Queen of Würtemberg to Sir T. Tyrwhitt

A.A. No. 407

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Stutgard March 1st, 1814

Sir Thomas

I fear that you will think me very incorrect to trouble you so often with Letters but at this moment such a variety of subjects give me cause for uneasiness that I trust to your known politeness and therefore have recourse to you, who I hope are above three weeks safely arrived in England and have been able to answer the ten thousand questions which I am sure my beloved Relations will have put to you concerning Stutgard and its inhabitants. I trust that You found the Prince and the whole family in good health; poor Sophie I understand is recovering of a bilious fever which is a sad complaint for any body that is naturally so weak as my Sister;

to
Sir Thos. Tyrwhitt

March 1. 1814

But though very anxious about Sophie I am doubly so about the Queen who I fear will have been sadly affected by the melancholy news of the death of her Brother Prince Ernest of Mecklenburg. You formed Sir a very just judgement of his situation which however did not confine him long to his House and it was only the last three days he kept his Bed. He did not to the last give up the hopes of going to England, flattering himself in April or May to be strong enough to undertake the Journey. This will add to the Queens sorrow as she looked on his arrival at Windsor as quite certain. At my Mothers time of life every thing is to be feared I am sure that the dear Prince will have shewn her great duty and affection in breaking this news to her. I understand that Ernest more attentive than usual sent a Messenger

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to the Prince to acquaint him with this event. Ernest has answered me a very kind Letter and does not thank God appear to be either astonished or displeased at what I wrote. Prince Solms has consented to be divorced from his Princess, and it is said that the King of Prussia intends to have this divorce take place in his Kingdom, as the Duke of Mecklenbourg does not wish his Church to proclaim it. The Children are all to remain with their Mother. — In less than three weeks you will see the Great Duchess Catherine in England she is a charming woman and am sure will be liked by all But pray desire the whole family to pay her a little Court she is a great favourite of her Brother the Emperor of Russia and has great weight with him — At Berlin the Empress received her at the door of her Bedchamber and led her into her

The Queen of Wurtemberg
to
Sir Thos. Tyrwhitt

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private Apartment where they remained sometim
before she went into the Drawingroom where
the Ladies or rather the Court was assembled
I mention these trifles which are of more
consequence than one thinks of in England
Pray entreat the Prince to do every thing
he can to make her like England as I am
sure she wishes us all well and has great
influence — After having spoken on all these
subjects which are more or less interesting
I must enter on one which causes me
much uneasiness — I mean le Chevalier
Horn who I mentioned to you in my
Letter of 18 January. He continues at Stutgard
has left the Town he has resided in since
the 8th or 9th of December and hired a House
which you will remember just out of the
Town with a pretty Garden and boasts
that he is to be appointed Minister to
our Court. God forbid that such a very

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unfortunate choice should be made. He is certainly a very intriguing man, always sending expresses to Head Quarters though it does not appear that he ever receives answers.— I have already mentioned his History to you but least you should have lost the Letter will mention it anew: Some say that he was a Priest or a Monk, all that he was formerly a Catholick but whether of Scotch or Irish extraction nobody can tell, during the unhappy times of Smith and Dreke he was one of those who acted a part. Has fought for by the French as a spy while he was concealed in a Convent at Peterborne where he spent near eighteen Months afterwards he was tried on the Jerne Town by an old Mademoiselle de Gumpenberg he has since married, All this would be very indifferent to me who never interfere in what does not regard me, had he not given himself a very suspicious appearance here. By sending express's to Head Quarters and sending Cards without asking to be presented on which he takes the Title of Le Chevalier Horn an

Service de sa Majeste Britannique. Had he at least had the good sense to address himself to one of the King of Wurtemberg's Ministers, and had mentioned his being an Englishman who had orders to stay at Stutgard for to forwards the Correspondence with the Army. He would have been known and treated with the attention due to an English agent, but instead of this easy line of Conduct. He goes almost every day to the Accademie one of the buildings which belong to the King for to see Madame de Lenthe; and refuses to attend to those who have told him that he placed himself in a strange light by not being introduced at Court while he was constantly to meet the Palace. One moment he boasts of his influence in England giving all to understand that he is a man of great consequence and as if he had the Treasury at his disposal. Allowing himself to say. I know every body complains in Wurtemberg of the expence of the War but that is the Queen fault why does not the

