

A. D.
1749.

tirely deprive us of the benefits of peace, and of the means to resent, or provide against the armaments and hostilities of France, either in Europe or America. This seems to have been foreseen by the British court; and Colonel York, the British minister, at that time, at Paris, was ordered^d to sound the Marquis of Puyfieux, the French minister, concerning the premises, and the disposition of his royal master in case of a rupture between Russia and Sweden. To whom that minister replied in such terms, as left no room for doubting of the French monarch's readiness to take a part in those troubles. He said, "That as
" future events are in the hands of Providence,
" time only could discover whether that part of
" Europe was really destined for the renewal of
" broils, and the calamities of war; to ward off
" which his Majesty [Lewis] would neglect no
" means in his power. But that in case all his
" pains and endeavours should prove fruitless, and
" his Majesty be called upon to fulfill his engagements with Sweden, it was (from his Majesty's
" well known character) needless to inform him
" [Colonel York] that he must answer the demand with the exactness and punctuality, which
" the execution of solemn treaties requires."

Why the
King of
Prussia
kept up his
army.

A few days after (March 18) appeared the following exposition of the motives, that determined the King of Prussia to keep his army^e in readiness to march on the first warning: "The

^d In the beginning of March 1749.

^e Then consisting of 150,000 men, well provided.

" King