfull, & more designing.

Tho rais'd to the rank of Chamberlain,
much higher than at his age
he could have expected, & in
appearance, attach'd to the Favorite,
it has ever appear'd to me that he
saw with dissatisfaction Men,
if any thing his inferior, &
with no apparent merit but
the being engag'd in the same
cause, plac'd so greatly above him.
He has often told me that he
lov'd the English for their
frankness of Character so like his
own, & propos'd himself my friend,
perhaps he was so, but of this

I am most

their beauty, & keep at a distance
from Her Imp: Maj:, who was
offended if the general admiration
was diverted from her charms
to any other object.

Peter the 3^d is generally Blam'd
for not examining this Gentleman
immediately upon his being
arrested. The fact is, that
the Officer dispatch'd to the
Emperor with the account of it,
neglected taking fresh horses
upon the Road, which occasion'd
his arriving so late at Orangebaum
as indispensably oblig'd that
unfortunate Prince to put
off the examination till it
was too late.

Orangebaum is about thirty
English Miles from Petersburg,
& Peterhoff

I am most sure that, either as the Sovereign, or as an Individual, in Russia I should esteem him a most formidable enemy.

+ Wolhoff born with great abilities & bred up in business from his youth, is perhaps the Man in Russia the best vers'd in Foreign affairs, as well as the best inform'd of what relates to the interior of the Country.

But the notorious Profligacy of his Character will ever prevent his rising to that distinguish'd situation to which, in other respects, he is fully qualify'd to pretend. It is now very well known that notwithstanding his most particular obligations to the late Emperor he and Milgerow betray'd him & that they afterwards receiv'd a pecuniary

& Peterhoff twenty.

+ At the time of the Revolution when the Emperor was at Peterhoff, Milgerow & Wolhoff instead of giving him the only salutary advice, that of retiring to Narva, perplex'd him & protracted the time by drawing up & correcting proclamations which they propos'd sending to Petersburg. Had he gone to Narva, which was in his power for at least twelve hours, he might have remain'd there in safety till the army in Livonia had march'd to his assistance, His Russian Majesty would have had time to have sav'd an Ally who was, in some sort, a Martyr to his Russian prejudices, & any body who knows the fluctuating disposition of the soldiery for the first days after the Revolution

a pecuniary reward for their baseness.

Prince Volkovski is universally esteem'd a Gallant Soldier & a frank honest Man. He is intirely directed by his Uncle Bestucheff whose duplicity may early lead his wellintention'd unsuspecting plainness into Mischief. Military Men insinuate that his capacity is not equal to the Duty of a Commander in chief, but that, to lead on an attack with spirit, the Russians could not chuse a better Officer.

The Chambellan Chesarov was educated at Cambridge where, as his parts are rather slow, than brilliant, by dint of great application he obtain'd some knowledge of the Latin Classics, & of History, & made such a proficiency in the English

the Revolution, will think it more than probable, that the greatest part of them would have return'd to their Duty, if their Sovereign had still been in being & at Liberty.

+ to when at Moscow he persuaded him to sign the paper recommending to the Empress to marry one of her Subjects.

in the English Language as enables him to read any author & carry on a conversation with ease. He is a rough resolute Man, attach'd by obligation to the Empress, & by principle & affection to his country. Respecting England from his knowledge of it, & preferring it to every other foreign state, he loves only Russia, & if ever employ'd in a Ministerial light, where he thinks her interests affected, he will be inattentive to every other consideration. In the course of Mirowitz's Trial he made a very injudicious speech as to the method of proceeding, which it was thought reflected upon M^r Paris⁺ & his friends. This has been rather prejudicial to him, tho' Her Imp^{ress} Maj^{esty} & the Doloffs approve his conduct.

The Great

His Wife is Daughter to the present Duke of Cornwall, she is deform'd in her person, but accomplish'd, & agreeable.

The Empress once said to him in my hearing — I think you never told a lie in your life.

+ as if they wish'd not to clear up that affair sufficiently to vindicate the Emp^{ress},

The Great Chancellor with an easy address, & in general that engaging deportment which befits a person of distinction, is a weak timorous half-honest Man, & a prejudic'd, inefficient, dilatory Minister. His Body & mind are singularly shattered & relax'd, to which perhaps the disorder of his domestick affairs not a little contributes, arising by no means from his real expenses, but from the sums which his Indolence & inattention suffer him to be robb'd of.

