

Project to be laid before the Cabinet Council, for the Princesses descending from Princess Anne, to have an equal Share in the Succession to the Russian Throne: He also produced another Project, of the same Tenor with the former, and sent both these Writings to Princess Anne: In them he alledged among other Things, that it was not adviseable in this Case, to proceed to the Election of a Successor to the Throne of Russia, in an open Assembly with the Regent, so as it was prescribed, but it would be better, that Princess Anne should declare herself Empress, by which means, according to his Opinion, all Obstacles and Impediments would be avoided and removed, that might arise on the Part of our Imperial Majesty. This, Golofkin owns to have written with this View, that if Prince John should have died, and no other Prince been extant, there might not always be a foreign and uncertain Regency for Want or in Expectation of another Prince, but rather Princess Anne herself ought to be made Empress; and this so much the more, as he already had respected her to a Degree as if she was actual Empress, and as at the same Time he had always endeavoured to exclude us from the Succession, contrary to the Laws of all the World. Moreover, Golofkin has owned himself guilty, that, being in Princess Anne's greatest and closest Confidence, and very well seeing, that such vast Sums of Money from the Treasury of the Empire, were squandered away, yet he never dissuaded the Princess from it; that consequently he had neglected his sworn Duty, in not obviating any ways such a needless Waste.

The late High Marshal of the Court Lewenwolde, had particular Knowledge of the Last Will made by her Majesty the Empress Catherine Alexijewna our dear Mother, now resting in God, pursuant to which the Succession to the Imperial Hereditary Throne of Russia was appointed and settled upon us in due Time; notwithstanding which, upon the Decease of her Majesty the Empress Anne Joannowna, he did not make the least Remonstrance for the putting in Execution the said Last Will: He assisted at all the Deliberations, both about the appointing of the Regent, and but lately, concerning the Daughters of Princess Anne and the Alterations in the Succession: Furthermore, he was in the most confident Consultations with Princess Anne herself, and particularly very frequently with Andrew Osterman, to deliberate how it could best be brought about, to raise Princess Anne to the Imperial Throne, and to extend the Succession to the Princesses also. He never endeavoured, pursuant to his sworn Duty, to defeat and to obstruct these Views, pernicious to the publick Tranquility, but rather encouraged them, and therefore consented to all Osterman's Projects, promoted them, approved the most villanous Undertakings, and entered with Osterman into the most confident and secret Consultations about them. He also procured for himself and others, Grants and Pensions amounting to vast Sums, out of the Salt Revenue, which was under his Inspection, to the great Draining of that Branch of Revenue; and, with great Application at last procured, that he should not

be answerable to any body concerning that Revenue, nor ever deliver in his Accounts to the Board of Revision, or to any other, as he ought to do pursuant to the Imperial Ordinances.

The late President of the Board of Trade, Mengden, after the Decease of her Majesty the Empress Anne Joannowna, endeavour'd to the utmost to have the late Duke of Courland declared Regent of Russia, and with this View falsely insinuated to many, that if Biron did not obtain the Regency, all the Foreigners would be cut off; but that Biron himself could not ask it. Nay, even long before, he had proposed the Question, whether it was not adviseable that her Majesty the Empress Anne herself should be requested to do it; to which End, after a long Consultation with the late Field Marshal Munich, he drew up a Petition in the Name of the whole Empire. In the mean Time, he, Mengden went to Princess Anne in the Name of the Dutches of Courland, to persuade her to consent to the said Regency, and to help to promote it. He also knew of every Thing that passed and was to be brought about in the Affair of altering the Succession, relating to which he entered into private Interviews and Deliberations with the rest, but particularly with Osterman. As for what relates to his Misdemeanours at the Board of Trade, he has been found guilty of the following Offences to the Damage of the Publick, and to the Prejudice of the Empire. Upon his Suggestion, great Quantities of Corn were exported from Petersbourg, Archangel, and the conquered Provinces; the Consequence of which is, that Corn is now as dear again as formerly, to the great Distress of the Inhabitants, and Prejudice to the Empire in furnishing the necessary Provisions; but particularly to the Peasants in Liyonia, who were so much blinded by the advanced Price, that they sold all their Corn, and are now reduced to such Want and Distress, that there has been a Necessity of nourishing them chiefly from our own Magazines. This Exportation of Corn, Mengden undertook of his own Head, without the Knowledge and Consent of the Board, but with the Agreement and Concurrence of Munich, Osterman, and Golofkin. In this Corn-Trade he directly acted contrary to that Ordonnance, by virtue of which no Person, who sits and votes at the Board, is to meddle with any Trade whatsoever; whereas he, Mengden, engaged with Bardewick the Merchant, in this Corn-Trade, and paid him 15000 Rubles towards it. As soon as he was made President of the Board of Trade, and was to inspect the State of the Works and Manufacturies, he took considerable Presents of several People, and attempted to change according to his own Pleasure, contrary to the Ordonnance of his Majesty our dear Father Emperor Peter the Great, now resting in God, the Mercantile Law or Law of Exchange, formerly prepared, and long since confirmed.

The actual Counsellor of State Ivan Temiriazeff, of his own Motion and for his private Interest, to the endangering of the publick Tranquility of the Empire, and with the View of keeping us from the Imperial Throne of Russia, has