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Duchess of Württemberg

51451-2

Sir

Though I have undergone a most wretched day I cannot neglect writing to Your Majesty by Count Utschull, as even in the most melancholy occasions it is always a comfort to me to look up to your protection.

The Prince feels deeply the loss of his Father to whom he was sincerely attached and particularly so to be called upon in a moment like the present to take on himself the government of the Duchy I trust that the Almighty who knows the goodness of his principles and the

rectitude of his intentions will guide him  
to act right; as I am sure that to the  
best of his knowledge he ever will intend  
to do: but what are we blind Mortals without  
the assistance of God.

I seize this opportunity to recommend  
the Duke and myself anew to the  
protection of your Majesty and trust that  
you are convinced of our attachment to  
You. - In our distress it is a great mercy  
that we see almost every thing under the  
same point of view. I begged the Duke  
Yesterday Evening that he would make no  
addition to my Ladies at present as it

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appeared me better in these times to see what  
we could do: before we made any alteration,  
This gave him great pleasure as he assured me  
it was the very subject he wanted to speak  
to me about as for himself whether the  
people that belonged to his Father were  
pleasant or not he would as far as possible  
keep them out of respect to his Memory.

God grant that in this change of  
situation I may be as happy as I  
have been till now and that Providence  
who has been so good to me will not  
only enable me to share every pain  
the Duke suffers but give me the  
power through my affection to worth

the many unpleasant hours he must meet  
with now. - I beg Your Majesty's pardon  
for dwelling so long on this subject but my  
head is so full that I can think of little  
else but to return the Almighty thanks  
that you enjoy so good a state of health and  
to pray to him that you may long be  
preserved as a blessing and a comfort to us  
all. Before I take my leave of Your  
Majesty I must add that I am quite  
well to day which I am sure will give  
you pleasure and I have the honour to be  
with the greatest respect. Your Majesty's

Stuttgart.  
December 23<sup>d</sup> and  
24<sup>th</sup> 1797. Most dutiful Daughter  
and devoted Subject  
Charlotte Augusta Matilda