

# The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday May 11. to Saturday May 15. 1742.

*Petersbourg, April 17.*

## MANIFESTO.

**B**Y the Grace of God, We Elisabeth, Empress and Sovereign of all the Russias, &c. make known by these Presents to all and every one, but particularly to the States and Inhabitants of the Duchy of Finland.

It cannot but be sufficiently known to all the World, and even to those Swedish Subjects themselves who are not absolutely determined to admit of no sound Reflexion, after what unjust Manner a War against the Russian Empire has been premeditated for some Years past on the Part of the Crown of Sweden, which at last broke out, and was actually begun. Recapitulations on this Subject would be so much the more superfluous, as the Progress of the War of it self, and the Blessings which the Almighty has vouchsafed to the Russian Arms, ever since its first Beginning, have sufficiently manifested, that God never secondes unjust Attempts, but in Differences and Disputes unjustly begun, always assists the injured Party with his powerful Hand and Help.

At our Accession to our Hereditary Paternal Throne, being filled with a sincere Desire of living in Peace and Friendship with our Neighbours, and of procuring to our Subjects, by strengthening the Tranquility of our Empire both at Home and Abroad, a flourishing State and lasting Welfare; as also at the same time, out of that particular Good-will which we always bore to the neighbouring Kingdom of Sweden and its Subjects; we saw with no small Concern the Continuance of this War, and the Ruin and Bloodshed thence accruing to the Subjects on both Sides, and consequently have not neglected, on our Part, any possible Ways and Means we could employ, for putting an End to the Flame of War, and such useless Hostilities, as must displease God Almighty, and for settling, by the Re-establishment of Peace, the former neighbourly Friendship and publick Security upon a lasting and sure Foundation.

We have not been wanting in any Point to give the clearest Proofs of our sincere Intentions and ready Disposition; we suspended for a considerable Time the Operations of War, even in the Midst of the prosperous Progress of our Arms, and in vain waited four Months for some Proposals of Peace expected on the Part of Sweden; mean time we caused the Swedish Subjects on all Occasions to meet with all Sort of friendly Usage, and sincerely contributed, on our Part, to whatever was possible for promoting the Re-establishment of Peace, in Hopes that our peaceable Conduct would work in the Crown of Sweden a reciprocal good Disposition, and that consequently, by a mutual Concurrence, and sincere Resolution, the farther spreading of so ruinous an Evil, the Desolation of innocent Countries and Subjects, and all other Calamities attending a War, might be in Time prevented, and a Peace pleasing to the Almighty be brought to a happy Conclusion.

In this our favourable Disposition we were the more confirmed, as we were not unacquainted, that this unjust War was begun, not at the general Desire and unanimous Consent of all the States and Subjects of the Kingdom of Sweden, but that no small Number of them had been of quite different Sentiments, who justly reflecting on the dangerous and pernicious Consequences of a War, begun in an unjust Manner, all along detested the iniquitous Steps and Enterprizes of those Persons, who did not scruple to sacrifice, in an unjustifiable Manner, the publick Weal of their Country to their own private Views and mercenary Passions: And whereas the Inhabitants of the Duchy of Finland may be naturally supposed to be of that Number, and have the greater Reason for wishing a speedy Determination of this War, as they and their Estates and Possessions were first exposed to the Calamities of it, and were forced, though innocent, to undergo such Ruin and Devastation: And whereas we, out of a Christian Compassion and Magnanimity, do take these their Sufferings to Heart, and so much the rather, as in pursuance of our aforesaid peaceable Disposition, we are far from any Views of extending our Power, or making new Conquests, or ever desiring to obtain from Sweden the least Thing, except the Maintenance of Friendship and good Neighbourhood; For these Reasons, at a Time when, contrary to our Inclination, this ruinous War and Effusion of Blood must be carried on, seeing our well-meaning Disposition for Peace has not yet been able to produce the wished-for Effect, but we have found our selves necessitated to cause our Forces anew to penetrate into Finland, we have found good and necessary, by this our present Declaration and Manifesto, to make known to the States and Inhabitants of the Duchy of Finland, our foresaid favourable Intentions, and that our Forces have not entered their Country with an Intent of taking Possession or making a Conquest of it; assuring all and every one of them in the strongest Manner, after having kindly represented to them their own Good and that of their Country, that if during this War they keep still and quiet, taking no Part in the military Operations or Enterprizes thereto belonging, nor suffering themselves to be employed in Hostilities against us and our Forces, or in any Ways assisting the Swedish Army, but rather by real Proofs testifying their Intention of living with us in neighbourly Friendship and Peace; then on our Part, not only no Manner of Prejudice shall be offered to the said States and Inhabitants, but every one shall be left quietly, and without any Vexation, in the full Enjoyment of his Estates and Possessions, and they shall in all Respects enjoy our Protection and Defence in relation thereto. But moreover, we will, according to our sincere Intentions of not appropriating to our selves the least Spot of Ground of another's Territories, very willingly consent, and in all ways whatsoever contribute to the said Duchy of Finland's remaining (if they intend to shake off their Subjection to Sweden, to the End that they may not

