

and to withdraw from business, till such time as he should see what turn affairs would take, and from a fore-knowledge, perhaps, that this moment is not very distant: in as much as all seems to depend on the king of Prussia's resolutions; it being undoubtedly true, that if he remains quiet, neither will the court of Vienna begin to do any thing, *at least this year*; but they will endeavour to complete, during this interval, their preparations, so as to be next year in a situation to take such a resolution as will be agreeable to the circumstances, events, and times.

And this is a further confirmation to me of the opinion which I took the liberty of communicating to your excellency in my foregoing letters, that our court has not a more certain method of availing itself of the present conjuncture of affairs, which was never perhaps so favourable during the reign of our august master, than to put itself in a good posture, so as to be courted. One of my friends, who pretends to have his information from one of the clerks of the treasury, assures me, that this court has had a million of florins transmitted to Russia.

Count Caunitz has told me, that the advices which your excellency had conveyed him, relative to the rumours spread by the king of Prussia, with regard to certain alliances