

AA

51633-4

Esslingen January 13

1701

Sir

As it ever gives me great pleasure to write openly to Your Majesty I seize on the opportunity of a Messenger going to General Melvis to send you a Letter.

The Duke has ordered the General to acquaint Lord Grenville that after the unexpected misfortunes of this Campaign, and the Steps the Court of Vienna has taken in consequence of them, he has found himself obliged to send a person



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to Paris who has orders to keep in the  
back Ground and not to come forwards  
unless he finds there is no thoughts  
of continuing the War, and then not  
till the ~~rest~~ that the other Courts  
seek to conclude separate Treaties  
As the Duke is determined strictly  
to keep his Treaty as long as it  
lays in his power, and has already  
maintained it notwithstanding his  
severe losses and the offers made him  
to break it. Your Majesty will I  
am sure do the Duke the Justice  
to believe that whatever he may  
find himself obliged to do, it  
will be against his inclination



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but You must Yourself feel it quite  
impossible for him with his seven  
thousand Men to continue alone the  
War, should Austria give up the  
contest and make Peace.

Your Majesty is I trust too well  
acquainted with my character not  
to be convinced that I detest  
interfering or speaking of things out  
of my Sphere. However I cannot  
conceal the regret I feel at seeing  
by the Papers that in addition to  
the many painful Hours you have  
spent owing to this unfortunate  
Campaign the breach between the  
Northern Powers will be a fresh



source of uneasiness to Your Majesty  
and of great distress to the rest of  
Europe. Far be it from me to pretend  
to judge of the merits of the cause,  
my attachment to Your Majesty  
and Great Britain must ever  
make me too partial to attempt  
investigating the Subject, which ever  
important is doubly so at this  
awful Crisis; this alone induces me  
to break my determination of never  
speaking to Your Majesty on political  
Subjects and my dutiful Affection  
for You makes me overlook every  
other consideration and on this  
occasion alter my conduct and  
speak to Your Majesty with the



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sincerity due to the best of Parents  
this I hope is a sufficient apology  
for my offering some hints concerning  
Russia as I happen by my Connexion  
to be pretty well acquainted with  
that Court and from what I have  
heard the Duke says of those he  
lived with in Russia have been  
able to form some judgement of  
the Emperors Character - On the  
subject of the present misunderstanding  
the Duke has had the delicacy never  
to speak to me, feeling that it  
must be a painful one to me, and  
his being related and attached to  
both Courts makes him think it  
prudent to be silent



From the various things that I have collected I fear that the making use of Ministerial discussions to set things to rights will only lose much time and perhaps not be crowned with success as at that Court it is difficult to have them brought to the Sovereign's knowledge and it appears to me that many difficulties might be removed if Your Majesty wishes things to be brought round and a sponge passed on all sides over the unpleasant transactions which have taken place, if You would try to employ a person who being fortunately equally attached and related to

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both Courts might more easily succeed  
in softening things without reproving  
the dignity of either Monarch. — I  
mean the Duke who being your  
Son in law and the Emperor's Brother,  
(to whom the Emperor has to my  
knowledge constantly shewn great  
friendship and Confidence.) could have  
no other object but the uniting two  
great Powers on whom the good  
of Europe depends. Though I know  
the Duke dislikes the interfering in  
any Business which does not  
directly regard him, still I am  
sure he is too much attached to  
both Sovereigns and has too much  
at Heart the Good of Europe not



to undertake to do every thing in  
his power if Your Majesty would  
write to him and express Your  
wishes on the Subject.

Your Majesty's constant goodness  
to me has encouraged me to  
venture to speak thus freely to  
You and to repose my whole  
Confidence in Your Breast only  
intreating You never to mention to  
any body my having taken this  
liberty as I should be wretched  
whatever Your decision may be on  
this Subject, that the Duke should  
ever hear of this from any body  
but Yourself: as it is the only  
time in my life that I have



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kept any thing from him and I  
should be miserable could he think  
me wanting in Confidence towards  
him - If Your Majesty should  
dislike the liberty I have taken  
I hope my good will, will  
obtain my pardon. I will now  
take my leave and remain with  
great Respect and Attachment

Your Majesty's

Most dutiful Daughter  
and devoted Subject

Charlotte Augusta Matilda





*Philippe de Valenciennes*

*January 13, 1407.*