

one Word of it in our Letters, and we do not know that it was ever taken into Consideration. Who could have imagined, that a Servant, a Subject, and a Minister, should, without any Necessity, by his own Authority, dispose of his Master's Territories? Human Foresight cannot provide against such Events.

As to the Cession of the Austrian Walachia, in the Fourth Article, we expressly ordered as a Condition *sine qua non*, that there should be joyned to it a Clause that the Roads made since the Treaty of Passarowitz, should not be repaired: And though the Turks cannot disengage themselves from former Agreements, it did not however become Count Neiperg to omit what we had expressly commanded.

Besides what has been said above with Respect to the Island and Fortress of Orfova, Count Neiperg was as little authorized to give up the least Part of the Bannat, or to consent to the Expedient relating to Old Orfova. Besides many other Faults, Defects, and Exceptions, which it would be too long to insert here.

The Conclusion of the Preliminaries is the worst of all. Though according to the last Advices, the Treaty with Russia is on the Point of being concluded, yet Count Neiperg has not taken the Care he ought of the Interests of Russia. There was no Stipulation of the Term for the Ratification, nor for the Duration of the Peace. And who could have believed, that Count Neiperg, being a Man of good Sense, could have fixed the Commencement of the Execution of the Preliminaries, to five Days, and that of the Negotiation of the definitive Treaty to Ten? contrary to our Letter of the 11th of August.

This precipitate Execution is what renders him and Count Wallis in the highest Degree culpable. For though the latter was forbid to meddle in Affairs of Peace, it does not thence follow, that, without our Order, and only upon a Note from M. de Neiperg, he should forthwith proceed to give up and demolish so important a Fortress as Belgrade, and deliver a Gate of it to the Turks; which is contrary to all military Rules, even though the Importance of preserving it had not been so often repeated in our Letters and those of the Council of War.

By this precipitate Execution, all Deliberations were rendered useless, all Remedies impossible: And our own Servants deprived us of the Liberty of disapproving what they had granted to the Turks against our Interest, that of our Kingdoms and States, and that of all Christendom.

The Turks themselves, all these Circumstances considered, could not have taken it ill, if we had rejected Preliminaries signed by a Prisoner rather than a Minister: And we had fully resolved so to do, according to the unanimous Advice of our Ministry and our own Inclination, had it not been for the precipitate Execution; and we actually signified to the Marquess de Mirepoix, that the Guaranty of France could not take Place without our Consent: A Letter also was actually prepared and going to be sent to the Effect abovementioned, to Count Neiperg, when Advice came the 10th in the Morning that the Execution had been begun; so then nothing else was left to be done, than to confirm the Preliminaries, in themselves Null, by the Ratification of them which was extorted from us.

And we will no less religiously observe the said Preliminaries, than if all the forementioned Circumstances had not existed; and as if they were as advantageous to us as they are prejudicial; as we have desired the Marquess de Villeneuve to assure the Port, and as we have signified to Count Neiperg.

But as our Honour, Dignity, Engagements, and good Faith, oblige us to make known at Home and Abroad what has happened, we first of all wrote to the Czarina; and have since judged it proper that the whole Course of the Affair should be notified by this present Letter to all the Courts of Europe; with this Observation, That as on the one Hand we do extremely disapprove the Preliminaries signed; so on the other, we will exactly keep them, the Ratifications being once exchanged: That Count Neiperg has not only very much exceeded his Full Powers, but has also acted directly contrary to our Orders: That our Ministry here had no Part therein, and were in no Fault: And lastly, that in due Time we will not fail to do what Justice may require.

*Petersbourg, Sept. 19.* Upon Advice that the Court of Sweden had resolved to transport into Finland a Body of 6000 Men, to be followed by more Troops, it has been resolved here to reinforce the Russian Troops which are there; and it is reckoned we shall soon have upon the Frontiers of that Province 50000 Men, that if Need be, a considerable Army may be formed and put under the Command of Count Lacy. We have received no News from the Army in Moldavia since the taking of Choczim.

*Hamburg,*

