

**DOCUMENTS RELATING TO
PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD'S
GRANDSON**

Edited by

HENRIETTA TAYLER

INTRODUCTION

THE subject of these papers is the son of Prince Charles Edward Stuart's only known child, Charlotte; the Prince himself repeatedly said and wrote that she was his only one. She was, of course, illegitimate, being the daughter of his mistress, Clementina Walkinshaw, and was born at Liège in 1753. Her son was also born out of wedlock, his father being Ferdinand de Rohan, Archbishop of Bordeaux and afterwards of Cambrai. Proofs of this statement can now be given, and the personal papers of the grandson himself, once in this country, are now in America, the owner of these, Professor George Sherman of Cambridge, Mass., intending to write a full biography as soon as his present work allows.

Of the two previous lives of Charlotte, that by Major Skeet¹ was written in ignorance of the existence of Charlotte's numerous letters to her mother, which alone throw light on the latter part of her life, after she joined her father in Italy in 1784, and on her little family.

Lady Tweedsmuir's charming sketch of Charlotte, entitled the *Funeral March of a Marionette*,² does touch on these letters (now in the Bodleian Library, forming part of the North papers) of which there are 350, but she had not made a detailed study of them, and says herself that the references scattered throughout them to Charlotte's mysterious 'ami' form one of the puzzles of history, which may one day be solved.³ This has now been done, with the aid of the papers at present in America, to which reference is kindly allowed, and with that of the extracts here printed from the Hardwicke Papers in the British Museum (Add. MSS. British Museum, 35,622, ff. 118, 121).

Prince Charles Edward's grandson was, apparently, always acknowledged privately by his grandmother, Clementina Walkinshaw, though he was unknown to the grandfather. He aroused far less interest in his lifetime and after his death than did those two arrant 'pretenders,' John Hay Allen and Charles Manning Allen, who called themselves Sobieski Stuarts and created a legend that they were the sons of a mysterious infant born to Prince Charles' wife, Louise of Stolberg, and hurried away from Italy in the charge of Captain, afterwards Admiral, Allen who brought it up as his

¹ F. J. A. Skeet: *Life and Letters of H.R.H. Charlotte Stuart, Duchess of Albany* (1932).

² Susan C. Buchan (Lady Tweedsmuir): *Funeral March of a Marionette*

³ *Op. cit.*, p. 64.

own son. It is hard to see how such a story gained any credence. If Charles and Louise had had a child they would have undoubtedly have published the fact to the world. That was the whole purpose of their marriage and of the French support of it, pecuniary and otherwise, since Louis xv., who died in 1774, and the French Government always desired ardently that there should be a Stuart heir, as a perpetual thorn in the side of the reigning house of Britain. But Louise never bore a child then nor afterwards. She told Napoléon long after, in answer to his question, that she had never done so, and even Royalty did not lie to the first Emperor of the French.

Charles, however, had a child by Clementina Walkinshaw, well known and always acknowledged by him, Charlotte, the Pouponne of the letters of her youth and later Duchess of Albany. But of her children, two girls and a boy, no Jacobite author has up to the present been able to write, or at least to give any details. This can now be done.

There is no longer any doubt that the father of the boy, Count Roehenstart, and his two sisters, was Prince Ferdinand de Rohan, Archbishop of Cambrai and brother of the famous Cardinal de Rohan. During the height of the Diamond Necklace scandal at the French Court in August 1785, Charlotte wrote to her mother from Florence of how distressed the '*ami*' must be, and later throughout the trial and at the ultimate banishment of the Cardinal she expresses her sympathy, and sends messages to him.

Among the letters of Charlotte to her mother in the Bodleian is, moreover, one in the handwriting of the Archbishop, identified from other letters of his though only signed with a cypher. This letter acknowledges his personal responsibility towards the children, and in one of Charlotte's letters she alludes to him as a 'bon papa,' though he scarcely seems to have deserved this epithet, as he did for them as little as possible, trying to shift the onus to her. Horace Mann, that ever useful gossip, commented on her familiarity with the household of de Rohan, then Archbishop of Bordeaux, shortly before she left Paris to join her father, and hints at scandal. She herself constantly refers throughout the years 1785-89 to the '*ami*' as being at Cambrai; sometimes with relief, as she can then write to her mother more freely without her letters being also read by him. In an early letter of 1784, written to her father while she was still in Paris, she notes the great intimacy existing between her and the de Rohan family and tells her 'auguste Papa' how kind they all are to her in helping her to get away to him and are among his best friends. This letter is in the Fort William Museum.

