

Petition of Serfs in Kungur District, Perm' Province, to "Peter III"

Most brilliant and autocratic Great Sovereign Petr Fedorovich, Autocrat of all Russia, of Little and White Russia, etc., etc.!

This declaration comes from the Guselinovka ward of the village of Spasskoe in Kungur District, in the name of the entire community through its authorized representatives, Kornilo Prokopov'ev Shiriaev and Ustin Ananienich Medvidev. It addresses the following points:

1. We your slaves have, by the grace of God, heard that Your Imperial Majesty, coming from the southern lands in Orenburg Province, has taken on great strength. We praised God that our beautiful sun of old, after having hidden beneath the ground, now rises in the East and in its mercy wishes to warm us, Your humble and loyal slaves, with its grace, so we peasants with one accord bow our heads to the very ground.
2. We [Your] slaves, all the peasants of the aforementioned ward, most humbly request the tsar's mercy from the officers and do not wish to oppose them in any way. Your Majesty did not declare His anger and punishment towards us, so we ask the lords His officers to spare us from the fatal sword and [ask them] to obey His [Majesty's] orders.
3. We also have a great hope that His Tsarist Majesty will mercifully spare us from the vicious, wild poisonous animals, the boyars and officers, and break off their sharp claws--for example, Mikhailo Ivanovich Bashmakov at the Iugov State Factories, also Aleksei Semenovich Elchanov, and, in the town of Kungur, Aleksei Semenovich Elchanov, Dmitrii Popov. These lords make us angry with their declarations that whoever invokes the great name of Petr Fedorovich shall be treated like a great evildoer and done to death.
4. To this end, we slaves, all the peasants, have sent reliable people to discover the truth about Your Majesty and to make a deep bow to the very ground before your military commanders, not to resist them. Therefore, if you please, give them encouragement so that we slaves may know of Your Tsarist Majesty's health, for which we slaves would have great jubilation.
5. May the humble petition of us slaves receive the gracious attention of Your Majesty, so that we humble folk shall not suffer any harm at the hands of your troops.