The Russian Ladies follow the example of those in London in styling the Vice-Chancellor a pretty Gentleman, but he has not been so Politick in his Gallantry at home, as when with us where, by bleeding

His Wife is neither well bred nor genteel, & gives you that cordial greeting which characterizes the Mistress of a fashionable Inn, with great affectation of frankness, she is in effect very designing, & her low cunning has in former days been rather successfull. She, & the Countess Stroganow, their only child, are both expensive, the first loves Gaming, & the other Magnificence of dress, & Gallantry, in both of which she is equally pleas'd with variety.

+ When Envoy in England His intelligence was always found so authentick that the Cabinet of Peterburgh judg'd him a Minister of superior abilities & information;

This contributed

By blending business with his pleasures,
he at once obtained information,
& consequence. — He now has
neither information, nor consequence.

General Gallitzin has a good
understanding, ^{but} rather studies to
conceal it, he is revered with
politeness, & good humor, & by a
decent respectfull behavior to
the Empress, veils the little
petulant sallies, which the
vivacity of his wife, & the
disappointed Ambition of his
Sister in Law, too frequently
throw out. He is that sort of
prudent Man, who will neither
desire nor obtain a first situation,
but who, what-ever change may
happen, is tolerably sure of
maintaining a good one.

General Romanzov

This contributed to his being
appointed Vice Chancellor, an
employment for which he is
now universally thought very
insufficient.

+ He served in the late war
without great distinction, but
is intirely clear of any disgrace.

Countess Matuschin, she succeeded
the Princess Dashkov in the
Empress's favor, which she lost
in about eight Months, by being
too busy, & was politely dismissed
when the Court returned to
Peterburgh.

General Romanzow, the Besieger, & Conqueror of Colberg, remained long unnoticed after his return to Peterburgh, till the merit of his Sister (Countess Bruce) dragg'd him forth, & made him Lieutenant General of the Ukraine. His appearance is rather haughty, but after the first introduction you find him not only affable, but desirous to oblige. The conqueror's country; experienced & acknowledg'd his humanity, & regretted his recall.

Betkoi, Intendant des Batiments, has for the last twelvemonth insensibly advanc'd himself in her Imp. Maj. favor. He is a sort of French Scholar, not absolutely without talents, & possesses the most essential quality of a good Courtier,

When a Russian is in the least mortify'd or embarrass'd with his situation, he immediately pretends to be taken ill & shuts himself up. Romanzow remain'd four Months in an old Nightgown, complaining of a hardness in his Bowells; immediately upon his being assur'd that the Empress meant to employ him, he came forth in appearance perfectly well, tho' his Bowells were thought to be just as hard as ever.

26 that
Courtier, of frequently making his services
necessary by turning himself to
every thing. He is an Upholsterer,
an Architect, & a Gardener, a
Politician too when he dares, he
will regulate an Hospital, an
Academy, or a Convent, he will
cut an entresol into twenty
boudoirs for as many Maids
of honor, or, at a short warning,
raise a garden upon a level
with an Apartment forty feet
from the ground. To do him

Justice however candour must
allow, that, with some ingenuity,
he has a great share of goodhumour,
& a meritorious sensibility for
the distresses of his fellow Creatures.

General Villebois is supposed
also to be partial to the views
of the House of Austria. He
is esteem'd

He is thought to be a great Partisan
of the Austrians & French.

He is esteem'd an Officer of merit.

The Corps of the Artillery is under his command, and the Discipline & appearance of the Men add to his reputation.

Princess Tashow, a Lady whose name as she wishes will indisputably be transmitted to posterity, has a remarkable good figure & presents herself well. When for a moment her impetuous passions sleep, her Countenance pleases, & her Manner seems calculated to inspire those sentiments she scarcely ever knew.

But, tho' that Countenance is fair, & the features in no instance faulty, The Character of it in general is such, as a skillfull Painter would wish to imitate, who meant to exhibit to us with propriety any of the
 Mary Lady,

many Lady's whose refinements upon cruelty swell the Tragick Magazine. Hardend, & daring beyond expreſſion, her firſt Idea would lead her, by the moſt desperate means to ſet all Markins at liberty, her next, to make them all her ſlaves. If the fate of the late Emperor was ever in deliberation, her vote indispun-
 =tably condemn'd him, had a hand been wanting to execute that ſentence, hers would have courted the Office. In one inſtance ſhe has paid a tribute to humanity, the ſhedding tears for the Death of her moſt
 + amiable Husband. She has read a great deal, poſſeſſes a ſingular activity of body & mind, & has a moſt ready apprehenſion; if ſhe was Miſtreſ enough of her temper
 to be quiet

She ſaid to me one evening.