The so-called Count Roehenstart had no doubt as to who was his mother, though he can never have seen her since a few months after his birth, but it is not clear if he was ever conscious of the identity of his father. He invented one for himself, a certain Swedish baron, whose family name he derived from an early and mythical race between

a Roe deer and a hen, though it is hard to believe that he expected to be taken seriously. On another occasion he claimed to be descended from a Scottish family of the name of Stuart, long settled in Sweden, whose territorial designation was Roehenstart. But, needless to say, no *Dictionnaire de Noblesse* knows of such a family. The name itself has been plausibly conjectured to have been invented either by the Count himself or by some humorous friend as a combination of Rohan and Stuart. (It will be noted that the writer of the letters from Stirling spells the name Rohenstadt, with a German flavour.)

He gave varying accounts of the time and place of his birth. In the Memorial which he presented to the Prince Regent in 1817¹ he says that he was born in Rome on the 11th June 1784, and that is possibly the correct date, but the place is wrong, as it is known from the Fort William letter quoted above, from Horace Mann and other sources, that Charlotte was at that time still in Paris. Her father, Prince Charles Edward, after legitimising her and making her his heir in 1783, sent his major-domo, John Stuart, to Paris to fetch her in July 1784; but far from 'flying to her father's side' (as Skeet so romantically puts it) she allowed nearly three months to elapse before she made a move, only reaching Florence on 4th October of that year. Many circumstances point to the probability that she was occupied in recovering from the birth of her son. Both the girls were older than he, as is shown by the details of their education, etc. in Charlotte's later letters. Another date given by Roehenstart for his birth is 4th May 1786, and again the place is stated to be Rome, the Palazzo Colonna being specified. This date is manifestly impossible. Charlotte was in Rome, but in the voluminous diary kept by Cardinal York's Secretary and still in the British Museum² the writer happens to mention that on that day His Excellence came in from his episcopal palace at Frascati to visit his brother and niece in the Palazzo Muti and found them both in 'very good health.'

A third possible date of birth in 1781 or 1782 comes from the date on Roehenstart's tombstone, where he is stated to have died in his 73rd year, in 1854, but, as will be explained later, this was erected by strangers who probably only judged by the appearance of the old man. His mother never alludes to him by name in her letters to her mother, Clementina, though both his sisters, Aglae and Marie, are referred to; but at the end of March 1785 she writes of a precious 'he' who will shortly be returning from the country to Paris and says she relies on her mother to see that when he rejoins the others in 'le petit jardin' he 'wants for nothing.' This suggests a baby returning to Paris from its foster mother in the country.

¹ This exists with the other papers in America awaiting publication by the owner. Allusion to it is authorised.

² Add. MS5. 30,428-30,463.

Charlotte died when her son was 5 years old, and never saw him again after she left him as a baby of 2 months old in Paris.

Of this son himself, in whose veins ran the last known drop of Prince Charles' blood, we have fortunately a good deal of information. He only died in November 1854, less than 100 years ago, and the *Scotsman* notice of his death, which took place in consequence of a coach accident on 28th October near Stirling, states that 'the deceased gentleman was a General in the Austrian Army and claimed to be a descendant of Prince Charles Edward Stuart.' His claim to the title of General is problematic, though he had certainly served in the Austrian Army during the Napoleonic wars: but that to be the grandson of 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' is quite well founded. He was recognised as such by his grandmother, Clementina Walkinshaw, and by her friend, Thomas Coutts, who comments on the extraordinary likeness of the young man to his 'old grandmother.' At one time he even sent her money through Coutts, or tried to do so. A letter about this is printed in the *Life of Thomas Coutts*, by E. H. Coleridge.¹

After the references to his early life as one of the 'flowers in the garden' at Paris, so often alluded to in her correspondence, who were so dear to the heart of poor Charlotte in Italy, the next glimpse we get of her son is in 1792, when he must have been between 7 and 8 years old. Mother and grandfather were both dead and he had been removed, no doubt by his father's orders, from the dangers of Paris to safety in Germany, where he writes from Munich to his great-uncle Henry, Cardinal York.

