

added, that if this Affair was not taken in Hand unanimously, and without any private Views, or if perhaps every one would follow his own Head, it was easy to conceive, that rather Delay than prompt Execution ought to be expected. In divers Conversations with Lewenwolde and Mengden, Osterman did not scruple to tell the latter, That if the Affair was managed with good Order, Princess Anne might be Empress herself, with this profligate Expression, that she might in Right and Equity pretend to the Succession, as well as her Children, though it is known to the whole World, that these latter never had nor can have the least Appearance of a Pretension to the Throne of Russia. To Lewenwolde he opened himself, that one could not know how Things might turn out, and it might be, that the Princess herself might seize on the Succession, before all her Daughters; to which he added, that the Affair must be done, either by Force, viz. by Letters Patent, or by bringing Things about so, that the People themselves should demand it. The Question being put to Osterman concerning these Projects and Devices, he did own, that all this had been written and proposed by him, out of a well meaning View and Officiousness for Princess Anne, to the End that if there were even no Princes born by her in being, yet she might not meet with any Obstacle from us, as the only lawful Heir; furthermore, that contrary to the last Will abovementioned, in pursuance of which, he had obliged himself by Oath, to cause the Succession to the Russian Throne, which upon the Decease of his his Imperial Majesty Peter the Second lawfully belonged to us, immediately to devolve upon us, he not only worked against us when the Case existed, but even in farther Defiance of his Oath, acted against us again upon the Decease of her Majesty the Empress Anne Joannowna; as also after the Deposition of the Regent, only to gain Princess Anne's Favour and Obligation; and thus, preferring his own private Advantages to the publick Happiness of the Empire, setting aside his own Conscience, and absolutely forgetting the dreadful Judgment of Almighty God, he endeavoured, in the most wicked and unjustifiable Manner, by divers Intrigues, to deprive us of our Paternal Hereditary Right which we are born to, and which in Justice belonged to us by all the Laws of the World. Besides these, Osterman has committed many Offences against our Person, of which he has been convicted as to every Particular in his Examination. Moreover, many other grievous Misdemeanours, tending to the open Prejudice and Ruin of the Empire, have been proved against him: He has been remiss in sufficiently providing, according to his Duty, for the Defence of the Empire, where it was most necessary; he never consulted, as he ought to do, concerning the weighty Affairs of the Empire, with Persons

of Trust and appointed for it, but transacted most of his own Head; in various Cases of the utmost Consequence, he neither would call a great Council, nor suffer one to be called; though by his Office he ought to have been the first to make Remonstrances concerning such Persons as were trusted with many and great Expences of the Empire, yet he never looked to it that they should give an exact Account; in Affairs of such Importance, as concerned the Preservation and Welfare of all the Empire, he employed, to the Prejudice of the whole Russian Nation, utter Strangers, of whose Circumstances and Conduct no body ever had sufficient Knowledge besides himself; whilst native Russians in those Cases were set aside, only the others were admitted to Rewards, but the Russians were abridged in all Profits, nay, rather employed to their Detriment; his Dependents and Adherents he not only recommended on all Occasions for Rewards, but even protected them to such a Degree, that he commended their most paltry Services equally to the greatest Merits of others, and when they acted wrong; or neglected any thing to the Prejudice of the Empire, he not only stifled it, but even approved of them and of their Actions, he issued great Sums of Money out of the Treasury of the Empire, and other Offices of the Revenue, without consulting the other Members of the Cabinet Council, but only sent them to their Houses the Resolutions drawn up for their signing; in important Affairs of the Empire, he as often changed his Sentiments, as they were to please others, but not as his sworn Duty and the Interest of the Empire required; he burthened and distressed the Empire by the excessive raising of Recruits of Men and Horses; the Reports that came from the commanding Admirals concerning the State of the Fleet, he did not send to the Board of Admiralty, but had them all brought to his own House, nor ever communicated to the said Board those Advices and Papers that formerly had been sent to him; he helped to procure to the late Field Marshal Munich an Ukase, or Letters Patent, for dispensing him with giving any Answer or Account to whomsoever, concerning the Command he had over the Works at the Canal of Ladoga, though he, Osterman, very well knew that this was an Affair and Pretension contrary to the common Laws, against which he ought to have made Remonstrances; he advanced all his Relations, without any Services or Merit; during his Ministry, when he had in a Manner seized the Administration of the whole Empire, he had the Insolence to ruin and to extirpate many ancient and considerable Russian Families, to make many a Man hated and undervalued by the several Sovereigns, to cause many to be sent away from Court, and to cause unheard-of Cruelties and Executions to be committed on high and low, without sparing even the Clergy; to sow Misunderstanding