

fronted with impunity in the person of his son. As things were, he submitted to the only expedient he had left, and acted as his weakness, and indeed wisdom itself, required. He consulted the Polish lawyers concerning the promise given by the faithless princess, and the penalty to which she had subjected herself. They were of the opinion that the King had a right to confiscate all her estates, but such a sentence could be pronounced only by the tribunal of the nation assembled in a general diet, and the nation was, at this juncture, wholly intent upon war. The negotiation of Berlin, and the weak state of the King's health, put off, till the month of August, the opening of the campaign, which was attended with no success.

The King could not quit his designs upon the two crowns of Moldavia and Walachia, which he hoped to leave to his family, if that of Poland should pass into other hands. The report that he was so much taken up with this great object as to forget Kamieniec gained credence, and therefore he gave affront to the whole nation, and helped create dissatisfaction with his administration.

The year 1687 began and ended in sorrow, but the King had a larger share of it than his subjects. A Diet in which all his views proved abortive; the miscarriage of his attempts upon Kamieniec; a drouth that desolated the kingdom; the jealousies of oppo-