CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

History

The books reissued in this series include accounts of historical events and movements by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, as well as landmark studies that assembled significant source materials or developed new historiographical methods. The series includes work in social, political and military history on a wide range of periods and regions, giving modern scholars ready access to influential publications of the past.

Memoirs of the Courts of Berlin, Dresden, Warsaw, and Vienna, in the Years 1777–79

Nathaniel Wraxall (1751–1831) worked for the East India Company before becoming an MP in 1780. He travelled extensively in Europe and moved in royal and diplomatic circles, collecting anecdotes which later made their way into several popular travel narratives and memoirs that were to bring him great fame. In this work, published in two volumes in 1799 and using an epistolary form, Wraxall gives his impressions of a number of European courts that he visited in the late 1770s. Volume 2 describes Poland as a country in decline, and discusses the historical background to its present condition. He also provides anecdotes of the court and people of Vienna, and especially of the Habsburg monarchs Maria Theresa and Joseph II.

> Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

> Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Memoirs of the Courts of Berlin, Dresden, Warsaw, and Vienna, in the Years 1777–79

VOLUME 2

NATHANIEL WILLIAM WRAXALL



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paolo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108045506

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1799 This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04550-6 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

MEMOIRS

OF THE

COURTS

OF

BERLIN, DRESDEN, WARSAW, AND VIENNA,

In the Years 1777, 1778, and 1779.

By N. W. WRAXALL, Efq.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON: PRINTED FOR T. CADELL JUN. AND W. DAVIES, IN THE STRAND.

1799.

CONTENTS

OF THE

SECOND VOLUME.

LETTER XVIII.

JOURNEY from Cracow to Warfaw.—Appearance of that capital.—Want of police and regulations.—The Vi/tula.—Praga.—Signs of decay and ruin.—Jews.—Reflections on the state of Poland. - Page t

LETTER XIX.

Examination of the caufes of the decline of Poland. —State of that country, at the time of John Sobie/ki's death.—Change in the position of Europe, at the decease of Augustus the Third.—Consequences of the death of the Empress Elizabeth of Russia.—Origin of the Plan for the partition of VOL. II. a Poland.

vi

CONTENTS.

Poland. — Developement and progrefs of that great event. — Interview of Neuftadt in Moravia. — Accomplifhment of the partition. — Its comparative advantages to Russia, Austria, and Prussia. — Probable destiny of Poland. — Internal and moral causes of its destruction. — Picture of the Nobility. — Middle orders. — Peasants. - Page 13

LETTER XX.

Origin and history of the family of Poniatowski.— Anecdotes of the father of Stanislaus Augustus. —Particulars of the life of Count Poniatowski, previous to his election to the Crown of Poland. His elevation to the Throne.—His conduct in the beginning of his reign.—Luxury, pleasures, and profusion of the Court.—Miserable state of Poland.—Account of the attempt to associate of Poland.—Account of the attempt to associate stanislaus, and his escape.—Punishment of the Conspirators.—Conduct of the King, on the partition of Poland.—Character, personal qualities, defects, and anecdotes of Stanislaus.—His private life.—Family.—Uncertainty of his future destiny. _______34

LETTER XXI.

Decline of the Court of Warfaw, fince the acceffion of the prefent King.—Defcription of Staniflaus's 5 Villa.

CONTENTS.

vii

Villa.—General Cocceii.—Profitution of honours and dignities in Poland.—Venality of the upper ranks.—Libertinifm.—Number, facility, and inftances of divorces.—Virtues of the Poles.—Female character.—Elegance of drefs.—Portrait of a Polifh woman of quality.—Heroifm of the women.—Military forces.—Environs of Warfaw.—Villanow.—Examination of John Sobiefki's reign and character.—Inquiries relative to the "Plica Polonica."—Polifh Peafants.— Reflections on the actual condition, and future fate of Poland. — Page 98

LETTER XXIL

Journey from Warfaw to Konig fberg.—Comparifon of Konig fberg and Berlin.—State of Dantzic. Defcription of Thorn.—Particulars respecting Copernicus.—Journey from Thorn to Bresslaw. —Remarks on that city, and on Silessia. 132

LETTER XXIII.

Aspect of Dresden, and security of that capital.— Benefits refulting to Saxony, from the Prussian alliance.—Journey from Breslaw to Dresden.— Examination of the campaign of 1778.—Justifia 2 cation

Viii

CONTENTS.

cation of the King of Pruffia's military plan.— Anecdotes of that monarch.—His retreat to Schatzlar.—Entrance of Prince Henry into Bohemia.—He retires into Saxony.—State of the Prince and his army, at the close of the campaign. - Page 150

LETTER XXIV.

