18. Feb. 1798

36489-90

Unhappy as it makes me to See Your Majesty plagued, & the reluctance I feel to add at any Time one moments Uneasiness to the Various unpleasant Affairs which constantly surround You. I feel myself Notwithstanding all the Delicacy I possess under the Necessity to represent to You the truely Miserable Situation of my Brother the Duke, caused by the Death of Monsieur Schroeder with whose Life the Irish Pension ceases. At the Time Baronde Lewitz came over He brought me the Account of the late Dukes Debts, Amounting to 500,000. German Crowns, & since all the Public debts are Collected, they are considerably above 600,000. Crowns. To this we must add a Debt of 60,000. of my Sisters, without any resource whatever to extricate the Country out of this Distress but by Curtailing every Article, & living as retired as Possible. Every Body about Court with tolerable Fortunes are retired, & those who would take half the Salary remain. But there is in reality no Court, No more but one Table for

for Himself, His Sons, their Governor, & His Gentlemen in Waiting, & when Strangers must be invited His Table never exceeds the Number of twelve including Himself & Family. in Short His Establishment is now that of a Private Gentleman. The Irish Pension He employed partly for the Education of His Sons. & partly for paying off Div Chatollen Florins which are not included in the other Debt, & though under Promise not to reveal, the Sum I will frankly own that they are very Considerable. But as He was paid very regularly & thereby enabled to pay Himself, the Creditors have been kept quiet without molesting Him, but Should this fail, He must fall not only under very great but extreme Distress, which He desired me in His Letter to represent to Your Majesty, & His Ardent wish is, that in case You would favor His request to grant the Pension to His Son the Hereditary Prince. I received His Letter a week ago & would not

18. Feb. 1798

36490

trouble Your Majesty until I had seen Best to know whether Schroeder was really Dead, & upon His Confirming it & telling me that as yet He had not given in any information of His Death. I could not with any Propriety refuse my Brother to make an application for the Continuance of Your Bounty, particularly as it will not be a new Grant. I well know the Difficulties You have to grant new Pensions, & the present Times must increase them, but I also know Your Heart which is ever ready to give Comfort when possible, & therefore I shall not trespass any longer upon Your Patience being fully persuaded that You will do what can be done & what is right.

I have the Honor to be

Windsor
the 18th February.
1798.

Your most Affectionate &
Obedient Wife Charlotte

Gr. Duchess
Schwerin
Feb. 11/60