

Aristarchus

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A hint hath been received from Potsdam, that the favorable moment is now actually arrived, when the long-subsisting feuds between the royal houses of Brunswic & Prussia may be happily terminated — The Queen of France through Choiseul hath very lately proposed to the Emperor, the addition of the Duchy of Wurtemberg & some lesser sacrifices together with the patronage of the Republic of Venice, in Exchange for the Cession of Austrian Flanders & the patronage of the Republic of Holland in favor of the Bourbon-family. Very great temptations have also been offered to the King of Prussia, but they all evidently bar him of every human possibility of recovering his Succession to the Principality of Orange & his pretensions in Franche-Compté — France stands his joining the Emperor in favor of G. Britain at this instant, well knowing that he will not content himself with less than the whole of Franche-Compté, should an open rupture now take place: that is to say, one Third of it as his natural Right. The remaining two Thirds, in Compensation for his having been so long kept out of possession: This, was the Title he observed on the Requisition of the whole County of Silisia. Both the Kings of France & Prussia know that Franche-Compté alone furnishes 30,000 Troops: it is as much the King of Prussia's Hobby-horse, as Bouillon is that of the Emperor: This is the moment to close in with him: the French Court, he says, are effeminate & unfit for the government of a Woman. While on this topic, he hath very lately been heard to say he should treat either with the King of G. Britain, or the Duke of Gloucester, or a certain Person who was in his (the late Lord Chatham's) Confidence.

On this Declaration of the King's, the Correspondent of Aristarchus grounded the above-written Intelligence, remarking that if the Court at St. James's doth not improve this hint into a permanent reconciliation instantly, the moment will most probably be lost for ever; but no overtures of this kind must now pass either through the mediator or even with the priority of Duke Ferdinand of Brunswic, as the Dispute & aversion which the King hath conceived against the Duke is risen to such an height, that his Majesty is hourly making him the object of his Contempt, or the But of his Irony & ridicule.

N^o 89. 1781.

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The Civil-List being open, it is most respectfully requested that the Advances made by Aristarchus out of his private purse may now come in course of payment, more especially as it may enable him to secure a valuable Intelligence from Amsterdam.

[Faint, illegible handwritten text on aged paper, possibly a letter or document fragment.]