

Vienna, Sept: 28  
1806Encl-  
Sure.

My dear Albemarle,

Not having yet received the dreadful account which every one of my last letters from England gives me but too much reason to anticipate, I shall employ the few moments of agonizing suspense which remain in writing to you and to some of my other friends on the different subjects which I think likely to interest them. This letter, however, to you will contain nothing but a view of publick affairs within my sphere of action and observation; and although I am not sensible of deviating the least from my duty in imparting to you what I am now about to do, still I should wish it to be strictly confidential, <sup>between us</sup> with the single exception of an illustrious person, if he, indeed can be indeed to honour what I write with his attention. I hope he may, as he is most materially concerned in what is going on.

I set out therefore with informing you, improbable as you may think it, that the fourth Coalition is at this moment possible. Whether it shall be made, and when made, whether it can be directed to the wise & salutary purposes which have been professed by all the former Coalitions, are questions out of my province. I say only the 4th Coalition is feasible.

The intolerable insolence of Buonaparte toward this unhappy country ever since the Peace of Presburg, his refusal to execute the miserable conditions of that peace ~~and~~ whose they were slightly favourable to ~~the~~ some branches of the <sup>Agstrian</sup> family, his making them responsible for the Russians continuing at Cattaro, his forcing them to shut their ports of Trieste & Fiume against English & Russian vessels, his violating their territory over and over again, and



and changing, just as it suited his whim at the moment, the boundaries, he himself assigned to them on the Italian frontier, - ~~his~~ malignant exultation over the fallen fortunes of their house when he testified to the Emperor his absolute will that he should renounce the Imperial Dignity, finally the atrocious murder committed upon a poor bookseller at Beauchamp for having in his possession a supposed libel upon the French Government, and the condemning to death ~~of~~ two other booksellers, inhabitants of Linz & Vienna, and who never had been out of those towns, - this collection of tyrannous acts has had

a full and serious effect throughout all the <sup>remaining</sup> provinces of the Austrian monarchy. The time however is not yet come for them to act, unless Buonaparte should be imprudent enough to force them by one, or all, of the following demands -

1. The passage of his troops through Bohemia. Some time ago I had reason to fear this would have been complied with; now I can assure for its' being refused.

2. The demand to disarm. There was a time when they did not dare even to think they had an army. At present, it has been signified to Buonaparte that in the ~~present~~ <sup>actual</sup> state of affairs and <sup>of</sup> the armaments on the side of Prussia, they mean to assemble an army of observation in Bohemia.

3. The delivery up of any towns or territories to serve by way of caution against ~~the~~ future designs on the part of Austria. Lately she would ~~not~~ not have ventured to hesitate upon allowing French troops to march into Salzbury, Trieste, and Fiume. Now, ~~she~~ <sup>the</sup> certainly would oppose force by force if the attempt were made.

4. The recognition of Joseph Buonaparte as King of Naples & Sicily. Austria has already refused to be the first among the Great Powers to recognize him.

Should France insist upon ~~any~~ <sup>any</sup> of these 4 points, Austria



Robert (att. Sir) Adair to the Duke of Albemarle

<sup>Austria</sup> joins the newly forming coalition immediately.  
40773 But what has produced this change in Austria?  
It is the conduct of Prussia chiefly; but it is <sup>also</sup> very much  
owing to our firmness in the negotiations with France, &  
the steadiness of the Emperor of Russia.

Now as to Prussia. We are quite as much puzzled  
as you are to account for the sudden turn which the poli-  
tics of that Court have lately taken. I have, for reasons  
I must not name, been at considerable pains to ascertain  
her real designs; and of this you may be sure - that  
at the time I am now writing Prussia is perfectly in  
earnest. Whether she will continue so after losing a  
battle is more than I will promise, as Haugwitz is still  
at the head of affairs, and as he has evidently been  
forced into the present vigorous measures against  
his inclination.

Not, however, to refine too much upon the  
causes of a conduct which is so obviously the only  
wise conduct Prussia or any other Power can adopt in  
the present circumstances, let us see what it actually is.  
When the federation of the Rhine was formed, & the  
resolution taken of abolishing the Germanic Empire,  
Bonaparte communicated his intentions in a very direct  
manner to Luchesiini, and this only in answer to  
a requisition from the King of Prussia to know what  
he was about. There were also certain arrangements of  
territory, very convenient for the King & Duke  
of Prussia's making but not at all so to the King  
of Prussia, which it was notified to his Prussian Majesty  
at the same time to be Bonaparte's intention to see  
executed in their favour, a counter federation was, upon  
this, proposed by Prussia to Denmark, Hesse-Cassel, &  
Saxony. Bonaparte, at first, was not unwilling to  
favour this scheme; nay I rather believe the first hint  
of it



