

pect with the greatest impatience, will enable us to see farther into his dispositions. 'Tis to be believed, that if he thinks himself threatened, he will delay no longer striking some blows, and preventing those whom he stands in fear of, in order to avail himself of the situation in which they shall be here, till the latter End of August, which is the time fixed for the total assembly of the troops. But on the other hand, if he remains quiet, he may be persuaded, that he will be neither disturbed or attacked, *at least this year*. However, from what Remarks I can make, I cannot help thinking, but that this court must be very certain of the friendship and attachment of Russia. This notion seems to me to be still confirmed, by a letter which the Dutch Minister at Peterburgh, M. Swart, has written, the 6th of this month, to M. de Burmannia, where, among other things, he mentions, that the French emissary, the chevalier Douglas, gained ground daily.

As this cannot but produce in Russia an alteration of its antient system, it does not at all appear wonderful, that the high chancellor count Bestuchef, agreeable to what your excellency has done me the honour to write me word in your last dispatch, should have resolved on retiring into the country, on pretence of the recovery of his health,
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