

A. D.
1756.

which France, who had assisted him in the conquest thereof, a few years before, did now concur with her new ally; it being, at this time, the interest of the French court to reduce the power of one, who is no longer to be made their tool in the ruin of Germany. His Prussian Majesty was further confirmed in his opinion concerning the hostile intentions of those powers towards him, by the intercourse of these two courts with Petersburgh. To which first Vienna, and then Versailles sent a special minister. From thence he concluded that a project was carrying on, by those three courts, against him; because his power was obnoxious to them all. And he was soon convinced of the truth of these conjectures: for, early in the spring of this year, he received certain intelligence, that the two imperial courts had agreed upon a plan to unite their forces, and to invade his dominions. In this situation, he took every measure, that could be suggested by the utmost vigilance and magnanimity; as will soon appear in the course of this history.

The actual invasion of Minorca, at last, drew on that open and formal declaration of war from Great Britain, which had been provoked, and ought to have been done long before; as we have shewn by sufficient evidences, in the course of this history; wherein almost every page exhibits some breach of faith, hostile intrigue or open hostility of the French, from the very signing of the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle; and which is confirmed

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affairs.