

to restore the Publick general Tranquility and Content, as also such a Love and Peaceableness among the People as might please the Almighty, we did appoint a particular Commission of Enquiry, before which the said Osterman, Munich, and Golofkin, with the rest of their Accomplices, should be examined concerning their grievous Offences against the State, as also other Crimes committed contrary to their Oaths and Duty, tending to the open Ruin of the Empire and the Disturbance of the publick Tranquility : The main Result of which Enquiry was found to be as follows.

The late Admiral General Andrew Osterman did not only knowingly and willingly, contrary to his Oath and Duty, consequently in the most flagrant Manner, suppress and leave unexecuted the Last Will made by her Imperial Majesty our dearest Mother the Empress Catherine Alexijewna, now resting with God, and by him as well as others, subscribed and confirmed by solemn Oath ; by which we were actually and in express Terms called to the Succession of the Imperial Throne of Russia in proper Time ; but also, after the Decease of his Imperial Majesty Peter the Second, at the Election by which the Empress Anna Joannowna was placed on the Throne of Russia, as also at various Changes which happened afterwards, especially when her Majesty the Empress Anne Joannowna made a new Ordonnance concerning the Succession, and published her Last Will on the 5th of October, in the Year 1740, (which he alone had drawn up in his own House) he not only made no Mention of the above-said Last Will, nor any Representations concerning it ; but did designedly conceal and suppress it, endeavouring by various false Suppositions, to render it absolutely ineffectual, and totally to annul it : Nay, even such were his abominable Designs, that by divers Schemes set down in Writing, which, after his Arrest, were found among other Papers in his own House, and which he had some Time before, without Regard to God, to his Oath, and to his Duty, drawn up in his own Hand-writing, he intended to keep us entirely from the Russian Throne, as well as our Nephew his Royal Highness the Duke of Holstein, Grandson to his Imperial Majesty our dearest Father Peter the Great, just as if neither we nor his Royal Highness had any Right or Pretension to the Russian Throne. But in order to remove all Obstacles he might apprehend from our Side, he devised a Project to marry us to some foreign and poor Prince out of this Country, from whom there might be never any Cause of Apprehension. The Question being put to him as to these Designs by him so wickedly and unanswerably devised and drawn up with his own Hand, he did indeed own himself, he had done all this contrary to his better Knowledge and his own Conscience ; and though absolutely convinced, that, pursuant to the above-said Last Will and

Disposition of our dear Mother the Empress Catherine Alexijewna, we had the most indisputable Right to the Succession of the Throne ; yet he falsely pretended at the same Time, that he did this out of mere Compliance to the late Empress Anne Joannowna, in order to be freed of the Suspicion, which, as he falsely pretended, he lay under with her Imperial Majesty on Account of having prepared the above-said Last Will. He, Osterman, in particular, has dared, to the greater Infringement of the publick Laws of the Empire, and to the Disturbance of the domestick Tranquility, to draw up in his own Hand-writing, and to suggest divers Schemes, how the Succession to the Russian Throne might be extended also to the Princesses descending from Princess Anne of Mecklenbourg ; in which he has had the Boldness to alledge, that in the Ordonnance about the Succession published by her Imperial Majesty Anne Joannowna, the Princesses descending from Princess Anne were indeed not expressly mentioned, yet neither were they excluded ; just as if this Affair was in itself of no great Importance, but only this to be taken into Consideration, how to proceed in it, and in what Manner the Succession, to prevent all Disorders on future Emergencies, might be brought and settled in express Terms on the Sisters of Prince John : When the rest of the Ministers thereupon objected, that such an Affair ought, above all Things, first to be maturely deliberated upon, particularly, because pursuant to the Last Will, the late Regent, jointly with the Cabinet Council, the Synod, the Senate, and the General Officers, were to chuse a Successor ; that afterwards it was to be considered, what Reasons might be pretended for it ; and when moreover they begged sufficient Time well to examine an Affair of so great Weight, Osterman returned this profligate Answer, that the said Ordonnance about the Succession did not at all run counter to the Last Will ; that if only the rest of the Ministers would join in their Votes, there would be easily found such Reasons, as might be laid before the World, and that there remained nothing else to be done than to take the Business itself in Hand. Thereupon he laid before Princess Anne his Opinion, written likewise with his own Hand, representing that the regulating of the Succession always depended on the Will of the Sovereign, and that Princess Anne, in the Emperor's Name, might act in the Administration of the Empire with the same unlimited Power and Authority, as belonged to a reigning Emperor ; that therefore, after the Example of the Succession's having been settled upon Prince John and his Brother, it might also in his Name be secured to his Sisters descending from Princess Anne, by Oaths signed by the States Spiritual and Temporal, according to the Custom of this Country, and thus this Design might at once without Loss of Time be brought to its Execution and Perfection. To which he added,