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say one word and then England will send
Money as we only wish to grant supplies to
all who apply for subsidies to carry on the war
At other times he says the Ministry have sent
him here that he may inform them how far
the toleration of the various Christian Religions
are allowed in Wurtemberg and by what Laws
the Church is governed — By this strange
Conduct and his boasting of his influence in
the British Cabinet he has found means to
draw on himself the attention of every body.
However the King out of affection for me as
this Sr Horn says he is an Englishman took
no notice of all his impudences, till he began
saying that he had the promise of being
named Minister either at Ratisbonne or Stutgard.
This was followed by his taking a House and
assuring he should very soon be presented as
English Minister. Besides which though he
did not read the contents of a Letter he shewed
Lord Castlereagh's signature. On this I begged
the King to order his Minister at Munich to
apply to Mr Rose to know what confidence

ought to be placed in Sir Hors's words, he let us know that he was an intriguing Man who was known to be a spy to both parties and that the Ministers avoided having any connection with him. This being the case as I wish always to avoid every thing which can give the smallest cause of uneasiness I wrote to my Brother and begged of him not to allow this Gentleman to be accredited here and have also acquainted Lord Castlereagh with the very equivocal Character he bears in these parts of the world. — I suspect he was concerned in the famous Story I told you Sir Thomas of 1807. — He pretends to be well known to the King, to have been frequently admitted in private in his Library and to have talked Confidentially with him, as also to have been consulted about secret Books He speaks of the kind manner in which all the Princes behave towards him and is in constant Correspondence with the Duke of Brunswick — I who am most

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sincerely attached to my Country cannot tell you how I am grieved at the mistaken idea which the Government have of late years adopted in England and which is so contrary to the open honest Character of Englishmen. I mean the number of secret Agents that are employed they are much dearer than a common Spy and really only serve to diminish the influence Great Britain would otherwise have on the Continent; as they awaken suspicions and alarm the smaller Sovereigns who dread being drawn into a dangerous scrape. Forgive my speaking so openly Sir Thomas but it is a duty for every Englishman or woman to say the truth on a subject which has already done Great Britain so much mischief; these secret agents seek to distinguish themselves, and form one plan more absurd than the other; which foreigners not considering them as intriguing members of Society suppose to be owing to the orders they have received from Government and of

course dread the having any connection with people who seem always to have some secret views. Within three Months, three of these Agents have drawn upon themselves the attention of different Governments, and been obliged to leave the Towns they resided in. At Mr Wills in Switzerland, a Physician and other soi disant Gentlemen at Berne. It is even rumoured there has been something of the same kind at Petersbourg. — What makes me the most unhappy is that when I seek to avoid all connection with these adventurers they are so good as to amuse themselves by seeking to render my attachment to my family and Country doubtful which is as you well know Sir Thomas a very wicked calumny But when they cannot draw one into their schemes they seek to revenge themselves and destroy the reputation of those who resist their wiles — Having yesterday too violent a Headach to finish my Letter I intended this

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Morning to conclude it and was just taking up my Pen, when I received two Letters from England which Count de Zeppelin sent me, at the same acquainting me that they had been directed to be Chevalier de Horn. This Gentleman I understand received yesterday Evening an Express from Ratisbonne sent by Mr David Horn and directed au Chevalier de Horn Chargé d' Affaires de sa Majesté Britannique. You will easily imagine how this distressed me. The King on being apprized of this sent for Count de Taube the Minister who has the direction of the Police and ordered him to have Sr Horn's Passport examined it is signed by Sir Charles Steward and in it he is called an Agent Diplomatique de sa Majesté Britannique en Allemagne. As he has never sought to make himself known under that Title here the King has desired Count Taube to ask him to whom he is accredited. You will Sir Thomas easily believe this weeno

me to death pray assist me in getting rid of this odious business and join with me to beg the Prince to name a proper reasonable Minister. You cannot think how this Sr Horn by his impudent Conversation has tormented me ever since he has been here and I am sure my Brother is too good not to be angry at my being plagued for nothing If they want a Gentleman Spy in the South of Germany which is however quite contrary to my opinion do engage the Ministers to send him some where else it is really improper a man of so equivocal a Character should reside at Stutgard and is the source of much uneasiness to all parties. — I have so indifferent an Opinion of him that I should be unfortunately be accredited here before I receive an Answer from my Brother, that I shall beg the King to delay receiving him till we have Letters from England — He is too violent for it to be safe if Peace is once made for him

to be at Stutgard as by his imprudent conversation he would get me into fifty scrapes and I could not bear to see England represented by an Ass Monk. — I am afraid you will be tired to death of this Volume but I have too much at heart the good understanding of those that are dearest to me on earth not to do every thing in my power to contribute to it. I must now take my leave and remain with great Regard Sir Thomas

Your Friend

Charlotte