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Esslingen December 20th
1800

Sir

I had just begun to write to Your Majesty on Sunday when we received the sad news of the defeat of the Austrians on the 3rd. Your Majesty will imagine how cruel a blow this must be to us who have our all at stake and from the advantages on the 1st had flattered ourselves that things would take a better turn; though much could not be expected from a Boy who had never been out of his Nursery till he was

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sent to command the Army. It is
 very vexatious to those who wish well
 to the good Cause to see our brave
 Archduke Charles left at Prague, and
 this Child sent instead of him
 who has twice saved Germany, to
 command an Army on which the
 fate of the Continent depends.

We are now in a very unpleasant
 situation here, General Surovich
 having quitted Nuremberg and taking
 his whole Corps to Lauft, the French
 have taken possession of Nuremberg
 and their Troops are constantly
 marching through this Town and
 are quartered in all the Villages

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round about which makes me an
absolute Prisoner as Yesterday I attempted
to walk round the Town and at a
very small distance we saw a Patrol
which prevents our going out at all as
in Erlangen there is no end of the
French Soldiers who are to be met
with constantly in the Streets.

I imagine Your Majesty will
have found the new Lodge at New
much advanced though I fear a
stop will be put to the building
by the Weather which begins here to
be very severe and we suffer much
from the Cold in this Paper House
If ever it pleases Providence to
allow us to return home we shall

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enjoy every thing doubly from the
uncomfortable way we have lived in
now above six Months.

The Duke begs me to present his
humble duty to Your Majesty and
I have the honour to be with great
respect Your Majesty's

Most dutiful Daughter
and devoted Subject

Charlotte Augusta Matilda

Duchess of Cumberland
December 10th 1780