

with to secure her consent for the marriage of the Prussian Princess Ulrica with the new royal Prince of Sweden. It was upon these two alliances that Prussia relied for her security: a Prussian Princess near the Swedish throne could not be the enemy of the king, her brother, and a Russian Grand Duchess educated and brought up on Prussian Territory and who owed her fortune to the king, could not be hostile to him, without being ungrateful.¹

By careful management and intrigue the king succeeded in inducing the Russian Czarina to choose the Princess of Darmstadt, the sister of the Princess of Prussia, as a wife for her son, the Grand Duke Paul. In order to have influence in Russia it was necessary for Prussia to place there persons who were likely to favor Prussia. It was to be hoped that the Prince of Prussia, when succeeding King Frederick, would be able to draw great advantage from the fact that his wife's sister had married the heir to the Russian throne.²

Natural allies are those States the interests of which are identical with our own. Nevertheless alliances may be concluded among nations the interests of which differ, although they will be only short-lived.

In the present position of Europe all States are strongly armed, and as a Power of superior strength can destroy the weaker ones, it is necessary to conclude alliances either for mutual defense or for foiling the plans of one's enemies. However, alliances by themselves do not suffice. It is necessary to have in one's neighbor States, and especially among one's enemies, agents who report faithfully all they see and hear. Men are bad. It is most necessary to protect one's self against being surprised. . . .

It is a well-known fact in politics that the most natural and hence, the best allies are those whose interests are identical with our own. . . . Strange events sometimes lead to extraordinary combinations . . . between nations that have at all times been inimical and hostile to each other; . . . such alliances can be only short-lived. . . . In the present position of Europe when all the princes are armed and when from their midst there may arise preponderating powers capable of crushing weaker ones, prudence requires that one enter into alliance with other powers, either to

¹ *Histoire de mon temps*, tome ii, pp. 29-31; *Œuvres de Frédéric le Grand*, tome iii.

² *Memoirs depuis la paix de Hubertsbourg, jusqu'à la paix de Teschen—Œuvres de Frédéric le Grand*, tome vi, p. 57.

³ *Essai sur les formes de gouvernement et sur les devoirs des souverains—Œuvres philosophiques*, tome ii, pp. 201-202; *Œuvres de Frédéric le Grand*, tome ix.

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¹ *Politi*
p. 134.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Hist*
Grand, to