This letter is with the other papers concerning him now in America, and is here quoted by special permission. It is short and very well written.

Munich. 1 Jan. 1792.

MY LORD,

I avail myself of the New Year to present to your Royal Highness the wishes which I form for you. Maman told me to love you, and I do so very much. I should be most happy if I can obtain your protection, for I am a good boy.

Your respectful nephew,

CHARLES.

PS.—Je prie toujours le bon Dieu for your Royal Highness.

It does not appear whether this letter was ever sent or not, as the only copy known is among the papers of Roehenstart and not among those of his Royal Highness the Cardinal, now in the British Museum.

During this period it is evident from the correspondence of Archbishop de Rohan in

¹ E. H. Coleridge: *Life of Thomas Coutts* (1920), ii. 59, 123, 129, 143, 333.

the early years of the 18th century that he was much interested in the education of some boy, whose name is not revealed. It is not known at what stage the boy Charles began to call himself Roehenstart or invented the mythical father, a count of that name, sometimes called Swedish and sometimes Bavarian. He seems to have been well educated in Germany and was taken into the household of the famous cavalry commander, Prince Alexander of Württemberg, but biographies of the Prince in this country do not mention him. He took some part in the Napoleonic wars and, according to his own accounts of himself, travelled extensively in Russia, India and America. The papers here printed only throw light upon him in middle life. In 1817, when he was presumably 33, he was lodging in Edinburgh, and a fellow-lodger contributed to a friend in Stirling a full account of this new and exciting friend. The correspondent passed on the information to Lord Hardwicke among whose MSS. in the British Museum the letters still lie (Additional MSS. 35,622, ff. 118-121).

Charles Edward Roehenstart gave a romantic account of the marriage of his parents, the Lady Charlotte Stuart and Count Roehenstart, and of how after his birth his grandfather acknowledged him—which was, of course, not true. He said he was sent to Germany for his education and, after the deaths of his grandfather and his mother, found himself unable to obtain any support from his great-uncle, Henry of York, or from her whom he regarded as his step-grandmother, Louise of Albany, Prince Charles' widow. He made great play with his adventures in various parts of the world, and fairly dazzled the young Scots boy with his accomplishments and manners. In a later letter, the boy adds that his new friend is about to go to London to make a further effort to obtain what he considers to be 'monies' due to him, and about which he had already had an unsatisfactory interview with Lord Sidmouth.¹ If he can get no satisfaction in London, he will, he says, go on to Paris and St. Petersburg, where he thinks he has apparently also rights to some funds. He was seemingly a good linguist. He did go to Paris, for the papers at Windsor show the interest taken in his arrival there by the Paris police, to whom he gave somewhat the same account of himself as that embodied in the Memorial to the Prince Regent in which he fully stated his claims. The French police appear to have accepted his story and furthermore reported that they found him a perfectly harmless individual, without political pretensions and only anxious to live quietly as a good citizen.

He is known to have married twice, first an Italian, Marie Antoinette Barbuoni, and then an Englishwoman, Constance Smith, but there were no children. No further light

¹ This cannot be traced in the Sidmouth correspondence.

has been shed on his later life, but he obviously drifted back to Scotland, where he had originally come, as he said in Edinburgh, to 'make friends with those brave people who had fought so well for his grandfather.' His ambition had been to buy an estate in the Highlands and become a Laird, but this never came to pass and all that remains of him in Scotland is the pathetic stone in Dunkeld Cathedral put up by friends and chronicling the death (as the result of a carriage accident) of General Charles Edward Stuart, Count Roehenstart. Nov. 1854, with the notice in the *Scotsman* a day or two later of his claim to be a descendant of Prince Charles Edward Stuart. H. T.

