

Duke of Cumberland to H. R. H.

A.A. No. 303

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Strelitz Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 1753

Dear Brother

I have received within these two Days  
not less than three Letters purporting to contain Messages from  
You, from Excellence, Minister & Chamberlain. As I am fond  
of direct and open Communication I purpose answering all  
these Letters not individually to them but to You Yourself.  
I am assured You know me well enough to be assured that the  
Object of all my Letters to You has been to state to You fairly  
and honestly all that strikes me upon the Continent, feeling  
that in so doing I am cherishing the Wellfare of a Brother  
for whom I feel the most sincere & affectionate Attachment  
which without Time, nor Absence will ever diminish, & I  
trust that nothing will ever occur to make You change in Your  
kind Affection to me; as there is no one values Your friend-  
ship more than I do. What I mentioned to You some time  
ago with respect to the possibility of raising Troops in this  
part of Germany I did from the best Motives, being assured  
that the Means then pursued were not sufficiently pursued to  
accomplish the Object, I am still of the same Opinion & am  
the more strengthened in it from Conventions I have had with  
Persons fully acquainted with every thing that has been done  
and of I am not very much mistaken the Report of Sir (Stewart)

who has been inspected the Swiss will in a great measure confirm  
what I have said. You must recollect I speak to you the language  
of a private Individual who is a Spectator, & who is not being in  
any official Situation here saying things which others either  
do not hear, or do not communicate for fear of offending. The  
Austrian Swiss has not advanced with that success it was reason-  
-ably to be expected, & indeed I believe every day they have in part  
failed; but certainly it is that those actually raised are not in  
so forward a state as they ought to be by this time; they feel dispa-  
-trasted at seeing so few of their Countrymen employed,  
and finding themselves under the Command of a Prussian  
General, which alone was account for the tardiness with which  
they have come forward, as the Spirit of this part of the  
Country purports every thing of the kind hitherto known.  
The Prussian General desires amounting to about 2000 Men, part  
of which I have seen, three Battalions which passed through here  
and are unknown to me are used according to be turned over to  
the British Force, as they feel that being in the Prussian Service  
they are not considered on a par with the Prussian troops  
and therefore it is a great pity that in the Convention was  
made they were not raised to be taken into our Service, and  
a force in addition to the 15,000 to which I understood ~~that~~ our  
Swiss are to be extended, and give your Government an influ-  
-encing Voice here, which the P. Royal of Sweden purports  
by having an Army of 30,000 Men to back ~~it~~ all he  
proposes. With respect to my proceeding to the Head Quarters  
at Reichembach, I must observe that I have regulated my

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Memoranda according to the Counts which has taken place in  
the Court; the Emperor in his Answer to my letter of the  
26<sup>th</sup> of May asking leave to pay him a Visit there, replied  
"He could not then receive me, but that he could let me know  
"when he could." The Minister immediately enquired, & three  
Magisters quitted their Quarters, & soon had they remained  
there, I should have felt an awkwardness in proceeding  
there, not knowing what might have been the feeling of my  
Government with respect to the Minister. However with  
respect to the Emperor, I have since learnt from a Person  
of Distinction that H. M. Emperor was not his own Act  
and Deed, but was I am sorry to say at the suggestion  
of one I should have least expected it from; & in a Conference  
I had with one of the Foreign Ministers who accom-  
-panied the Pr. Royal of Sweden here, he observed  
upon my not having as yet seen the Emperor, "Monsieur  
"croira suri vous l'Empereur comme tres indigne, &  
"comme le deponer des Courtes; I told him as far as  
I was individually concerned I did not regard it much,  
but as the King of Prussia's answer had been so civil;  
but that as the Brother of the Pr. King of England  
who had done so much for Prussia, I had a right to  
be treated as he treated the Pr. King of Sweden, for that  
as to Birth the Emperor & myself were upon a par.  
He said I am tell you the Emperor feels he has acted  
wrong & will repair what he has done. You will think

