

VI INTRODUCTION.

sue, the elder Branch of the electoral Family put in an immediate, tho' unsuccessful, Claim to the Dutchy of *Iægerndorf* with its Dependencies.

In Regard to the Dutchies of *Lignitz*, *Brieg*, and *Woblau*, the Rights of the House of *Brandenberg* were more complicated and involv'd. The ancient Dukes of *Lignitz* &c, were, at first, independent Sovereigns; but Duke *Bogislaus* submitted in 1329, of his own voluntary Concession, to become a Vassal of the Kingdom of *Bohemia*, on the Condition of holding his Dutchies, as a true hereditary Fief, to himself, his Heirs, and Descendants. King *Uladislaus*, in his Letters Patent of 1511, gave the Dukes of *Lignitz* a Power of alienating their Estates by Will; and the same Power was twice renewed by King *Lewis* in the Years 1522 and 1524; the Words of whose Letters Patent are to this Effect — “That as the Dukes of *Lignitz* had always enjoy'd the Power of alienating their Estates, and disposing of them between living Persons (*inter Vivos*), so they might also do it for the future, by Way of Testament, and Declaration of their last Will.” A general and full Confirmation of all Privileges, bestow'd at any Time on the Dukes of *Lignitz*, was granted by King *Ferdinand* the first to the then reigning Duke, in 1529.

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