Review of the Saxon history.—Augustus the Second, and Third.—Reign, death, and character of Frederic Christian.—Character and anecdotes of the reigning Elector of Saxony, Frederic Augustus. —Electres of Saxony.—Prince Charles.—Anecdotes of the Electres Dowager. - 172

LETTER XXV.

State of Ratifbon.—Bavaria.—Afpect of the country. —Munich.—Character and anecdotes of the Elector Palatine, Charles Theodore.—Explanation of the pacific fyftem adopted by that Prince. —Court of Munich. - 196

LETTER XXVI.

General opinions entertained at Vienna, relative to the conduct of the campaign.— State of Vienna,

CONTENTS.

ix

Vienna, and of the court.—Arrival of the Emperor. - - Page 209

LETTER XXVII.

Concern of the Empress, at the birth of a French Princess.—Activity of the Emperor's character. —State of the public mind at Vienna, towards the close of the year 1778. - 218

LETTER XXVIII.

Aspect of the Court.—Military operations.—Capture of Habelschwert.—Conduct of the Empress on that event.—Desertions.—Discontent at Vienna.— Preparations for a second campaign. 225

LETTER XXIX.

State of faciety at Vienna.—Female manners and education.—Difpofal of Time.—Drefs.—Style of beauty.—Severity of the Emprefs in reftraining diffipation.—Superstition.—Men.—Defects of their education.—Literary prohibitions.—Ignorance of the Upper Ranks.—Opulence of the great Nobility.—Executions.—Police.—Spies.—Bigotry.—Belief in familiar spirits, and in the Philofopher's Stone.—Laboratories.—Veneration for Paracelfus.—Belief in secrets to prolong life.— Theatrical

X

CONTENTS.

Theatrical amufements.—Univerfality of the French language.—Climate of Vienna. Page 234

LETTER XXX.

Reigns of Leopold, Josephthe First, and Charles the Sixth.—Accession of Maria Theresa.—Her harangue to the Hungarian Diet.—Coronation at Presburg.—Her person, manners, and conjugal attachment.—Funeral vault of the Imperial Family.—Death of the Archduchess Josepha.—Allotment of the Empress's time.—Her devotion. —Audiences.—Prejudices and partialities.— Palace of Schonbrun. —Archduchesses, Maria, Elizabeth, and Christina.—Anecdotes of the last-mentioned Princess; of her marriage, and afcendancy over the Empress.—Character of Maria Theresa.—Her virtues, talents, and administration. — 285

LETTER XXXI.

Character and anecdotes of the Emperor Francis.— Princess of Auersberg.—Her beauty and accomplishments.—Her death.—Particulars of the Emperor's death. - 342

CONTENTS.

xî

LETTER XXXII.

State of the public mind at Vienna.—Arrival of the preliminaries of peace.—Satisfaction of the Court.—Entrance of the King of Prussia into Bohemia.—Disgust of the Austrian army to a continuance of the war. Page 365

LETTER XXXIII.

Joseph the Second.—His education.—Partiality of the Emperor and Empress, for the Archduke Charles.-Marriage of Joseph with the Infanta of Parma .- Particulars of that Princefs's character, illnefs, and death .- Indecision of the Imperial Court, on the choice of another Princefs.-Second marriage of Joseph.-Qualities and death of the Empress Maria Josepha of Bavaria. -Attachments of the Emperor.-Manner of paffing his time .- His perfon, manners, and accomplishments .- Indifference for the arts .-Affociation to the Royal authority.-Regulations and measures of Joseph.-Particulars of his private life and character.-Interview of Neis.-Interview of Neustadt.-Anecdotes of Joseph.-His love of travel.-Activity.-Economy. - Courage. - Paffion for war. - Ambition. 374

xii

CONTENTS.

LETTER XXXIV.

Character and anecdotes of Prince Kaunitz, first Minister of Maria Therefa. Page 452

LETTER XXXV.

Appointment of the Congress at Teschen, for the conclusion of a definitive peace.—Sentiments excited by it at Vienna.—Departure of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, for Florence.—Character of that Prince, and of the Grand Duchess of Tuscany, his wife.—Conclusion. - 479

MEMOIRS,