

STATE PAPERS and POLITICS.

POLAND.

Copy of a Declaration delivered to the confederate States of Poland by the Prussian Minister at Warsaw, dated October 12, 1788, on the subject of an intended alliance between Russia and Poland.

DECLARATION.

IF the projected alliance between Russia and Poland has for its first object the conservation of the States of Poland, the King does not see the necessity or utility of it, because the safety of Poland is sufficiently guaranteed by the last treaties. It cannot be supposed that her Majesty the Empress of Russia, or her ally the Emperor of Germany, would infringe theirs. It must then be supposed the King has such a design; and, in consequence, this alliance is directed against him.

Thus the King cannot but object and protest solemnly against the said alliance, as tending to break the good harmony established between Prussia and Poland by the most solemn treaties.

If, in the second place, this alliance is directed against the common enemy, and if under this qualification is included the Ottoman Porte; the King, out of friendship for the republic of Poland, cannot but represent that the Porte having always religiously observed the peace of Carlowitz, and that during the whole course of the present war they have carefully avoided the States of the republic, there will inevitably result the most dangerous consequences, as well for the States of the republic, as for those of his Prussian Majesty, which are neighbouring, if Poland contracts alliances which authorize the Porte to see an enemy in Poland. Every loyal and enlightened citizen of Poland will be at once how difficult and impossible it will be to defend his country against an enemy so near, so formidable, and so unruly.

The King cannot then be indifferent to the project of an alliance, which involves not only the greatest danger towards the republic, but to his own States, and which will inevitably extend farthor the flames of war, already too general.

The King finds nothing to object against the republic of Poland's augmenting its army, and, putting its forces in a respectable state. But he leaves to the consideration of the good citizens of Poland, if, in each augmentation of the army of Poland, a power is not given to engage the republic in a war which is absolutely foreign to it, and consequently leading to grievous consequences. The King is flattered, that his

Majesty the King of Poland, and the States of the serene republic assembled in the present diet, will take into mature deliberation all that his Majesty now represents in the way and through motives of the most sincere friendship, and for the true welfare and common interest of the two States so closely united by the indissoluble ties of a perpetual alliance.

His Majesty also hopes, that her Majesty the Empress of Russia will not refuse her approbation to a project so just, and so conformable to the welfare of the Prussian nation; and he expects also with confidence from her Majesty and the other, that they will abstain from the project of an alliance so little necessary, but always so dangerous for Poland. It is in this hope, that his Majesty invites all the true patriots and good citizens of Poland to unite with him, to prevent, by their wise measures, the imminent danger with which their country is menaced. And they may depend, that his Majesty will grant them the necessary assistance, and the most powerful succours, for maintaining the independence, liberty, and security of Poland.

Given at Warsaw, the 12th of October, 1788.

LOUIS DE BUCKHOLZ.

Answer of the Diet at Warsaw to the King of Prussia's Declaration.

The undersigned, by the express orders of the King and the confederate States of the diet, has the honour to transmit to M. de Buckholz the following answer:

The reading of the said declaration of his Prussian Majesty, in a full Council on the 13th, has impelled the States assembled with a lively sense of the serious manner in which the King has acted as a friend and neighbour, in assuring to Poland the safety of its possessions.

The project of an alliance between Russia and Poland, not having been projected either to the permanent Council, or to the diet when first, and afterwards, assembled, is not therefore an object of the act of Union, which bears the sanction of the diet conformable to the general wish of the nation; and the propositions coming from the throne respecting the augmentation of troops, and the military of the republic, are not in the system of an offensive force, but only for defending its possessions and its free Government.

If in the already determined proceeding, the States assembled receive a proposition and a project of an alliance, the republic, being held by the same nature of a diet, in