Pourquoi eſtu que mon mauva
 ſort m'a placé dans ce vaſte
 Caſot? Pourquoi ſuis je obligée
 de rampier avec cette troupe
 de flatteurs également ſervils
 & faux? Que ne ſuis je née
 Anglaiſe? J'adore la liberté
 & la fougue de votre Nation.
 + He was a Man deſervedly lov'd
 & eſteem'd by his ſovereign & all
 who knew him. He commanded
 lately the Ruffian Troops in
 Poland & died there.

The Lady's moſt particularly
 diſtinguiſh'd him.

to be quiet till the present suspicions
of her are subsided, till age has
temper'd her passions & ripen'd her
Judgment, The History of the
Princess Tachkov would not end
here.

Countess Romanow, Mother of the
General of that name, & of Countess
Bruce, has prudentially avail'd herself
of her Daughters personal advantages.

She is Daughter of Matuef that
Ambassador of Peter the Great's
who was arrested in England

She is always of the Empress's private
partys, & has interest enough to
make an Ensign, or get a Page
whip'd; She affects to have, &
people are dispos'd to give her more
consequencethan really belongs to
her, & is just the sort of
Court Gossip that can do mischief,
but no essential service.

The Foreign Ministers in general
shew her great attention.

Countess Bruce, tho more than
thirty years of age, is the striking
Beauty of the Circle at Petersburg;

She drops

she dresses well, dances tolerably,
speaks French elegantly, has read
a dozen plays & as many brochures,
& has naturally an inclination
to support the interests of a
Nation to whom she is indebted
for all her acquir'd accomplishments.

Not averse to Gallantry, but discreet
in her choice, her affections are
ever subservient to her Judgment, When Poniatowski was in Russia
& studiously observant of those of she distinguish'd Czartowski, as
her Mistress, fix upon an Object now Alexei Orloff.
so connected with the Favorite
of the hour, as must necessarily
introduce her to the confidence
of her secrets, & the society
of her pleasures.

The Great Duke is rather well
in his figure, & dances gracefully.
He is still weak but gains
strength every day. His apprehensions
is lively, & his memory strong;
not by any means steady in
his

At the time the Court went
to Riga the Empress proposed &
Count Orloff was particularly
eager that the Great Duke
should be inoculated, but the
Idea was overruled by M^r. Panin
& Mary

his application to his Studies, he is notwithstanding a better Scholar than Princes usually are at his age, & as little indulgence is shewn him by his Mother, & his Instructors are able & diligent, he has a chance of making a great proficiency. Count Orloff indeed, who pays great Court to him, too frequently, interrupts his Masters in their Duty.

To assert that some time ago I should have thought it no very difficult task to draw a just Character of her Imp. Maj; & that now, after having been indulg'd in frequent opportunities of seeing her in the hour of dissipation, when the veil of restraint, & ceremony was thrown off, the undertaking puzzled & embarrasses me, has

& many others. She was extremely desirous to have taken ^{him} with her upon that Journey, but was at last peremptorily told it could not be.

me, has something the air of a
Paradox, which however is easily
solved by mentioning, that then
I knew only the great Outlines
& was unacquainted with the
little weaknesses & inconsistencies
which almost efface some, & shade
many of those eminent qualities
which adorn her. It is
impossible to consider the general
tenor of her conduct, since she
plac'd herself upon the Throne
without tracing evident marks
of a laudable Ambition to
distinguish herself, to make her
Subjects happy at home & respectable
abroad, to encourage Arts, Sciences,
& Commerce, to form by a
liberal education the young
Nobility of both sexes, to extend
in a degree the same advantages
to inferior

to inferior Ranks, to improve the
Publick Revenue without
oppressing Individuals, to check
that Tyranny with which the
Clergy distress'd their Vassals, &
to introduce that ease of society,
that urbanity & general goodbreeding
which prevail in other European

Nations. In the course of
two years, tho hourly in danger
from intestine commotions, she
has exerted her good offices for
the general pacification of
Europe, she has given a King
to Poland, establish'd a Sovereign
in Lowland, & greatly contributed
to the overturning the so long
prevailing French System in
Sweden.

