

ruined his influence in that quarter, by acting upon a mistaken view of the politics of Europe, which had persuaded him that he had then an opportunity of succeeding in his designs upon some of the remaining dominions of that Republic. On the side of Russia, both he and his ally of Great Britain have met with the most mortifying contempt. To this point, therefore, my observation fairly applies. It is a fact which I call upon the Minister's friends to deny, that the King of Prussia, upon receiving the dignified answer of Catherine to his haughty proposals, namely, *that she would decide upon peace or war, under the circumstances which should make either appear adviseable to herself, without asking the permission of any foreign power*, did actually, in vehement indignation, apply to the British Court for a fleet of men of war to be sent, forthwith, to the Baltick ; and that, to obviate the objection with regard to the lateness of the season (of his right to demand the ships he had no doubt), he proposed the singular expedient of wintering them at Dantzick, in order that they should be ready for early operations in the ensuing season. The British Minister has not been quite ill-judging enough to comply with this wild demand ; and, if report speaks true, has dissatisfied his ally not a little by demurring to it. The suspension of  
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