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Erlangen December 31<sup>st</sup>  
10 00

Sir

It gives me great pleasure to have it in my power to write openly to Your Majesty as the Post is too dangerous a conveyance for me to feel at ease when I wish to acquaint Your Majesty with any particulars of our situation, which since Yesterday Morning is very wretched as the Duke then received the cruel news of the Retreat of the Austrians and the total disorganisation of their Army; it is

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dreadful to hear that those Troops  
formerly so brave now throw down  
their Arms at the approach of the  
Enemy. I thank God the Württemberg  
Troops continue doing their duty  
and behave nobly on all occasions  
notwithstanding the hardships  
they have undergone, but it is  
always to be feared that at least  
they may be induced to follow  
the wretched example the Austrians  
set them. - If we can credit what  
the French report we have also  
reason to fear that the Emperor  
has been obliged to resign the

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Preliminaries of Peace. Should this  
prove true I have recourse to Your  
Majestys Justice and goodness for  
to entreat You not to abandon the  
Duke and allow us to suffer for  
having adhered to the good Cause,  
notwithstanding our Country was the  
first yielded to the Enemy by the  
Armistice; that the French have  
quite ruined it, by draining it of  
Money, and of Corn, and even  
threaten to treat us with greater  
severity. I am sure these  
considerations will have some  
weight with Your Majesty and

that Your Generosity will induce  
You to protect us.

I shall also take the liberty  
to mention another subject which  
I have much at Heart. Your  
Majesty certainly remembers my  
having entered into a particular  
account concerning the bad Behaviour  
of the States of the Dutchy and  
that the Emperor by a decree had  
enabled the Duke to dissolve the  
Committees as well as the Assembly.  
On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April the new  
Assembly of the States was  
opened and I believe had there

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misfortunes not befallen the Country  
would have avoided following the  
bad example of their Predecessors, but  
the distresses which drove the Duke  
from Württemberg encouraged them  
again to forget their duty and  
fearing that hereafter they may be  
called to account for this, they seek  
support every where. The Duke  
has heard that they have applied  
at Hanover to have somebody named  
in Monsieur de Threble's place and  
that there is an idea of proposing  
to Your Majesty a person who  
is not a Gentleman to succeed  
him. I am convinced that Your

Majesty is too good and just to  
give any encouragement to those  
who only distress their Sovereign  
and in the end hurt the people.

I hope Your Majesty will not  
be offended at my entreating You  
not to receive any body who is  
not a Gentleman as it would  
distress us both very much to  
have any person at Stuttgart  
in Your Service to whom the  
Duke and myself could not  
show every attention which can  
denote our Respect and attachment  
to You. According to the Etiquette  
established at all the German.

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Concave it is only a Minister Plenipotentiary  
having that has the right to be  
invited to Dinner, and even with  
honour as he was only Minister  
President it would have made  
great difficulties, had his birth  
not entitled him to those attentions  
which otherwise he could not have  
obtained. I think it my duty  
to mention this to Your Majesty  
and hope you will forgive my  
troubling you on this subject as  
I am sure you will feel that  
I am ever guided by the desire  
to show my attachment to you.

The Duke begs me to present his  
humble duty to Your Majesty.

It is with the greatest respect  
and attachment that I remain

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

Charlotte Augusta Matilda  
December 31<sup>st</sup> 1789