

AA

51607-8

Erlangen July 20th, 1800

Sir

Knowing Your Majesty's paternal Affection for me it costs me a great deal to be always wounding your heart with wretched accounts of our situation which grows worse and worse. Last Night the Duke received a Messenger to acquaint him the French have imposed six Millions on the Dutchy, to be paid within a Month, or all the Dukes Houses to be burnt and his possessions laid waste, besides a large Body of Troops being sent into the Dutchy. (At present this Sum amounts to six hundred thousand pounds English)

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21807

As after all the misery and oppression
the poor Württembergers have undergone
their is no specie in the Country, the
Duke knowing their inability to do
any thing towards this Contribution
has striped himself of all the Money
he had laid by for us to live on and
sent it to pay off the first instalment
which is on the 5th, but what steps
can be taken for the rest God alone
knows - The French refuse to take
any thing but Money or Plate which
makes our situation infinitely worse
than in the Year ninety six as then
the contribution amounted to four
millions of which only one third in
Specie the rest in Flour, Corn &c
This is a most iniquitous business

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51608

as the proposition on all occasions is that
the Duke pays the fifth part of all
the expences of the Circle of Suabia
and now they force him to pay the
half, all the rest of Suabia being
taxed at six Millions.

This fresh blow has affected both the
Duke and myself very much and I
should feel still more wretched did
I not place a firm confidence in
Your Majesty's Justice and protection,
who will not allow us to become the
Victims of the intrigues and passions
of others, after the manner in which
the Duke has exerted himself for the
common cause.

The Austrians having abandoned our
Country without acquainting the Duke

is shocking not only as it is against
the Treaty but doubly so when Your
Majesty considers that since the Year
unity viz the Emperor has received
above fourteen millions of florins, which
is double the Dutches revenues, from
the Dutchy. Ought we not at least
to be protected after such Sacrifices
instead of being yielded up to the
Enemy who during the Armistice
make these demands to destroy the
Country. Trusting to Your Majesty's
known Justice and goodness I humbly
entreat You to have compassion on
us and interest Yourself for us at
Vienna that some steps may be
taken to secure the Dutchy from
utter destruction

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51609

I also beg Your Majesty will be so
gracious as to encourage the Loan the
Duke has some thoughts of seeking to
obtain in England as the only means
to save his poor Subjects - The moment
the Duke acquainted me with this
fresh calamity I wanted to give my
Jewels to assist the Country but he
would not allow of it, as in Germany
I should not receive one tenth part
of their value - However my heart is
so set on being of use that can I
find an advantageous opportunity in
England I shall seize it with
pleasure and feel more satisfaction
in knowing the Money has saved
many families than I ever did
in wearing them. - It is very

painful to me always to plague
 Your Majesty with our misfortunes
 but looking on you as my Protector
 I hope You will forgive my
 importunity to assist us.

The Duke begs me to present his
 humble duty - I have the honour
 to be with great respect

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

Dunbar 29th July 1780