All this is true, &
surely it is greatly to be lamented
that Vanity, self-sufficiency, avarice
& a taste for trifling pleasures
should cloud

34
Should cloud so bright a Picture.

Political Intrigue & fruitfull
imaginations have variously accounted
for her most imprudent Journey
to Riga, in fact it was determin'd
by the desire of a little mind
to make a Naval parade, to
enjoy the pageantry & Adulations
with which the provinces receiv'd
her, & to see a Sovereign at
her own creating at her feet.

Deaf to the friendly advice
which combated her inclination,
she was obstinate, to prove her
steadiness. Finding herself
superior in information & argument + When she was on board the
to most of those around her, she Admiral ship at Cronstadt,
thinks herself equally so to all, her Imperial Standard flying,
& understanding clearly what she & flattered with the inexperienced
has learn'd, she sometimes imagines grandeur of commanding
herself equally Mistress of what more than twenty large
she has not. ships, she disputed with me
which end of a Man of War

Her expenses are

went

Her expences are in many instances injudiciously retrench'd, & in consequence many persons of the first rank seize officiously the first pretence to retire from Petersburg, as receiving no longer the same presents from the sovereign, they cannot afford to pay the daily increasing price of every article of consumption.

Much stress is laid upon her resolution, particularly in the instance of dethroning her Husband; desperate situations make Cowards valiant, she was compell'd either to ruin him or expose herself to that confinement which she knew had long been in deliberation. Those who know her well describe her as rather enterprizing than brave, & that her appearance of courage arises sometimes from a conviction of the pusillanimity

went first. A circumstance indeed she was not oblig'd to know, but the actual situation made the doubt ridiculous.

I have seen her at a review, when the Battalions were firing in retreat, standing close to an angle where they were to turn, & not more than four or five yards from the muzzles of the Field pieces; a Matros was mortally wounded by the wadding not twenty paces from her. She was talking to me & I could not see the least emotion except that of concern for the unfortunate Mat. But in some other situations I have remarked

the pusillanimity of her enemies her being startled without any
 at others from her not seeing her reason.

danger.

The Amusements of her retirement,
 & which she enters into with
 a youthfull spirit, are trifling
 beyond expression, & nearly
 resemble those which children
 in other country's leave off
 at twelve years old.

Her two most capital errors, &
 which are equally evident, &
 inexcusable, are the meanness with
 which she submits to the illbred
 inattention of Orloff, & the
 little affection she shows to the
 Great Duke.

Her face & Figure are apparently
 altered for the worse since her
 accession; it is easy to discover
 the traces of what once was a most
 engaging person, but she is now
 no longer an object of desire.

Unwilling

Unwilling to touch so tender a string,
 I have deferr'd till the last speaking
 of the Revolution, & the most
 melancholy Catastrophe which
 succeeded. Some striking Parallel
 Circumstances might naturally
 lead a Man, who had study'd
 Robertson's History, & was now
 returning from Russia, to attempt
 a comparison, but I avoid it,
 persuaded that each of the two
 amiable Lady's, could they know
 it, would be offended, besides
 that stile of writing ever tempts
 to deviate a little from truth
 in the Characters, to render the
 resemblance more striking.

Those who wish to vindicate the
 Empress alledge, that her Husband
 suffer'd his Mistress publicly to
 insult her

insult her, & himself avoid an intention to confine her, also that he was determin'd to declare the Great Duke illegitimate & to set him aside. The two first are incontestible facts, the latter seems rather a surmise.

The Friends of the Emperor assert in his defence, that tho' he threaten'd to confine her, he had too much humanity & too little resolution ever to carry his menace into execution.

No inform'd Person can deny its being evident beyond contradiction that this unfortunate Prince was murder'd. Yet Candour may doubt whether his Successor meant his Death, or at least believe she did not formally consent to it. It was not however to be imagin'd that so critical an event

When the Emperor was in the Galley the day of the Revolution Elizabeth Woronzow reproach'd him with not having follow'd her advice telling him that if he had confin'd that bad woman, this mischief could never have happen'd.

The Empress has more than once in conversation with me mention'd her Husband, & without exaggerating his Indiscretions pointed out those which principally occasion'd his ruin. —

One day when she was absent from Petersburg upon a hunting party, I saw his Picture in her Cabinet; it was without a frame, & stood upon the floor as if brought in for her

event was natural, but she probably conceal'd her suspicions & wink'd at the Barbarous Zeal of those Friends who, perhaps upon that occasion, consulted as much their own safety as hers.

