

vate character. If virtue could have claimed protection from earthly suffering, with due humility might we have hoped that your Serene Highness would have been spared the pain of our present address; but the Almighty has ordained it otherwise, and, in His all-seeing Providence, has transposed the earthly for the heavenly crown, taking our beloved and lamented Princess to the unspeakable joy of His everlasting kingdom, leaving to your Serene Highness that enlightened sense of religion by which you have been enabled hitherto to support yourself in the firm and dignified situation of a Prince and of a Christian, under the pressure of an overwhelming and unprecedented calamity. That the tranquillity and manly fortitude of your Serene Highness's mind may, under the Grace of Heaven, remain undiminished, is the anxious and fervent prayer of those who subscribe themselves your attached and devoted servants.

On behalf of the Meeting,

W. Moorc, Mayor.

[*Transmitted by the Mayor, and presented by Sir Robert Gardiner.*]

To His Serene Highness the Prince Leopold.

WE, the Portreeves, Freeholders, and Inhabitants of the Borough of Ashburton, presume in language which ill describes our feeling, to condole with your Serene Highness on the irreparable loss which you have sustained, in the affectionate wife of your bosom and your tender offspring—time only can soften the grief which must now agitate your mind—time only can calm into serenity the emotions of sorrow, which must for such a loss cover with calamity every blessing, and deprive you almost of every joy. But in your sorrows a nation participates—with you a mighty people mourn. You came as a stranger amongst us, unacquainted with our customs, our manners, and our laws; but a stranger who at once felt a wish to ally himself to the country in which the love of freedom has dignified human nature. The British nation beheld with pleasure your lamented royal consort, and your Serene Highness quitting the fascinations of the Court, retiring from the noise and folly of the world, seeking for happiness within the domestic circle, and finding that happiness in the exercise of every domestic virtue. But such rich promise of future excellence and public virtue, such earnest of the due discharge of the high prerogatives and exalted duties of the Sovereign, it has pleased the Almighty to crush in the bud. It is not given to mortals to unroll the book of fate. It is not given to man to know why virtue so exalted, why goodness so unrivalled; should in the spring-time of youth, be torn away from an admiring world. It is our duty to bend with humble resignation to this severe decree, which has mingled private affliction with national calamity; but it is our wish whilst thus reverently submitting to the will of Providence, to testify to your Serene Highness our sympathy and our regard. It must be grateful to your Serene Highness to know, that the memory of your beloved Princess will long survive, that it will be enshrined in a nation's love, a nation

that revered and almost adored her as its favourite and friend.

[*Transmitted by the Portreeves, and presented by Sir Robert Gardiner.*]

To His Serene Highness Leopold George Frederick, Duke of Saxe, Margrave of Meissen, Landgrave of Thuringen, Prince of Cobourg of Saalfeld, &c.

WE, the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, Freeholders, and other Inhabitants of the County of Southampton, beg leave to approach your Serene Highness, with the sincere expression of our grief and condolence, upon the irreparable loss sustained by your Serene Highness, and by the whole British nation, in the sudden and unlooked for death of your illustrious and amiable consort Her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte Augusta.

We are aware that the sympathy so deeply felt by every class of the people in the United Kingdom cannot alleviate the severity of the blow, but we trust that the universal expression of it may be an assurance to your Serene Highness, how truly they estimate the character and virtues of which your Serene Highness had so perfect and intimate a knowledge: it would be vain to offer to your Serene Highness any consolation, but that which arises from a reliance upon the mercy of the Almighty and an acquiescence in His Divine Will.

Signed, on behalf the Meeting,

John Fleming, Sheriff.

Dated at the Castle of Winchester,
the 11th day of December 1817.

[*Transmitted by the High Sheriff, and presented by Sir Robert Gardiner.*]

To His Serene Highness Prince Leopold of Saxe Cobourg, &c.

May it please your Serene Highness,

WE, the Ministers and Elders of the Presbytery of Dunfermline, met together, in this season of public sorrow and distress, beg leave most respectfully to assure your Serene Highness, that in common with every class of British subjects, we most deeply participate in the grief, occasioned by the irreparable loss which your Serene Highness has so recently sustained in the sudden decease of your late illustrious consort the Princess Charlotte Augusta.

When we think of an alliance which promised so much happiness to the parties and to the nation, and of the splendid endowments and rare virtues which distinguished your lamented consort, and by which she was so eminently fitted, not only to be the admiration and delight of the husband of her choice, but, had her valuable life been preserved, to prove more and more an ornament, a pattern, and a blessing to the United Kingdom, we fear adding to the bitterness of your Serene Highness's griefs, even while we convey to your Serene Highness this our expression of most affectionate condolence. As Ministers and office-bearers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we earnestly pray that your Serene Highness may be enabled to yield an humble acquiescence in the Will of Heaven, and be supported under this afflictive dispensation of Divine