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Louisbourg May 27th

1799

Sir

I had the honour of mentioning to Your Majesty about a Month ago the Duke's intention of sending General Baron de Melun as Minister to Your Majesty. At last thank God the many impediments which prevented this Step, are partly removed, and I now feel my self at liberty to lay before Your Majesty, many things which it has long been my wish You should be thoroughly acquainted with

Your Majesty knows that the Peace which three Years ago the late Duke was constrained to sign

with the French when they had taken possession of this Country, was always a great distress to my Husband, who looked on a partial Peace as a source of great mischief thinking it exposed the Dutchy to become the seat of War and that both Armies drawing from thence their sustenance must totally ruin his Subjects. However when he came to the Dutchy he found himself in a very difficult situation, his Country open on all sides to the Enemy without sufficient Troops to stem the Torrent and the States assembled too ready to join in every confusion. They have now been assembled above two Years and have not found means to fix the Taxes for to pay the expences

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incurred by the War, which was the only object they had to decide on, but have continually attempted to interfere in every branch of Government and delayed executing their promises. Many of their Members and its constituents in popular Assemblies are weak and are lead by a few hot headed Men who by having no property think they can gain by bringing on disturbances. When the Duke first came to the Dutchy he confirmed according to the Constitution their Privileges, and a few Months after, wishing by gentle means to bring them round, he yielded to them on many points; but unfortunately was not repaid by Success. - They have for

many Months continued to torment
the Duke who has bore it with
great patience and always hoped
they would at last fulfil their duty.
When the French entered the Dutch
the States themselves entreated the
Duke not to leave them which he
most willingly agreed to, on condition
they would agree to the levying
more troops they apparently came
into it, but ever since continue
to throw every impediment they
can think of in the way to
prevent the Recruiting. In
this situation Your Majesty will
easily see that it was impossible
to take an active part and that
the most that could be obtained

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was to keep home quiet.

The Country people are attached to the Duke and to their credit though the Oberleutnant are quite ruined not a Peasant has moved, they say their Sovereign is a just man and they are convinced will do every thing in his power to assist them: the French even acknowledge that nobody in the Country is ready to receive their Revolutionary principles, instead of which the Wisternbergers hate them

I trembled at the beginning of the War that the French should have their usual success being convinced we should then be the first prey they would seize on, for if we did not remain the Peasants suffering

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from the absence of the Court would
 grow disappointed and by that means
 be drawn into Republicanism.
 They are now all pleased at the
 Duke having said which is a
 great mercy.

On the 7th of April the Duke received
 a Messenger from the Empress of
 Russia his Sister. She pressed him
 in the Emperor's name to take an
 open and active part in the War
 which could he have followed his
 inclination he would have done long
 ago but situated as he is, could not
 venture on such a step without
 the protection and assistance of
 Great Powers. Since that he has
 received both from Russia and

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other places strong proofs that notwithstanding the declarations of the Directory the Generals had received orders under hand to make the Dutchy a Republic.

It is therefore Sir at the moment we understand the extent of our danger, and are free from these Monsters, that we entreat your Majesty to take us under your Protection and be graciously pleased to take our situation into consideration and assist us by taking into your pay the Troops which the Duke offers to raise, and to write to the Archdukes Army, to fight against the French who have ever sought to destroy Religion, Government and Happiness - The Duke is too happy to have it in his

power to show his attachment to
Your Majesty and I hope you
will forgive my anxiety on a
subject on which I see totally
depends the future existence of
the Duke and our children. He is
very much encouraged by the
Sardinian Court and I flatter myself
will also meet with approbation
at Vienna where Count Zepherino
is at present.

May I now recommend to
Your Majesty's protection General
de Melin who I flatter myself
you will be pleased with as he
is a sensible Man and has been
now above thirty years employed

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by the different Duties. His having been
with us three Months in the Country
enabled him to give very exact accounts
about one which knowing Your Majesty's
constant goodness to me makes me hope
will give you pleasure.

May I entreat Your Majesty to
accept of two Breakfast Cups which
the Queen will be so good as to
offer you in my name. I shall
now only beg Your Majesty to be
convinced of the Respect and
attachment with which I remain

Your Majesty's
Most dutiful Daughter
and devoted Subject
Charlotte Augusta Matilda

Bishop of Westminster
27th May 1799