DOCUMENTS relating to the Grandson of Prince Charles Edward Stuart from the General Correspondence of the first four Earls of Hardwicke (Add. MSS. in the British Museum, 35,652, ff. 118-121) and from the Archives at Windsor Castle (Georgian Papers, 22,063-5).

Keith Milnes to Philip, 3rd Earl of Hardwicke.

(All footnotes are by the writer Keith Milnes except where initialled H. T. by the editor.)

Stirling,

3 March, 1817.

MY LORD,

As your Lordship seemed to think the particulars respecting the supposed grandson of Prince Charles Stuart interesting, I will now communicate some further information which has since reached me upon the same subject by a new and unexpected channel. And although this account varies in some respects from the other, yet the difference is perhaps not greater than might be expected under such circumstances. A young man of this place had gone in, at the beginning of winter, to attend some of the classes at Edinburgh and happened to take up his quarters in the very same lodging-house with Mr. Reinstadt or Rohenstadt, which it appears is the surname of this new Chevalier. There being no other lodgers in the house, they soon formed an intimacy. The Stirling gentleman became much attached to his new friend and wrote some letters about him to relations here. I have obtained a perusal of these letters from which I shall give you extracts of all that may appear worth notice in them and add any remarks that occur to myself with regard to their apparent accuracy. It will be proper to keep in view that the writer is a very young man only about twenty, and I should suppose his opportunities and means of improvement have been limited.

EXTRACTS [SIC] from letter dated Dec. 1816.

“The gentleman who lodges with me has kindly offered to teach me French. I have therefore sent this letter by the post that my French books may be sent by the first carrier. Jane will seek them out. There are two grammars, Receuil, etc. As he has no society and is very lonely, I wish the backgammon box to be sent also. The inside may be put up with the books.

As this gentleman's history is none of the least curious, I shall endeavour to relate it as well as I can, though from the hasty glances I had of his papers, there will be many mistakes. He is, he says, the legitimate grandson of Prince Charles Stewart, commonly called the Pretender.

In a copy of a Memorial which he gave me to read, it is stated that the Prince after he went to France, married the daughter of a Scotch Baronet named Paterson, who was

afterwards created Earl of Walkinshaw.¹ He resided, if I am not mistaken, near Bannockburn. By this marriage the Prince had one daughter, the Lady Charlotte,² mother of the gentleman in the other room, whose name is Reinstadt, or Rohenstaat. Some time after their 'union, Cardinal York, brother of the Prince (from some political motive which I do not recollect) prevailed by threats and promises³ on the Prince's wife to sign a declaration renouncing the marriage as not having been performed according to the rites of the Catholic Church,⁴ and as soon as this was done, he contrived to effect a Union between the Prince and the present Duchess (*Countess*) of Albany while the former was in a state of intoxication to which vice he had been addicted after the defeat of his hopes in Scotland. Dreading the power of the Cardinal and being acquainted with his cruel and violent disposition he made no attempt to disown the Duchess (*Countess*).

Lady Charlotte, his daughter, having become acquainted with a Mr. Rohenstadt at Paris, privately married him. This gentleman's father had some time before come from Bavaria where he resided and served in the British Army. In consequence of this marriage, the Lady Charlotte became pregnant, and being unable to conceal it any longer, acquainted the Prince with her marriage, who treated her kindly and publicly acknowledged her child as his legitimate grandson which is registered in the Chancery of Versailles and Madrid.⁵ This son is the present Mr. Rohenstadt, in whose favour the Prince, before his death, executed an Instrument conveying his title and property.

After this, there is a good deal said about the cruelty of Cardinal York to Lady Charlotte. That after having poisoned her, he took possession of the whole estate of Lascati in Italy.⁶ The estate is now in the hands of the Pope and the object of the Memorial is to get it restored to Mr. Rohenstadt as the lawful heir. It is also stated that

¹ There is great inaccuracy here. No such person ever existed as an Earl of Walkinshaw. It is well known in the neighbourhood that the Prince was connected with a Miss Walkinshaw whose mother, Mrs. Walkinshaw of Barrowfield, more frequently called the Lady Barrowfield, was sister to Sir Hugh Paterson of Bannockburn and lived to a very great age. She had several other daughters, some of whom were married. All these people are in the remembrance of many who are still alive. The mother of Sir Hugh Paterson and Mrs. Walkinshaw was a lady of the Mar family. The incorrectness of this part of Mr. Rohenstadt's story may perhaps be considered as a sort of intrinsic evidence in its favour. An impostor would have been at more pains in selecting the material than to hazard fabrications which could so easily be detected.

