

**IVAN DE BIRON OR, THE
RUSSIAN COURT
IN THE MIDDLE OF
LAST CENTURY; VOL. I**

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Ivan de Biron or, The Russian court in the middle of last century; Vol. I by Sir Arthur Helps

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SIR ARTHUR HELPS

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IVAN DE BIRON

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*OR, THE RUSSIAN COURT IN THE MIDDLE
OF LAST CENTURY*

BY THE

AUTHOR OF "FRIENDS IN COUNCIL," ETC.

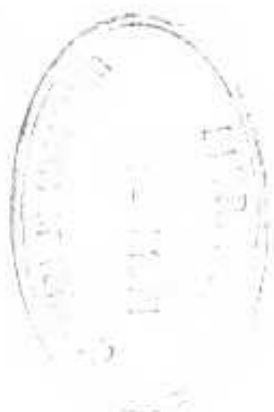
IN THREE VOLUMES

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BOOK I.

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CHAPTER I.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS AT THE
RUSSIAN COURT, A.D. 1740.

On the 18th of October, 1740, Mr. Finch, the English Ambassador at St. Petersburg, sent a despatch to Lord Harrington, then Secretary of State for the Northern Department, in which were the following words :—

“ The Empress Anne died in the night of the 17th of October ; the end of her life having been attended with such exquisite torments, that even those who had the greatest interest in her