if it came from Talleyrand at one of these conferences with  
Luchesiini, in the hope of getting Prussia and the two  
others to plunder and swallow up the smaller States  
within their reach, after the example set them by the  
members of the federation of the Rhine. But when they  
began to arm seriously, then Buonaparte, into whose <sup>views</sup> it  
did not enter that Prussia should assume the character of  
a protecting Power, began to look about him a little and  
to call for explanations. In Luchesiini's audience of  
leave he was told that this could not be suffered, and when  
Kublasdorff, who was sent to succeed Luchesiini, explained  
the views of Prussia & asked for a reciprocal explanation  
of the views of France, he was told that Buonaparte  
would not evacuate Germany while the Prussians were  
at Cattaro or while the war with Russia lasted, that  
he would immediately assemble a large force in West-  
phalia unless Prussia chose to retire from thence &  
Dixmum, that he would have Braunau & some other  
territory near it (I forget which) and all the shores of  
the Adriatic, & that upon Prussia's consenting to the  
the northern federation might go on, provided the Han-  
Towns were not included; and that to <sup>counterbalance</sup> ~~balance~~ this dis-  
-advantage, Prussia might take Holstein. These de-  
-mands, particularly that of disarming, has roused the  
indignation of the Prussian army to the highest pitch.  
The King is outrageous against Buonaparte, and war is  
universally desired and declared to be inevitable.

Previous to any hostile act however, the King  
has sent again to his Minister at Paris a set of pro-  
-posals the rejection of which will be <sup>followed</sup> ~~accompanied~~ by  
the best effects in Germany. The first is the immedi-  
evacuation



40774-5  
evacuation of the German territory by France. The best  
is that all the smaller states whatsoever, that may be  
so inclined, shall without molestation from France,  
be at liberty to enter into the northern league; the  
next is some security for the future Peace of  
Germany. These terms are sure to be rejected, &  
in that case Knutensdoff will leave Paris & the  
war will begin.

Now as to the state of preparations. In  
the first place there never was such a spirit mani-  
fested among all ranks of the People without dis-  
tinction as there is at this moment. So great is it  
that the King's throne is at stake if he consents to  
a dishonourable Peace. He has pledged himself, I know,  
never to lay down his arms while any continental  
Power will stand by him in <sup>his attempt to</sup> ~~expelling~~ the French from  
Germany. His People and his army will stand by this  
pledge to the last man. They feel that they have  
their character to redeem. Nothing, in short, can be  
more encouraging than the prospect on this side.

With regard to the force already in the field,  
the German allies have ~~already~~ 170,000 effective  
battalions from Paderborn to Plauen. A reserve of  
between 70 & 80,000 is collecting in the neighbourhood of  
Kustrin. There are about 70,000 Prussians - I am sorry  
they are not more and nearer - in the neighbourhood  
of Warsaw; but the Emperor Alexander has promised  
to support Prussia with his whole force, and  
Breslau is gone to Petersburg to reduce these  
good dispositions on both sides into a specific engage-  
ment, to which Great Britain will of course accede  
if she can come to any understanding with Prussia about  
Hanover.



Hanover. I have reason to believe that on this point  
Ruffia is inclined to listen to reason. on this head  
I have already laid my ideas before Government in a  
private letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> alas! my heart bleeds when  
I think that probably he for whom it was meant was  
on that day past the power of advising!

I add to the allied forces 80,000 Austrians in  
Bohemia, because so strong a corps will require nearly  
their number to watch them.

The enemy have at least an equal number  
of forces, counting their allies, in Franconia, Swabia,  
and Bavaria. They are just now more dispersed, but  
they can very soon be united. It is supposed that  
Bismarck will be Bismarck's head quarters, at  
first he is expected at Munich.

So much for the present aspect of affairs in  
Germany. A war is brewing on the side of Turkey, where  
General Sebastiani has been pushing on the Porte to acts  
of insult & hostility against Russia. He calculated  
on being able to assist them with a large army from  
Dalmatia, but unfortunately for him the French have  
been so roughly handled in Dalmatia that they are  
actually evacuating it. So you <sup>may</sup> see Russia before long  
at Constantinople.

I should hope however, that the Turks, aware in  
time of the false steps in which France is engaging them,  
may make such satisfaction to Russia as to avert a war.  
Let us, for God's sake, have but one object, and that object  
not France merely but the French Army in Germany. I am  
sure we shall do nothing until that is completely beaten  
and dispersed. Then we may think of other things. Bismarck  
once.



once defeated in Germany, you would see all Europe rise as  
one man against him.

40775 On the ground you have here been made ac-  
quainted with you will see the truth of the proposition  
I place at the head of this long letter, namely that the  
fourth Coalition is practicable. I answer for no more.  
I must know the state of things at home to <sup>say</sup> answer whether  
it would be wise. Certainly it would be playing out  
the last card in our hand, but perhaps if we do not  
play it out trust all to one desperate risqué, the rest  
of our lives must be devoted to contemplate in silence,  
perhaps to feel in our own persons, the slavery and de-  
gradation of Europe without the possibility of retrieving  
it. But to whose hands will these great affairs  
be entrusted?

With this painful question I close the  
subject, begging you to believe me

ever affectionately yrs

R. Adams



Mr. Adair

to

The Earl of Albemarle

Sept. 20. 1706