A discerning Reader who peruses these ill-digested Lines will easily discover my inclination to justify as far as truth & conviction would admit, & that rather than deviate from either, I cut short a subject which I almost wish not to have begun.

It is by far a more pleasing, & a less difficult task, to wipe off the calumny, which intrigue & Malice have universally propagated, in relation to the Death of Prince Ivan. And therefore, taking it for granted that nobody will dispute the Empress's having

in for her to look at. The Vice Chancellor obtrud'd to me that it was a striking likeness. I examin'd it with attention, & was naturally led to reflect with some compassion on the hard fate of the Heir of Ruffia, Sweden, & Holstein, who with many defects in his understanding, had none in his heart. The Vice Chancellor seem'd surpris'd at my silent attention, & ask'd me what employ'd my thoughts? Was it so difficult to guess?

If my coming to the Palace as well as my meeting with that Gentleman had not been accidental, I might have suspected that the Picture had been plac'd there for the occasion.

having at least common sense,
I will beg leave to submit the
following queries.

Would the Officers who, when
push'd to it, put the Prince to
death, have disputed murdering
him privately if order'd?

Would the Empress have contriv'd
that such an event should
take place when she was at so
great a distance from the Capital,
particularly as she knew the
Guards had lately been very
uneasy?

Would Mirowitz have had a
most Publick Trial, & permission
been given to almost any person
that pleas'd to question him?

Would he have been led so
openly to Execution that he
could point out & call his
acquaintance by their names,
& the Scaffold

In which case his Death might
have been conceal'd for years.

& the Scaffold been accessible to
to all?

Tho I daily convers'd with many
as well Foreigners as Russians
who, in other instances, express'd
themselves with great freedom,
& some inveteracy upon the
conduct of the Empress, I never
met with any person, except the
known Ennemy's of Courts inimical
to her, who insinuated a doubt,
that there was the least collusion
in the Catastrophe at Mupelburgh.

I am persuaded that Princess
neither was, nor is either afraid
of the family of Brunswick, or
in danger from them. Her son
if he lives will be her fate, when
I have seen them together & observ'd
his looks, a line of Virgil has occur'd
to me—

Exoriare aliquis nostris ex ossibus Ultor;

+ A few days before my departure
from Peterburgh I had a conversation
with Mr. Pain upon the subject
of the remains of the Grand St
that family now confin'd in Russia.

He assur'd me in confidence,
that if the Duke would have
left his children behind, he
might have gone away more
than a year before, that the
Idea of setting them all at
liberty (I imagine was accepted)
had been in deliberation, &
would have taken place if the
event at Mupelburgh had not
postpon'd it, tho he imagin'd it
was by no means laid aside.

I have been credibly
inform'd that, when Duke Lewis,
by permission, took leave of his
Brother, he extorted a solemn
promise from him never to
leave

Her Imp: Maj: at the beginning of her reign was certainly rather favorably inclin'd to the House of Austria, & her confirmation of the advantageous terms, granted by her Husband to the King of Prussia, was not from any partial regard to that Monarch, but only as she wish'd, by being at peace with all her Neighbors, to have it in her power to bestow her whole attention upon the establishment of that Authority of which she must feel the most precarious foundation.

Nor was it, till after she had been disgusted at the proposition, offer'd to her by the Great Chancellor, of making France a party to the confirmation of the antient Treaty with the Empress Queen

leave Prussia unless his children were permitted to accompany him

The Duke is said to be infirm & Tropical.

Queen, & offended at her conduct
 in relation to the Dutchy of
 Courland, that she chang'd her
 sentiments. The measures of the
 Austrian Ministers seem ever
 since to have been calculated
 to exasperate her, the disrespectfull
 reports they have upon every
 occasion + + + + + almost avowedly
 propagated, & those intentions, they
 as haughtily asserted, as meanly
 desisted from, to counteract her
 views in Poland, have rais'd her
 Indignation to the utmost.

Still however they have reason to
 depend upon Count Orloffs influence,
 & the natural bent of most of
 the persons of consequence, & if
 once they would depart from their
 French connections, & submit to
 flatter the Empress it would not
 be long before

At the time I left Petersburg
 Bestucheff was become extremely infirm
 & had not lately been consulted,
 by the Empress, but Orloffs political
 Ideas are suggested by him.

be long before the old system would take place.

