

insure to one's self assistance in case of attack or to foil the dangerous projects of one's enemies. . . . But this is not enough; it is necessary to have in one's neighbor state, especially among one's enemies, open eyes and ears that will faithfully report that which they have seen and heard.

If the Cabinet in Vienna can be gained to Prussia's interests by bribery, my Ambassador, von Borecke, had instructions given him on the 7th of this month to offer up to 200,000 thalers to the Grand Chancellor, Count Zinzendorff, and 100,000 thalers to the Secretary of State, Toussaint. If others have to be bribed, Count Gotter should let me know, and I will give my orders. . . .¹

Thus, you will skillfully throw an apple of discord among the ministers, in order that we may play an easy game and realize our main object; and I leave you full liberty to employ, besides flatteries and promises, as much money as you may judge proper, and Major Winterfeld may draw on the treasury of the company.²

The situation in which the King found himself was delicate and embarrassing. It might have become dangerous if he had not had the good luck to corrupt two persons, by means of whom the King was informed of the most secret plans of his enemies. One was named Weingarten, the secretary to the Count de La Puebla, envoy of Austria to the Court of Berlin; the other, a clerk [Frederick William Menzel] in the secret chancellery of Dresden. The secretary furnished copies of all the dispatches which the minister received from Petersburg, Vienna, and London; the clerk of the secret chancellery at Dresden supplied a copy of the treaties between Russia and Saxony and of the correspondence which Count Brühl carried on with Bestusheff as well as of the dispatches of Count Fleming of Vienna. . . . Thus, through the agency of these two men whom we have just mentioned, there was nothing hidden from the King, and their frequent reports were to him as a compass to direct his course between the rocks which he had to avoid, and prevented him from having recourse to open measures against a plan devised to declare war upon him immediately.³

Religion is absolutely necessary to a state. This is a maxim which it would be foolish to dispute. A king is very foolish to permit his subjects to make ill use of it; on the other hand, a king is

¹ *Politische Correspondenz Friedrichs des Grossen* (Berlin, 1879), vol. 1, p. 134.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1, p. 172.

³ *Histoire de la guerre de sept ans*, tome i, pp. 18-19; *Œuvres de Frédéric le Grand*, tome iv.