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Petersbourg, July 21.

THE Czarina has order'd her Ministers at foreign Courts to make the following Declaration.

Her Imperial Majesty's Circular Letter to her Ministers at foreign Courts.

BY Yesterday's Post from Berlin we received the Extract of a Letter from Gruneberg, hereto annexed, by which we are informed, to our inexpressible Surprize, of what has happen'd to a Swedish Officer named Sinclair.

Our Reputation, Honour, Christian Dispositions, and Magnanimity are, God be thanked, so well established in the World, that no worthy Man will suspect that we, or any one belonging to us, were in the least concerned in that Assassination; so that it might be deemed needless for us to make any publick Declaration of our Innocence.

However, as on the one Hand what has been publickly rumour'd throughout Europe (though we hope without Foundation,) since the Begining of the last Diet in Sweden, of the ill Intentions of that Crown towards us, and of an Alliance in Agitation between that Crown and the hereditary Enemy of the Christian Name, is but too generally known, and for that Reason some Persons might be inclined to think that for discovering a Transaction on which the Happiness and Safety of so many Millions of Men would depend, and which especially would be very dangerous to us, our Kingdoms and Subjects, we might have some Concern in that Act of Violence; the rather, because in the said Extract Mention is made of two Russian Officers who are supposed to have committed it; and as on the other Hand we hold a more tender Regard to our Honour and Conscience, than to approve such vile Means of discovering a Secret of whatever Importance it might be, and that hitherto we have not given Credit to all the forementioned Rumours which have been current abroad, and which could never induce us to any Proceeding but what common Sense and Prudence naturally require from every one; We have judged it necessary, immediately after the foresaid Extract came to our Hands, to order, as by these Presents we do

order, all our Ministers who are at Foreign Courts, to declare publickly in our Name, as well verbally as by Writing, as may be most proper at each Place, not only that we neither have nor take the least Part in that base Fact, if the Truth of it should be confirmed, (for at present we know nothing at all of it but what is contained in the said Extract;) but that we look upon it as an infamous Action, altogether unworthy of our Honour and our Dignity, and that we detest it to the last Degree.

Not content with this Declaration, we have besides made earnest Application to his Imperial Roman Majesty, and to his Royal Majesty of Poland on whose Territories the said Assassination is said to have been committed, that they may issue the strictest Orders throughout their Dominions, that due Search may be made for the Murtherers, and in Case they are taken, they may be put into Prison; that by the Proceedings in Justice against them, the Publick may know to whom to impute this execrable Deed.

And though we cannot prevail upon ourselves to believe that any one belonging to us has been capable of violating so far his Honour and Conscience; yet we further declare, that we will use all Means, and not cease to pursue the Assassins till they shall be apprehended if possible; that all the World may see how much we abhor such Villany; and that we will assuredly not permit any Thing to be attempted that may be in the least contrary to the Friendship and Alliance which happily subsist between us and the Crown of Sweden, on which we shall always set a great Value, being sincerely disposed to cultivate and maintain the same to the best of our Power.

Extract of a Letter from Gruneberg, dated the 26th of June, 1739.

I Must likewise inform you, that a Lieutenant Colonel, named Sinclair, coming from Constantinople to return to Stockholm, was stopt at a Village called Zauche, not far from hence, by two Russian Officers and four Soldiers of the same Nation, who had followed him from Hungary. They carried him into a Wood near the Frontiers of Saxony; and after they had taken away all the Dispatches he had about him, shot him dead,

and

