

A. D.
1756.

Its inten-
tion.

mal invitation to neighbouring powers to accede thereunto; and solemn assurances that the contracting parties had no other view than to preserve the general tranquility of Europe, and to prevent the flames of war, already kindled between Great Britain and France, from spreading to other countries. But, notwithstanding these pacific declarations, the King of Prussia soon discovered, that the principal end proposed by the Empress Queen, in this alliance, was the recovery of Silesia; in

threaten the public tranquility, his most Christian Majesty, and the Empress Queen of Hungary and Bohemia, who equally desired the unalterable duration of the friendship and good understanding that now happily subsists between them, have thought it necessary to take proper measures for that purpose.

To this end the Empress Queen declares and promises, in the most solemn and binding manner, that she will not, either directly or indirectly, take any part in the above differences, in which she is now no way concerned, but on the contrary she will observe an exact and perfect neutrality during the whole time of the war that may be occasioned by the said differences between England and France.

His most Christian Majesty on his part, far from desiring to engage any other power in his private quarrel with England, reciprocally declares and promises, in the most solemn and binding manner, that he will, on no pretext or reason whatsoever, attack or invade the Low Countries, or any other kingdoms, states or provinces, under the dominion of her Majesty the Empress Queen; as likewise neither directly nor indirectly injure her possessions or rights; which her Majesty the Empress Queen doth in the same manner promise with respect to the kingdoms, states, and provinces, of his most Christian Majesty. This convention or act of neutrality shall be ratified by the Empress Queen within the space of six months, or sooner if possible.

which