

The London Gazette.

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AT the Court at St. James's the 16th Day of
March, 1717.

P R E S E N T,

The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

His Majesty in Council was this Day pleased to declare the Right Honourable Charles Earl of Sunderland Lord President of the Privy Council, and his Lordship thereupon took his Place at the Board accordingly.

This Day the Right Honourable James Craggs, Jun. Esq; was, by His Majesty's Command, (sworn of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, as likewise one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and took his Place at the Board accordingly.

Moscow, Feb. 17. On the 11th Instant the Czar's eldest Son Prince Alexander Petrowitz, attended by the Sicur Tolstoy, arrived here from his Travels. He waited that Night upon the Czar, with whom he had a long Conference. The next Day a great Council was held, and his Czarish Majesty having resolved to exert in a very solemn manner, his Justice upon the said Prince for his Disobedience and Breach of the Laws of this Empire, who had incurred the Penalty of High Treason, by travelling into Foreign Parts without his Licence, Orders were given for the necessary Preparations to be made for that Purpose. Accordingly the 14th before Break of Day, the Regiments of Guards and the Garrison of this Place being under Arms, were posted round the Castle, so as to secure all the Gates and Avenues; and Orders were sent at the same Time to all his Majesty's Ministers, Boyars and Counsellours, to repair to the Great Hall in the Castle, and to the Clergy to assemble in the Cathedral. Then the great Bell was tolled, and the Prince was brought in as a Prisoner without his Sword; and being carried into the Czar's Presence, who was standing in the Hall in the midst of the Great Men of his Kingdom, presented a Writing to his Majesty, containing a Confession of his Crime, and in Tears fell at his Majesty's Feet. The Czar gave the Paper to Baron Schafirof, his Vice Chancellor, and afterwards raising his unhappy Son from the Ground demanded of him what was his Desire? The Prince implored his Mercy, and begged he would spare his Life: His Majesty granted his Request, but told him he had cut himself off from the Hopes of inheriting his Crown, that he must solemnly renounce the Succession, and acknowledge the same under his Hand; which he answered he was ready to perform. The Czar then expostulated with him upon his Disobedience, and asked him who were the Advisers of his late Escape? Upon which the Prince drew near and whispered him, and they went together into an adjoining Room, where it is supposed he named the Persons, which is the more probable because soon after three Couriers were dispatched several Ways, whose Errands are not yet publickly known. His Majesty and the Prince being returned into

the Hall, the Prince signed an Instrument, setting forth, that finding himself unqualified for Government, he therefore disclaimed any Right of Succession to the Crown. Then several Articles, containing a long Deduction of the Causes of his Majesty's excluding his eldest Son from the Succession were read aloud. This being done, the Ministers, Boyars, Officers and others, who were present, swore upon the Gospel and subscribed an Oath, of which several printed Copies had been prepared, importing, that the Czar having by his Letters declared that he had excluded from the Crown the Czarowitz Alexander Petrowitz, and had appointed his Majesty's second Son the Prince Royal Peter Petrowitz to succeed him; they owned the Legality of this his Majesty's Decree, acknowledged the said Prince Peter Petrowitz to be the undoubted Successor to the Crown, engaged to stand by him with their Lives against any that should dare to oppose him, and never would, under any Pretence whatsoever adhere to Prince Alexander Petrowitz, or assist him in the Recovery of the said Succession. Then the Company repaired to the Cathedral, where the Czar in a long Speech set forth the Prince his Son's undutiful Behaviour and evil Conduct; after which the Clergy swore and subscribed the Oath abovementioned; this being ended, the Company was dismissed, and his Majesty returned to his Apartment. The said Oath has since been administered to all the publick Officers, and other Inhabitants of this Place, who were not present at the Solemnity, and Orders are sent for doing the like all over the Russian Empire, and in his Majesty's Armies abroad. The Prince is kept under Confinement, and no body is admitted to him but the Heer Tolstoy, and such others as are appointed by the Czar. It is said his Majesty intends soon to return to Petersbourg, and after a short Stay there to make a Progress to Astracan and Cazan.

Brussels, March 18. The Marquis de Prié, who in the Absence of Prince Eugene of Savoy, our General Governour, is entrusted with the Government of the Austrian Netherlands, with the Character of Minister Plenipotentiary, has lately received from Vienna his Imperial and Catholick Majesty's Establishment of a Council for the Administration of publick Affairs, which in the Reign of the late King of Spain, Charles the Second, were under the Direction of three Councils called the Council of State, the Privy Council, and the Council of Finances or Treasury. This new Council, which is to be filed the Council of State, is to consist of the General Governour, and in his Absence the Minister Plenipotentiary; of six Counsellors of the Nobility, viz. the Marquess of Westerloo, the Duke of Arschot, the Prince de Ligne, the Duke d'Ursel, the Prince de Rubempré, and the Count de Maldegem; the three former are not obliged to constant Attendance, and have no Salary; the other are to attend eve-