² The daughter is here entitled Lady Charlotte Stewart, called Duchess of Albany by my first information which proceeded from a Mr. Mackenzie, a very intelligent man with whom I happened to dine at a friend's house a few days after he had been introduced to Mr. Rohenstadt. This mistake might easily arise in the course of a story involving so many particulars and perhaps hastily told, but it might lead to confusion for Prince Charles' widow, the Princess of Stolberg, is commonly known by the title of Countess of Albany.

³ It was part of Mr. Mackenzie's information that Cardinal York had enticed Miss Walkinshaw to Paris and through threats of 'Letters de Cachet' and other means induced her to sign the declaration.

All this is, of course, untrue.—H. T.

⁴ This also is manifestly impossible.—H. T.

⁵ This is untrue.—H. T.

⁶ Perhaps a mistake for Frascati. The Cardinal was Bishop of Frascati, which never belonged either to Charles or Charlotte.—H. T.

the Duchess (*Countess*) of Albany, who lives in Florence, enjoys a pension from the British Government as the Prince's widow. But Mr. Rohenstadt does not claim any pension, he only wants the estate which belongs to him.

Mr. Rohenstadt having early lost his mother, went to Germany, Russia, etc. and afterwards travelled through India. He also went to America and about 6 miles from Mexico discovered some very old statues which bore Phoenician inscriptions, proving that America must have been known to the Phoenicians before the birth of our Saviour. He intended to have brought them, together with a fine collection of Natural History, to Europe and for that purpose bought a Frigate in which he also intended to have carried merchandise to the West Indies and then returned to Europe with general produce. But he was boarded in the Gulf of Mexico by Turkish Pirates who stripped him of all his money and goods and carried him to the coast of Barbary.¹ Afterwards he got safe to England and thence proceeded to Italy to enquire into the state of his affairs. He waited on the Duchess (*Countess*) of Albany, his step-mother, who has since married an Italian dancing master,² by whom he was at first well received, but as the Memorial which passed between them is written in French, I could not make it out. By what followed, however, I conclude that he got no satisfaction from her. Upon which he came back to England and drew up a memorial to be presented to the Prince Regent, with which he delivered up all the documents proving his statement. But he is now despairing of any assistance as it would be a public acknowledgment of his affinity to Prince Charles which might revive some discontent in the country. He told me that when he gave the memorial to Lord Sidmouth he wanted an immediate answer, as he had neither time nor money to wait long or if he must wait they behaved to supply him with the means. He showed me a letter from the Treasury which enclosed a draft for money, but the amount was so small he immediately returned it with a very sharp, it may be an impertinent, letter. But he had not yet learned to subdue the feeling of pride which such a paltry gift raised in his mind. Mrs. Hamilton had him down to the Abbey and says he speaks French, Italian and German extremely well. She has never conversed with him as to his family circumstances but she cannot bring herself to believe he is the legitimate grandson of the Prince. If he may be believed, however, he is not only legitimate heir to the Prince but the documents laid before the Prince Regent will prove it. Whatever he may be, he is certainly a most accomplished young man. There is not a language in Europe that he does not speak fluently and know grammatically. He is skilled in Mathematics, Logic,

¹ A part of this paragraph borders so much upon the extravagant and marvellous, that it would appear almost to cast an air of discredit over the whole story.

(More likely he was intercepted by American vessels and his cargo confiscated.—H. T.)

² A strange description this of the poet Alfieri who had a rooted antipathy to dancing and dancing masters! I am told by people here that Miss Walkinshaw was alive after the marriage between Prince Charles and the Princess of Stolberg. Consequently, if Miss Walkinshaw had been the Prince's wife, the second marriage was illegal and the Countess of Albany could not be Mr. Rohenstadt's stepmother.

