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Stuttgart December 13, 1813.

My dearest Brother

Ever since I left England I have met with such a singular series of events that I wish you to be acquainted with them, and therefore entreat you to read this note with attention. At my arrival at Stuttgart June 24 1797 the country was over run by Austrian Troops which continued to be quartered in the Duchy till May 1800. During their residence in Württemberg they cost the country fifty six millions of Florins which the Court of Vienna engaged to pay, but notwithstanding the length of years that have elapsed since there appears little intention to fulfil this promise. — In the Spring of 1799 the French entered the Duchy and in the space of two months found means to cost Württemberg seventeen millions of Florins — After the breaking up of the Congress of Rastadt in 1799 a fresh war threatened Germany, into which the King then Duke entered, his Troops joined the

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Austrian Army and in April 1000 were taken
into British pay. The Troops had marched but
a few days, when the French crossing the Rhine
entered Württemberg and drew so near Louisbourg
that the Duke thought it prudent to retire to
Heiltingen with his family, but could not
remain there above a month as the enemy
continued advancing, this forced him to take
shelter in the Burg of Prussia's dominions at
Erlangen, where a melancholy year was spent.
The situation of the Duchy of Württemberg
was very wretched at that time being totally
in the hands of the French who exacted heavy
contributions of which the Sovereign was obliged
to pay the moiety. However the Peace of
Vienna in 1001 gave us hopes of returning
home, but it was not till May that the
French evacuated the Country. The Congress
which about this time assembled at Ratisbonne
sat near two years at the end of which

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was published the famous Decree de L'Empire which
secularized most of the Ecclesiastical States and
authorized the Duke of Württemberg the Landgraff
of Hesse, and the Margraff of Baden, to take the
title of Electors, which took place April 27, 1803¹²
and they received additions to their dominions
George remained in this state till in 1805
Emperor Napoleon crossed the Rhine and directed
the march of his Army through the Electorate
of Württemberg. The Elector who had for months
warned the Austrian Court that unless it sent
him a sufficient Army to join his Troops and
defend his Dominions against the incursions of
the French he should be obliged to yield to
superior force; could not contend with an
Army of one hundred thousand men
particularly as Marshal Ney directed his
march against Louisbourg and Stuttgart both
open Towns. In this situation the Elector
was obliged to contract an Alliance with

the Emperor of the French, who came to
Somborn before the Treaty was signed; and
I must do him the justice to say he behaved
not only very politely but personally to me
with great attention. By this Treaty the
Württemberg Troops were obliged to join the
French Army; and after the Peace of
Presbourg which took place at the end of
the year: the Electors of Bavaria and of
Württemberg took the titles of Kings and a
variety of other changes took place in
Germany. Though some dominions were
given to these Sovereigns in addition to their
old ones, the expenses continued increasing.
As hardly a year passed over without a war
was breaking out. And even after the Peace
of Tilsit which in 1807 ended the war
with Russia and Prussia the Sovereigns
saw themselves involved in heavy difficulties
from the enormous expenses they were drawn

into, to keep up too large a military force in proportion to their revenues. Before this Country could a little recover its losses a fresh war broke between Austria and France in 1809 which was terminated by the Peace of Presbourg; this peace being soon followed by the Marriage of the Emperor of Austria's Daughter to Emperor Napoleon one might reasonably have expected that quiet would reign some years on the Continent; but alas our hopes were deceived and in less than two years a war broke out between Russia and France in 1811 and the Württemberg Troops again called into the field, the disasters which finished the Russian campaign cost the King the greatest part of his Troops; and those he was required to fit out a fresh at an immense expence have mostly shared the same fate.

