

I have at y^r recommendation read over More's ^{Voluntary} History of Char^l King
of Sweden; and to give you my poor opinion of it, I must needs say the Book is hard=
and if incidents w^{ch} he occasionally brings in to illustrate his subject, I think to be just & agreeable to other writers;
sensibly written & very entertaining; but yet I think if y^r Author had shewn less of
fact & more of y^r exact historian, I believe many of his Readers would have been
still better pleas'd wth his performance. And as I have made ~~some~~ remarks on some
particular passages wherein I think he has been either deficient, redundant, or mis=
taken; I submit them to your judgment & correction.

Pa: 12 He speaks of Charley ^{winning} a great number of his Subjects by means of a Court
of Justice call'd y^e Chamber of liquidations. This being one of y^e most tyrannical & opres=
sive that ever was laid upon y^e Subjects of any Nation, it deserves some further
explanation. Upon y^e conquest of Livonia & from y^e Poles, y^e Government of
Sweden sold out y^e conquered Lands (as we did those of Irel^l) at so low a price
that many of y^e Swedes sold all, & others y^e greatest part of their possessions
in Sweden to purchase these Lands: but this King made by his own arbitrary
authority (what I rec^l) an Act of Resumption & seiz'd upon y^e Estates so freely
purchas'd, whereby a multitude of people, as well of y^e Nobles as of y^e lower ranks,
were reduc'd even to beggary. And this was y^e occasion of y^e Remonstrance which
prov'd so fatal to poor Patrick.

Pa: 23 & 4. No mention is made of y^e number of y^e Swedish army in this Descent, nor of those
who oppos'd them.

Pa: 110. It seems incredible (unless it were better explain'd) that in such a place planky could
have been so suddenly procur'd sufficient to carry 4000 Men over such a River.

Pa: 115. He says y^e Cz^{ar} took Narva in 1702, & was then laying y^e Foundations of Peter sbourg, &
yet he says in y^e next Page, that in 1703 it was fill'd wth y^e works of 300,000 men: & then
again in y^e following Page, that it was become a City in 1705, this Part fill'd wth Vessels.
This is not only contradictory, but seems impossible to be accomplish'd in so short a time.

Pa: 120
Pa: 144.

Can it be believ'd that Charley at y^e head of his foot could march 30 leagues in 24 hours?
Mentioned, Baron Goertz as sharing wth Count Piper in y^e King's confidence, but says
nothing more of him till Page 340 after y^e King's return to Sweden. It might have given some
satisfaction to y^e Readers to let them know how a man who came afterwards to make so

considerable a figure in y^e history, paid his time in that interval.

P. 162.
- 160

He should have told us how y^e King dealt wth that Livonian whom he so ungenerously refus'd to pardon at y^e request of K. Augustus.

Pa. 186.
- 218

'Tis incredible that 3 or 4000 Swedes should run away from that Battail, & never after be heard of.

Pa. 233.

I am well assured that this Author has not given a right relation of y^e transaction betwixt y^e Muscovites & y^e Turke at y^e River Pruth: for as I then resided at Vienna, & had a constant correspondence wth her Maj^{ty}'s Ministers at Constantinople, & Muscovy, & Bender, & had letters from them by all opportunities; & y^e account w^{ch} they gave of this affair differ very much from that of Mons^r Voltaire in divers Material circumstances. He tells us that y^e Czar march'd into Moldavia wth an army of 24000 men, & says nothing of any further reinforcement; whereas his army at y^e Pruth is said to have been about 40000 in y^e action, besides a Body of about 7000 under Gen^l Senne who were sent towards y^e Danube to get Provisions & Intelligence; and tho' in Pa. 235 he makes y^e Turke to be near 150,000; their Foot, according to my advice, did not amount to 40,000, & 'tis not to be supposed that their Horses could be near so many; and yet again in y^e next Page he exaggerates them to near 200,000. he says tway strange y^e Czar did not dispute y^e passage of y^e River, or at least engage y^e Turke immediately, instead of giving them time to tire out his army wth fatigue & famine: he pretends also that after many a loss & several destructive marches, the Czar was driven back upon y^e Pruth: but this gives us a very wrong idea of this remarkable action; for y^e Turke were so far from tiring out y^e Muscovites wth fatigue, or causing them to suffer many a loss, or to make several destructive marches, that they pass'd y^e Pruth in y^e morning, & attack'd them in their Camp y^e same day in y^e afternoon. But I shall give you a short & true relation of this whole affair according to y^e account w^{ch} I receiv'd of it, that you may see how much they differ from this Author.