Chemistry and almost every science. For reasons both relating to him and myself I do not wish that any one should know that such a person is staying with me. You will therefore I hope, refrain from speaking of it.'

EXTRACTS from letter dated 10 Jan. 1817

'I am happy that my account of Mr. Rohenstadt has been confirmed. Indeed whether he be the legitimate grandson of Prince Charles or not, (and I have no reason to doubt his statement) he is certainly a man who has seen a great deal of the world, lived in the best society and acquired a vast fund of knowledge both from men and books. He is now going to leave this for London and expects to go from there to St. Petersburg.

You have warned me to guard against any imposition with regard to pecuniary matters and perhaps you did right. But had you known Mr. Rohenstadt, you would own that such advice was unnecessary. He has declared that he refused money from the board of Treasury and says his pride will not allow him to stoop so far as to ask assistance from any man while he is in a situation to gain the necessaries of life. After indulging in a reverie about the happiness he would enjoy being in the Highlands of Scotland, for that is his favourite country, he will exclaim, "Ah, but why do I speak thus ? I am just a poor devil. Ah (with the shrug of a Frenchman) no matter—I am but a man and will bear patiently the miseries which he is doomed to suffer. I am happy in the knowledge that these brave people who followed my grandfather are still attached to his descendant and will love me if ever I am so happy as to live amongst them." It would take a great deal of time to tell you all about him, so you must rest contented till I see you.'

From another letter of same date:—

'Poor Mr. Rohenstadt is going to leave me. Some days ago he had a letter from London which informed him that his presence was necessary there and he sails for that place on Tuesday next. He says that if he finds no immediate prospect of the success of his application to the Prince Regent he will set out for Paris and from thence to St. Petersburg in order to recover considerable sums of money due to him in those places and to solicit the Emperor Alexander (at whose court he lived for some years) to use his influence with the Prince¹ to listen to his claims. I am truly sorry for him and feel much interested in his fate. I gave him my address and requested him to write to me how he succeeded. He said that he would write only if fortune proved kind to him, in which case he is resolved to return to Scotland, buy an estate in the Highlands and settle there as a private gentleman. His love for Scotland is excessive. Some days ago he began to learn the Gaelic language under the tuition of

¹ Should this be the Pope?
(More likely the Prince Regent, see below, p. 135.—H. T.)

Mr. McDonald teacher for the Highland Society here, and although he has got only a few lessons he has made great progress, so great indeed that he will be able to learn it without the assistance of a teacher, though his pronunciation will be incorrect.'

The writer of these letters has evidently been fascinated by the accomplishments and address of Mr. Rohenstadt for which allowance might be made on account of his youth and the little he has seen of the world. But Mr. Mackenzie who had seen a great deal of the world and been in foreign countries seems equally fascinated and impressed with a belief of the authenticity of the whole statement.

Whatever extent of credit it may deserve, there can be no doubt Mr. Rohenstadt is an extraordinary kind of person and that his manners are extremely insinuating. There appears on the whole a probability that he really is the Descendant of Prince Charles and Miss Walkinshaw. But as for the alleged marriage, that must depend upon the documents he can produce. It is the general opinion in this neighbourhood that Miss Walkinshaw never was married, and what is still more, this was the opinion of her own relations. Since the matter is at all events so curious, I regret that I did not become aware of it sooner as I could easily have obtained an introduction to the youth himself and might perhaps have gathered many more particulars. I would also have taken a fuller memorandum of the conversation with Mr. Mackenzie but the subject came on quite unexpectedly and I had formed no intention of treasuring up any particulars for the purpose of committing them to paper.

In regard to the first subject of my last letter, I ought to have mentioned to your Lordship that I neither know anything of the circumstances which may have given rise to such a rumour nor who are the individuals concerned or affected. It came to me merely in the way of common report, but upon what I should consider to be good authority. The few friends with whom I still keep up an intercourse in this place are among the remains of those who were, in my time, its more respectable inhabitants, but of whom not many vestiges now remain there. The Government has passed into different hands, very good people in their way but most of them in those former times reckoned among the secondary class of inhabitants.

