

12,000 men, to place her son on the British throne.¹ Spain and Russia were engaged in the confederacy.² It appears, from one of count Gyllenberg's intercepted letters to Gortz, dated January 18th, 1717, that the merchant of whom a large loan had been procured was to remit 20,000*l.* into France, to be paid into the hands of the queen-mother, Mary Beatrice, who would hand it over to the persons empowered to take the management of the financial arrangements.³ The most sanguine anticipations of the success of this confederacy were cherished, but secret information being conveyed to the British government, Gyllenberg, who had forfeited the privileges of an ambassador, was arrested. His papers were seized, which contained abundant evidence of the formidable designs in preparation, which were thus happily prevented.⁴

Mary Beatrice paid her annual visit at Chaillot in the summer. She was in very ill health, and returned to St. Germain's much earlier in the autumn than usual. The following is an extract from a letter to the abbess of Chaillot, written apparently soon after :—

St. Germain's, Nov. 4th.

"The fine weather we have had since I quitted you, my dear mother, was not necessary to make me regret the abode at Chaillot, which is always charming to me; but it certainly makes me regret it doubly, although I cannot deny that since the three weeks I have been here, I have had more time to myself and more solitude than during the whole period of my stay at Chaillot. This does not prevent me from wishing often for the company of my dear mother, and all the beloved sisters, in which I hope much to find myself again, if God gives me six months more of life. I took medicine last Friday, because I have had during the last few days a return of the malady which has tormented me all the summer; but I have been better since then, thank God, and in three or four days I shall leave off the bark."⁵

This letter is apparently one of the last of that curious correspondence of the exiled queen with the *religieuses* of Chaillot, which, surviving the dissolution of that monastery and all the storms of the Revolution, has enabled her biographer to trace out many interesting incidents in her personal history; and more than this, to unveil her private feelings, as she herself recorded them in the unreserved confidence of friendship.

¹ Intercepted correspondence published in London, 1717.

² Lord Mahon's Hist. of England.

³ Letters of Count Gyllenberg.

⁴ Lord Mahon.

⁵ Inedited letter of Mary Beatrice, in the Chaillot MSS.