

3,000,000 of crowns, part of which was paid, and they carried off some of the magistrates as hostages for the rest. Beside which, they carried off from thence twelve fine brass cannon, and six waggons load of arms and warlike stores. Even the city of Ratisbon itself began to apprehend a visit, and therefore applied to baron Plotho, the Prussian minister at the diet, to know from him what they had to expect, who frankly told them, that if they refused to pay the contribution, that his master's troops should demand, when they come to pay them a visit, they must expect to be compelled by force; but he had, before the Prussians entered Franconia, declared to the dyet in substance as follows:

That as all his master's declarations to the states of the empire had produced no effect, he was now resolved to employ more effectual means to make them recal their troops from the Austrian army; and was accordingly marching three different corps into the empire; one of which had already entered Franconia, the second was taking the route of Swabia, and the third would pass through Bavaria; and that they would every where conduct themselves according to the exigencies of war.

Upon this some of the states of the empire secretly solicited a neutrality, which the king of Prussia instantly granted. Then the rest desired to purchase their security upon the same terms, which were granted likewise; and their troops were directly ordered to retire to their respective countries in order to be disbanded; numbers of which afterwards entered into the service of the Prussians. Thus was the empress queen, by a well-conducted stratagem, deprived of the only assistance from which she had reason to expect fidelity. At this instant the court of London and Petersburg redoubled their efforts towards effecting a reconciliation between her and the king of Prussia. The unhopeful prospect which the face of her affairs presented, induced her haughty and stubborn spirit to accept of the mediation. Conferences were accordingly opened at Hubertsburg; but her minister made his demands in such an imperious tone, that had he

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