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Erlangen December 23^d
1800

Sir

I deferred writing to Your Majesty till the last moment flattering myself before the departure of the Post to have something good to say, but alas every thing has taken a worse aspect since I wrote to the Queen this Morning. The French have received a reinforcement of nine thousand Men and are again I believe at Nuremberg, the Cannonading is since then a clock without end and we must now tremble for the Austrians as the French have many more Troops

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What is particularly unfortunate is
that if even the Austrians were to be
successful it would be to no purpose
as the French have passed the Inn
and are according to some accounts
at Linz. It would be impossible
for me to describe to Your Majesty
the effect this metacroboly news has
on me, it I see nothing but the
most wretched events likely to happen.
Since these misfortunes I hear the
Archduke Charles has joined the Army
had he been there three weeks ago
every thing would have had another
aspect and we might have had a

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chance of recovering part of the Ground
that had been lost by General Thoy
As the foot is going off I can only
add the Duke's humble duty and
shall not fail to acquaint Your
Majesty with every fresh event that
takes place. I have the honour to
be with the greatest respect

Your Majesty's

Most dutiful Daughter
and devoted Subject

Charlotte Augusta Matilda

[Faint, illegible cursive handwriting on aged paper]

George Washington
December 23^d 1788