I hope that I have acted right in saying what I did, as I find it  
necessary to make these Princes feel that we Englishmen do not feel  
ourselves inferior to them in any respect. The King of Prussia on  
the contrary has behaved to me with the greatest possible kindness  
and civility, and having said he hoped to see me very soon at his  
Head Quarters I purpose setting off on the 10<sup>th</sup>; my Visit will be  
to him, & then I shall write to the Emperor to ask his Leave  
to visit him. Ch. Stewart will accompany ~~me~~<sup>me</sup>, tho' it shoud  
he ever has been a thorough Englishman judging by the Honors  
of his Prince & Country & not toudying foreign honors at  
the expense of what he owes his Master. ~~I have~~  
The Pr. Royal of Sweden came here on the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst to receive  
Major General Schornichoffs Corps of Cavalry which he inspected  
the morning of the 2<sup>d</sup>. The Corps consisted of one Major  
Regt. two Dragon Regts, & six Companies. The Major was  
Grunns Regt. about 800 strong & mounted  
and very fine Body of Men, looked upon as one of the best  
Regts of Swedes. The front Rank is armed with Pistols  
as the Prussian Light Cavalry are, they are clothed in  
Scarlet, the Officers & Gentlemen very like the English General  
of Swedes. The two Dragon Regts. were Rega & Finkens  
Regts. both equally well mounted, about 600 each they are  
cloathed in Green, the former with red Cuffs & Collars, the  
latter white, the former the best of the two. They were  
Helms which make them look very well & according to my  
opinion are preferable to those worn by the Dutch Cavalry  
as they have no Horns there to them. Thus three Regts.

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 maneuver very correctly indeed & was very rapid in their  
 movement. As to the Coaches, any thing more contrary to our  
 Idea of tactics I never saw, they have no one signal or Word  
 of command, but are continually hallooing & gulling about  
 like a pack of Fox-hounds. It certainly is very interesting  
 and amusing to see these maneuvers for once, as they shew  
 -with us if they are in actual battle shew being each other  
 off their horses, & to make it still more natural on the 2<sup>d</sup>  
 Inst. they fired ball cartridges up in the air, so much so  
 that the balls hissed over our heads, & the P<sup>r</sup> Royal  
 found it necessary to stop it. There was also two pieces of  
 flying artillery which appeared to be very rapid in their  
 motions. General Mordaunt is arrived at Shatshead, and  
 the P<sup>r</sup> R. has sent an O<sup>r</sup> Camp to invite him to join him.  
 The P<sup>r</sup> R. proposed that some Company to be sent to inspect  
 the Garrison duties, and seems to be the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
 at Croninburg or Potsdam where his M<sup>r</sup> Semster are to  
 be fixed for the present. He will have a force of 80,000 effec-  
 -tive men which he can collect at any time in 36 Hours.  
 Mordaunt says they Mordaunt affords my enemies an opportunity  
 -ity of abusing me, & that you advise my return,  
 to which I can only reply, as individual living is more  
 happy to obey your wishes than myself, but having as well  
 as I do your high sense of Honour, & regard for ~~Character~~  
 Character, I am convinced that you could not wish me  
 to return home at a moment when there is an appearance

of Hostilities remaining, I should in such a case indeed expect  
to be abused by every one, for You have an idea how the Duke  
of Brunswick is abused & despised by all Princes, for his strange  
conduct in going away as he did. Upon my part I had much  
rather that the first Cause which should destroy me than quit  
the Continent was at this moment. As for Enemies every body  
has some, since at any Rate cannot injure me here, & You  
know here in England I did not care for them. My own  
Particulars cause me through many difficulties. If by any  
Return to England I could feel conscious of being of any real  
Service to You, I could lay down my life to prove my Affection  
but You are now safe thank God, the more You are known, the  
more You must be adored, & Your Name goes here further  
than any Prince. Was it to consult my own pleasure only  
or this because I should not have quitted my own Family  
in England and the Happiness of Your Society and all  
my other friends there for the Fatigue, Expence & Incon-  
-venience of such a tour as this, but feeling as I do an indelible  
Duty to uphold our Family Name, to secure our National  
Interests, & to aid by my Effort in any power Your Dignity  
and the Support of Your Government, I felt I have availed  
myself of an opportunity that seemed to be presented to me  
of the House of Brunswick to manifest his zeal for the  
great Cause of Europe; I certainly should have preferred  
to have seen Service with a British Army, but being alas  
convinced that there did not exist a chance of my being

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So employed their remains for me no alternative but that  
of repassing to this great Field of Military Operations or of  
giving up all Idea of our going Service again. I try to  
have the first Cannon shot, and every one in this part of  
Germany burst with the same Desire, I suspect every thing  
from the Spirit of Enthusiasm which pervades this part  
of the Empire. The Van Guard of the Swedish Army  
amounting of 4000 Men pass through here this day on their  
Road to Berlin, commanded by Major General Baron  
Schultzeheim. I understand the 2<sup>d</sup> Regt of Foot Guard  
forms a part. Now God bless You & bless our Success  
I am that I can shall be

Dear Mother

Yours very affly

Ernest

P.S. To enquire what I have said above  
respecting the advantage we Gov<sup>t</sup> could  
have in having an actual force of 23,000  
Men, do you think that in that case the Pr  
R. could have let Ansbay & Franckenthal,  
and certainly England would deplete the  
Top of that place.

W. R. W. The Duke  
of Cumberland  
Aug 16<sup>th</sup> 1813.