

1743 yr.

23. -- December 2. **Personal** –

On the expulsion from both the Great Russia's, and from the Little Russia's (or Russia Minor¹) cities, villages and hamlets, of all the Jews, no matter of what their title and status may be, with all of their belongings, abroad and without a possibility of return back to Russia in the future, except for those wanting to accept the Christian faith of Greek confession.

As it is not more than once by our ancestors in different years, and lately in the accompli decree (in the last year of 1727, in the day of April 26*), by the blessed and forever dignified in memory all-dearest Our Mother, Empress Catherine Alexeyevna, in all of Our Empire, as in the Great Russia's, so in the Little Russia's cities the Jews are prohibited to settle. But We know now that it perpetrated so, that these Jews are still in Our Empire, and chiefly in the Little Russia [Ukraine] under the various pretenses, be it bargains or running taverns and potatory (drinking) houses, they continue their residence. In it there is no benefit, but from the haters of Christ the Savior an utmost harm to Our loyal subjects should be expected. Inasmuch Our Merciful motherly intention is to ward off and protect Our loyal subjects and Our Empire from all anticipated harmful consequences which can possibly befall onto them. For this purpose, We wish not to leave this in oblivion, and all-mercifully order: with an announcement of Our Supreme Decree, from all Our Empire, both from the Great Russia's, and from the Little Russia's cities, villages and hamlets, all the male and female Jews of any rank and title, with all their possessions shall be immediately sent abroad; and henceforth they shall not be allowed back into Our Empire under any pretense; unless some of them want to be baptized into the Christian faith of Greek confession. Baptize them in Our Empire and let them live here, but without permission to leave. Those unbaptized (non-baptized), as was noted above, should not be kept here under any pretext. By the force of the mentioned above decree of Our Mother Empress, while releasing them through our borders, they must be warned and watched firmly, that they not export from Russia abroad gold ducats and Russian silver coins and **Efimky** gold and silver coins are found in their possession, those should be taken away and instead should be given to them Russian copper coins of small currency of five and half kopeks, which they can in Our Empire exchange for the **Wechsels** [valuable papers/exchange Bills/banknotes]. The Provinces' Governors and the Magistrates in all provinces and in the cities, and in the Little Russia - the assigned commanders and higher ranks of the army regiments must follow this order firmly, under the fear of Our Supreme anger and severe punishment in case of a failure to comply.

To insure the awareness about Our Merciful behest to all Our loyal subjects of any rank and status, we ordered Our Supreme decree to be printed and published in all of Our Empire. (*II. II. C. 3., m. XI, № 8, 673*).

¹Left bank Ukraine, later the gubernii of Chernigov and Poltava and surrounding areas.