

and the third, to make one's self feared and respected in the most untoward times.

When I ascended the throne I visited the coffers of my father; his great economy enabled me to form great projects. Some time afterwards I reviewed my troops, and I found them superb. After this review, I returned to my coffers and found the wherewith to double my military force. As I had just doubled my power, it was natural that I should not limit myself to preserving what I already had. Thus I had soon resolved to profit by the first opportunity that should offer. Meanwhile I thoroughly trained my troops and made every effort to keep the eyes of all Europe riveted upon my *manœuvres*. I renewed them every year, in order to appear the more thoroughly versed in the art, and finally I attained my purpose. I turned the head of all the Powers. Everyone considered himself lost, if he could not move arms, feet and head in the Prussian style. All my soldiers came to think that they were twice the men they had been before when they saw that they were everywhere aped.

When my troops had thus acquired an advantage over all other troops, I was busy only with examining what pretensions I could lay to various provinces. Four principal points offered themselves to my view, Silesia, Polish Prussia, Dutch Gueldre, and Swedish Pomerania.

I limited myself to Silesia, because that object deserved more of my attention than all the others, and also because the circumstances were more favorable to me. I left to time the care of the execution of my projects upon the other points, and I shall not undertake to prove to you the validity of my pretensions upon that province. I have had these pretensions established by my orators; the Empress opposed them with her own and the case was ended by cannon, sabre and rifle. . . .

From all this there results that we must always be attempting something, and be thoroughly persuaded that all available means are proper to our purpose. But it is good policy to be careful not to announce one's pretensions with too much vanity, and especially to maintain at your court two or three eloquent men, and to leave it with them to justify your acts.¹

Posterity will perhaps be surprised to find in these memoirs

¹ *Les Matinées Royales*, pp. 29-32.

"The matter of right is the business of the ministers; it is your business; it is time to work it up in secret, for the troops have received their orders." (Frederick the Great to Minister de Podewils, November 7, 1740; *Politische Correspondenz Friedrichs des Grossen* [Berlin, 1879], vol. 1, p. 91.)

acco
are
hims
T
of so
(1)
plan
him;
brea
tinui
wealt
princ
law
oblig
he m
migh
whiel
our i
that
the w
no of
clear
his p
a ple
word,
recou
result
what
lates
indivi
sovere
matte
shoul
would
questi
In
and I
to ou
must

¹ *Hi
de Fré*