As much offended with the French, her resentment is strengthened by her contempt, & aversion, for that presuming intriguing Nation, & however cautious Prudence should be in advancing any assertions relative to the future conduct of a precarious government, where Caprice may change the measures, & the Ministers, in half an hour; I cannot but be of opinion, that there is not any present prospect of Russia's being directed by French Councils.

Necessity form'd the Queen's Alliance with the King of Prussia, as she found him essential to secure her immediate objects, & tho she has been lately in
 some instances

some instances dissatisfy'd with that Prince, she will probably think the same necessity still exists whilst the conduct of the Empress Queen seems dictated by the House of Bourbon.

If the Czarina bears a preferential goodwill to any Nation, it is to the English, but she will never sacrifice her interests, & her popularity to it, & as some of those she consults have suggested to her that the stipulations in the former Treaty of Commerce & Alliance were too much in our favor, she will hold back as long as possible in hopes of obtaining some alterations.

Tho' the Dutch are included in the Great Northern Alliance which Mr. Parin wishes to form, it has ever greatly surpris'd

I have great reason to believe that Mr. Parin did his utmost to persuade the Empress to come into the Terms we propos'd.

Many of those who were not in effect averse to England, but Friends to the Court of Vienna, may possibly have laboured to delay our Treaty of Alliance, imagining, that the conclusion of it at this juncture, might strengthen her Imp: Maj: in her present connection with Prussia

greatly surpris'd me, that the
 Empress & her Ministers seem'd
 by no means sensible of the
 consequence of that nation, &
 of the Influence, which the Prince
 of Orange, when he comes of
 age, from the Treasure which he
 will have the disposal of, from
 his own independent income,
 & the almost absolute way he is
 likely to bear in the United
 Provinces, may have upon the
 Affairs of Europe.

Just before Her Imp: Maj: set
 out for Riga, so many reports
 had reach'd me tending to
 prove the almost certainty of
 some disturbance happening in
 her absence; that I could not
 help mentioning to the Chambellan
 Cherkason, a Gentleman with
 whom I liv'd

whom I liv'd in great intimacy,
that, were I in his situation, I
should throw myself at the Empress's
feet & intreat her to lay aside
all thoughts of that Journey.

He immediately ask'd me to permit
him to repeat to her what I had
said, I consented, provided he
would, at the same time, inform
her, that my fears arose from
general rumours, not from any
positive intelligence. In consequence
she desir'd me to make a visit
to Count Blöff the next day, who
privately introduc'd me to her.

What I mention'd was in substance
as follows.

That what fell from me was
the effect of a sudden emotion,
arising from the real interest I
took in every thing that regarded
her welfare, that, had I know any
fact

fact which could lead to a positive proof, I should have sought an opportunity of immediately communicating it myself, that I fear'd they might imagine the little information I had to give of too trivial & too vague a Nature, which, I hope'd, Cherkasow had already mention'd to her. That indeed reports were brought to me every day from different quarters which, tho' trifling when consider'd separately, might all together be deserving of some attention; and that, not extremely timid in my Nature where I myself was personally concern'd, yet I felt the greatest anxiety, where the interests, or safety of those might be affected, whom I sincerely respected, and revered.

The answer me

She answer'd me, that she was inform'd of the indiscreet & seditious conversations which were held, that it had been found necessary to inflict punishments, & punishments had been inflicted. That, such precautions had been taken as to make it almost impossible for any two persons, who had form'd an agreement, to communicate it to a third without a certainty of being discovered. That she was fully acquainted with the dispositions of the Russians, & knew they were lazy, & discontented in their Natures. That they were easily frighten'd, & particularly, if they had distinguish'd themselves upon any occasion, it proceeded rather from brutal despair than real

than real bravery. That the late Emperor's misfortunes were deriv'd from his known hatred to the Russian customs, & Religion, but that it was his weakness & irresolution which determin'd his fate. That she was fully sensible of my attachment, & gratefull for the proofs which I had given of it; but that she would not wave her intended Journey, least she might be suspected of a diffidence which, in effect, she did not feel. She concluded with assuring me that no Person whatsoever, not even Orloff, should be acquainted with the subject of our Conversation.

At her return from Riga, she told ^{that} me, since the melancholy affair at Mupelburgh, she had frequently recollected my friendly advice, and sincerely

lamented her not having followed it.

and sincerely lamented the not
having followed it.

Secret Memoir relating to the
Cabinet of Petersburg and the Characters
of the Individuals.

Supposed 1764 or 1765
