

on the proposed cession of Flanders to the King of Prussia in 1741. —

[Placed
in year
of event
described,
though
Water-
mark is
1795]

During the Negotiations for an accommodation between the Queen of Hungary & the King of Prussia in 1741, the King demanded the cession of several districts in Silesia and afterwards all lower Silesia as the price of his alliance or neutrality. Maria Theresa was earnestly requested by George the second to secure the King of Prussia & certain information was conveyed to her that the King of Prussia was on the point of concluding an offensive alliance with France and the Elector of Bavaria. —

But deceived by the specious conduct of Cardinal Fleury, she was induced to believe that France would not enter into the War, and obstinately resisted for a considerable time the pressing instances of the British Court to cede any part of her Dominions to Prussia. —

Being at length undeceived she found it necessary to make some offer with a view to detach Prussia, but without specifying explicitly the cessions she was inclined to make. Mr. Robinson the British Ambassador at Vienna however insinuated in a Dispatch to Lord Harrington at Hanover that he had reason to believe the Court

May 19
30.

Court of Vienna would yield Glogaw,
Schwibus & Grunberg, and Lord Hyndford
Embassador at Berlin declared his conviction
that the King of Prussia would abate considerably
of his demand of all Lower Silesia. —

May 28
June 8

In consequence of this information Lord
Hyndford made the offer of those three districts,
but the King of Prussia rejected it and
demanded four duchies, meaning as Lord Hyndford
supposed Molaw, Glogaw, Lignitz, & Schweidnitz. —

June 13th
24

Notwithstanding the most certain intelligence
of a Prussian Treaty with France, as an additional
motive to detach the King of Prussia before its
ratification, the Court of Vienna disapproved
the offer of Glogaw &c. and refused to yield any

June 23^d
July 4th

part of Silesia, but offered some cessions on the
side of Flanders and the Rhine and a sum of
money, though it was hinted to Mr. Robinson
by persons on whom he could depend, that the
Queen of Hungary would give the whole Austrian
Netherlands to the Elector of Bavaria. —

Accordingly Lord Hyndford in an audience
of the King of Prussia at the Camp of Stelen
July 22^d A.D. made an offer of an equivalent on the side of
Flanders and the Rhine in lieu of his demands
in Silesia without specifying the particular
cessions, and insinuated moreover that he might
afterwards

afterwards also procure Juliers & Berg. The King
 observes Lord Hyndford "seemed to be pretty well
 pleased, and asked what he was to do in this case.
 I told him, that if he agreed to these proposals
 in general, he was to make a demand equivalent
 to his pretensions in Silesia. He said, with a smile,
 if I am to make a demand I will ask enough
 for I will have all Brabant, Flanders & the West
 Gueldres, in short all the House of Austria possess-
 -ed in that part of the world, & I will keep the
 Lower Silesia until I am put in possession of the
 other. These are my demands & I desire you
 will make them known."

"I said his Prussian Majesty had indeed
 demanded enough, and what would be looked
 upon as more than an equivalent to his pretensions
 in Silesia; but that I should make a faithful
 report to the King my Master. He desired me
 to make his compliments to the King & to tell
 him that he was much obliged to him."

Upon the whole he seemed to relish this
 new proposal extremely & by what I can learn
 from him & his Ministers he expects that the
 Court of Vienna should make a more specific
 offer in the Austrian Netherlands, of an
 equivalent to the Duchies of Glogow, Polow
 Lignitz

Lignitz, Schweidnitz and Jawr, and I am
persuaded upon these terms the Queen of
Hungary may make her peace with us⁽¹⁾."

In a letter from Lord Harrington to the
Duke of Newcastle, he gives an account of
Lord Hyndford's audience - reasons in general
upon the Queen of Hungary's offer of an
equivalent in Flanders, supposes it not impossible
for the Queen of Hungary to listen to the
King of Prussia's demand, wants provisionally
to know the opinions here concerning it;
whether it is not as well for the King of Prussia
to have Flanders as the Elector of Bavaria or
France itself. calls these loose hints upon the
first appearance, but the King wants to know
in what light it shall appear to his servants
in England.⁽²⁾"

I do not possess any documents which
state the opinion of the Ministry in England,
but it appears that they approved the business
in Flanders by ordering Mr. Robinson to obtain
the Queen's ultimatum on that subject, and
to lay her proposals before the King of Prussia
in person.

In consequence of these orders he repaired

- (1) Lord Hyndford to Mr. Robinson, Breslaw July 24. rec. same
at night 1744.
(2) Abstract of Lord Harrington's Letter of July 19. in Sir Robt. Walpole's
own hand writing.

to Silesia and with Lord Hyndford obtained an audience of the King of Prussia, at the camp of Strelow on the 5th of August N.S.

After delivering to the King a paper from the Court of Vienna containing general Declarations, His Majesty interrupted him "Il est bien impertinent que ce papier là," and then hastily said "ne donner aucun! tous les pays Bas autrichiens; that was my demand." It is too long to enter into a specific detail of this interesting Dispatch which contains 30 pages; but the King contemptuously rejected the offer of Austrian Flanders and the Duchy of Limburgh, and insisted on all Lower Silesia with the Towns of Breslaw.

In his Memoires
Posthumes Tom 1.
p. 180 the King of
Prussia gives an
account of this
audience & relates
the offer of Limburgh
& Austrian Flanders.

Mr. Robinson not having full powers to make that cession returned to Bresburg & the King of Prussia rejected the stipulated cessions on the side of Flanders in a letter to George the second.

"Quelque inclination que j'aye pour la paix, il m'a été impossible d'entrer sur les propositions de la Cour de Vienne, dans aucune Negotiation, la Nature de ces propositions étant directement contraire au Traité de Barrièr, & me voyant obligé en les acceptant de me commettre avec
des

des Voisins, dont l'amitié m'est plus précieuse
que toutes les acquisitions que je pourrois
faire. D'ailleurs les avances que j'ai faites
à la Reine d'Hongrie ont été plus que
suffisantes pour la porter à la paix, si son
intention avoit été sincère; de sorte qu'on ne
peut m'imputer en aucune façon l'obstination
extrême avec laquelle cette Princesse en a
éloigné jusqu'à présent la conclusion. (3)

The event of the Transaction is well
known. the King of Prussia duped both Parties,
and in the course of a few months concluded
through the intervention of Lord Hyndford a
secret convention with General Neubergh, by
which he obtained all Lower Silexia in exchange
for his neutrality only. But there is reason
to suppose that had the offer of the cession
of part of Flanders, and the guaranty of the
succession to Berg & Juliers been made at a
more early period, it would have been accepted.

(3) Lettre du Roi de Prusse au Roi George II. le
12 Aout 1741.

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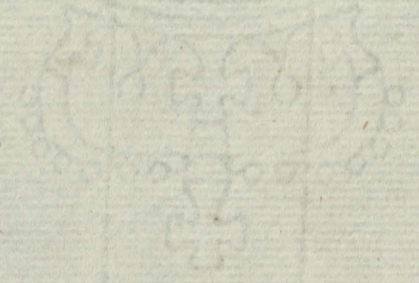
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Memorandum in the
presence of the
to the King of Prussia in
1741

Approved by the King of Prussia