After the great success of the Allies at the
end of October 1812, a very presumptuous Message
was sent to the King of Württemberg by
General Knechtel to insist that in forty eight
hours he should either join the Coalition
powers, or that the whole Austrian Army
would march to Stuttgart seize on all the
King's dominions and treating them as a
conquered country begin by naming an
administration who should govern them in
the name of the allied Sovereigns. You
will dear Brother easily imagine the effect
this message had on us; as though it was
to be expected that the King would be desired
to join the coalition the violent manner in
which it was done was offensive; The Emperor
of Austria was himself displeased when
he heard how General Knechtel had behaved
towards the King. These preliminary

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steps having taken place the King sent Count
de Deppelin his Minister for foreign Affairs to
Acre with the Imperial Courts, he returned in
a few days with a Treaty which dire necessity
could alone oblige the King to accept of.
The Secret articles of which are so dangerous
that they threaten the political existence
of this Country. This my dearest Brother
obliges me to have recourse to your well
known Affection and to entreat that you
will not abandon us in this moment of
change but protect us and by ordering
your Ambassadors at the Imperial Courts
to watch over our Interests you will
certainly stem the mischief which I have
reason to fear is ultimately intended to fall
on us. By the public Treaty the Emperor
of Austria acknowledges the Kings Sovereignty
over all his Dominions and guarantees

them in their whole extent. But by the Secret Articles (of which I have obtained a copy from the King that you may yourself be able to judge of the bad intentions of the Court of Vienna towards Württemberg) they destroy in a word all our hopes by giving another turn to their deceitful promises. I suspect these articles are much owing to the Honors of Bavaria, and Baden, who hope through the favour of Prussia to engrave themselves at our cost. Both these Sovereigns being Brothers in Law to the Emperor of Prussia. Count Metternich has also a great dislike to the King, because he was oblig'd by the Emperor of the French in 1809 to surrender his Estates and Count Stadion, and though the King returned them to him at the Peace and assist'd him to pay his debts the Count sees on every

opportunity to do their mischief. After You
have read this I am sure you will dear Brother
see how important it is for us that this
Note should for ever remain a secret between
us. I have entered on all these subjects with
J^r Thomas Tyndall who will be able to give
you more particulars. My wish is dear
Brother that out of affection for me you
would support my Husband and order
Lord Aberdeen and Lord Cathcart not
only never to consent to any diminution
of the Kings Dominions but to insist on
their remaining in the whole of their
extent without the least exchange; and
secondly that in whatever proposition the
Allies intend encroaching Bavaria and
Baden You will dear Brother have
the goodness to insist that Hutterberg
shall receive the same addition of

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Secretary. — Unless the King's Dominions
are sufficiently encreased to enable him to
keep a standing Army of twenty five or
thirty thousand men he will always be exposed
to the first invasions of the French without
being sufficiently strong to defend his Country
till the Austrians have time to arrive and
must therefore yield to the first fifty thousand
Men. If on the contrary he was more
powerful Hutterberg would serve as a tête
de Pont and delay sufficiently the French
till the Austrians had assembled their forces.
After having read these particulars dear
Brother you will easily imagine that the
finances of this Country are in a deplorable
state, which makes me very unhappy so
I do not see how the King will be able
to keep up public Credit unless he receives
some assistance. Every day he receives

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fresh demands from the Allies. One moment they expect him to form Magazines while the Country is eat up by the Troops that are already quartered all over it. At another they insist on his forming besides the Corps of Troops that marches next week, a second body of ten thousand men. You have it in Your power my dearest Brother to lay no more the greatest obligations and to save the Country from total ruin, if you would have the goodness to grant the King a Subsidy which would enable him to fulfil with honour the engagements this Country has entered into with the Allies. At the same time I should feel very happy to have contributed towards the covering my Gunbarracks around and to owe my comfort to you — What does great mischief

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So the Alliance is the Behaviour of the
Austrian Troops in their friends Dominions,
it is unpropable to be more violent in the
Country of an enemy. On the contrary the
Russians under the command of Count
Wittgenstein have kept up good discipline.
I hope that this Address Note will obtain
Your indulgence dear Brother as by this
means you will be best able to judge of
our situation. My trust in the many
proofs I have received of your affection
for me encourages me to lay our distresses
before You. It is with the sincerest
Affection that I remain

My dearest Brother
Your most Affectionate Sister
and sincere friend
Charlotte

The Queen of Württemberg

to
The Prince Regent

Dec. 13. 1813