The Czar had brought wth him into Moldavia but a small stock of provisions, relying upon y^e promises of Prince Cantemur to furnish him therewith; w^{ch} yet he was not able to perform; and y^e Tartars getting behind him wth their numerous Parties, he was

not able to get any supply from Poland, so that his Army was reduced to y^e extremity of want, and y^e horse had lived upon y^e ^{leaves &} roots of trees for eight days before y^e action. In this starving condition y^e Czar was surpris'd by y^e sudden approach of y^e Turkish Army, who were gotten within a few hours march of y^e Pruth before he had y^e least intelligence of their having pass'd y^e Danube; th'd it seem'd very strange that y^e detachment under Gen^l Penne should so intirely miss them. On y^e 2^o of July they laid a Bridge over y^e Pruth in y^e night, pass'd it early y^e next morning, & about noon encamp'd in sight of y^e Muscovites, when y^e Czar order'd his Army to dine. The Czar's camp lay in a narrow Plain in a triangular forme, where an elbow of y^e River cover'd one part of it, & they had not time to entrench more than about one third part, the rest being only cover'd wth Chevaux de frise. After y^e Turks had divid'd y^e Janinaries & Sedenghesties (a sort of Volunteers) came to y^e Czar's tent in a tumultuous manner & demand'd their Officers to lead them to y^e attack; y^e Czar told them he would make y^e proper dispositions for y^e attack y^e next morning; they answer'd that if they could not have their Officers, they would go on without them: upon w^{ch} y^e Czar seeing them so resolute, & being unwilling to check an ardour w^{ch} seem'd to promise so fairly for success, order'd y^e Officers to head them, and about 4 a clock in y^e afternoon they began y^e attack upon y^e Czar's camp; but these hot-headed Warriours were so far from exerting their boasted courage, that they ran back in disorder at y^e very first fire of y^e Muscovites, & did y^e same at a second & a third onset, nor could y^e utmost effort of their Officers bring them prevail^l wth them to rally again, but they were forc'd to return wth them to their own camp: upon w^{ch} a foreign Gen^l (I think a Dane) was told of Czar, he was visible that if he would issue out of his Camp he might beat these run-away fellows, but that then it was ay certain that he would thereby ruin his own Army, for th'at y^e Czar would double his march off wth his provisions, & leave them to perish wth hunger; to prevent w^{ch} y^e only way was to enter immediately into a Treaty, whereby he might get a supply of victuals, to preserve y^e lives of his people: accordingly y^e Czar sent early y^e next morning to propose a Treaty w^{ch} y^e Czar as readily accepted; for seeing y^e cowardly ness of his Soldiers, he stood at least in as much fear of y^e Muscovites as they did of him: and this was a much greater inducement to him to conclude y^e peace than any present that could be made him; especially since he obtain'd of y^e Czar almost all that he desired, & even more than was promis'd to him by his Instructions, and y^e whole was transacted wth such expedition.

expedition that before noon of Oct. was supplied by y^e Vizir wth provisions sufficient for his whole army for eleven days. The Muscovites began to retire y^e third day after y^e peace, but were so weakened wth y^e famine they had endured that they could not march above two hours in a day, & were much molested by y^e Tartars thro' y^e connivance of y^e Khan, (who was much a^t y^e peace) - thro' way against an express article of y^e Treaty.

P. 245 We are told that at y^e King's return to Bender, he found his little Camp & his Apartment under water. But this inundation of y^e Niester did not happen till after his return, for he was present at it, & to shew y^e inflexibility of his spirit to give place to y^e Elements any more than to men, he would not be persuaded to quit his house till y^e water was so high that he was forced to swim to get to dry land. Pa. 246. 'Tis very unlikely, that y^e Vizir should send y^e Emperor's Resident that consists of people on an errand to Vienna.

P. 269. When he comes to relate y^e affair of Bender, y^e account he gives of that whole transaction agrees so newly wth y^e advice I received, that he seems to have been much better instructed therein than in that of y^e Truth, at least that he has kept closer to y^e truth. But I can't but observe what he says Pa. 270. That y^e King had 20,000 Tartars & 6000 Turks to cope with: the number of y^e last may well be allow'd him; but I wonder how he could swallow such an extravagant story (if any one told him so) as that y^e Turks, besides their own troops, employ'd no less than 20,000 Tartars only to watch y^e King of Sweden.

Pa. 289. He tells us Frederick had kill'd a dozen Turks wth his own hands before he was taken; but one might well ask, who kept y^e account of them? since 'tis very unlikely y^e relation should come from Frederick himself, for he says the poor man was cut in two by y^e Tartars in the rage of battle.

P. 323 & 324. He gives us another specimen of his talent at Multiplication, by reckoning 34,500 houses in Petersbourg at that time: that y^e number may be possible, tho' not very probable: but that 100,000 Swedes were then slaves in Muscovy, ~~or Turkey~~, is utterly impossible: for if we examin y^e acc^t this Author gives of y^e King of Sweden's Army employ'd against y^e Muscovites in all y^e actions where y^e Swedes were worsted, ~~we shall find~~ ^{for we do not hear that he ever carried any of y^e Country people into captivity} we shall find that they do not amount to ^{y^e one half of} near 200,000; and they, according to him, we are not to suppose that any of them were kill'd, or sav'd themselves by flight or retreat, but that more than y^e whole number were taken & carried into slavery.