Should I learn anything more of Mr. Rohenstadt worth notice I will, with pleasure, send it to your Lordship.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect

My Lord

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

KEITH MILNES.

Two PAPERS from the Royal Archives, Windsor Castle (Georgian Papers, 22,063-5),
printed by gracious permission of His Majesty.

Paris. 7 Juillet 1817.

Extrait.

Cabinet.

L'affaire de Mons^r Roehenstart a été suivie avec beaucoup de soin, et par des moyens opposés qui ont procuré pour résultats certains la conviction du peu d'importance politique de ce personnage, et celle de la ridicule exagération et de la coupable mauvaise foi du Sieur Schrader. La position de Mr. Roehenstart est fort gênée sous les rapports de fortune. Sa conduite est conforme à son état, réservée et discrète; il voit peu de monde; reçoit peu de lettres. Les Agens étrangers ou Français, chargés successivement d'explorer les démarches et ses relations, ont fait, à l'envie, preuve d'un zèle plus qu'indiscret en exagérant les prétentions de M. Roehenstart qui n'en manifeste aucune et qui n'a appris qu'avec le plus vif étonnement quelle importance politique on avoit voulu lui donner. Cet étranger appelé par mon ordre au Ministère de la police générale pour y donner des explications sur les diverses circonstances des rapports dont il avoit été l'objet, a fait et signé la Déclaration dont j'ai l'honneur d'adresser copie à Votre Excellence. Sa modestie et sa résignation ont été très satisfaisantes.

Rien, dans son extérieur, ni dans ses discours, n'annonce un homme occupé de projets politiques, ni même fier de son honorable naissance. Humble et soumis, il paroît chercher dans l'étude des consolations contre la gêne de sa position. On a entrevu dans ses explications sur sa naissance, que le mariage de ses père et mère avoit été fait secrètement à Paris sans l'aveu de la famille des Stuarts, qui n'y eût pas consenti, à cause de l'infériorité de rang de Monsieur Roehenstart; mais après la naissance du jeune Roehenstart, son ayeul maternel a ratifié le mariage de sa fille et a fait constater authentiquement son adhésion... . A son Excellence

Monsieur le Marquis d'Osmond &c. &c.¹

Enclosure.

Copie.

Déclaration de M. Charles Edward Roehenstart

Le 3 Juillet 1817 à midi s'est présenté au Ministère de la police générale, d'après l'invitation qui lui en été faite, Monsieur Charles Edward Roehenstart, logé à Paris, Rue du Dragon N° 8, lequel a répondu de la manière suivante aux diverses questions qui lui ont été faites.

'Je suis né à Rome ou s'était retiré Charles Edward Stuart, prétendant au Trône d'Angleterre, du mariage de Charlotte, Duchesse d'Albany sa fille, avec Auguste Edward Maximilien Roehenstart, le 14 Juillet 1784. Après la mort de sa [*rectius* ma] mère qui eu

¹ French Ambassador in London.

lieu en 1789, mon père se retira en Allemagne (à Munich) ou il passa quelques années et vint s'établir à Londres ou je l'accompagnai; il mourut en 1799; il est à observer que mon père habita Edinburgh, ou se trouvoit la famille de la Comtesse d'Alberstroff, mon *ayeule* maternelle, la plus grande partie du tems qu'il passa en Angleterre, et c'est ce qui a donné lieu d'indiquer sur mon passeport cette ville comme lieu de ma naissance. Environ deux ans après la mort de mon père, je quittai l'Angleterre pour aller en Russie; où le Duc et la Duchesse Alexandre de Wurtemberg, Oncle et Tante de l'Empereur, m'attachèrent à leur maison en qualité de Chambellan; en 1810 je fus obligé de me rendre à Londres pour mes intérêts compromis par la falllite du Banquier Forbes chez lequel étoit placé toute ma fortune. Cette même circonstance me détermina à aller en Amérique dans l'espoir d'y joindre ce Banquier qui, en effet, s'y étoit réfugié et me remboursa une foible partie de mes fonds.¹ Enfin après plusieurs années de voyage dans le nouveau monde je revins à Londres, d'où je me rendis à Edimbourg; désirant revoir la France j'y arrivai le 25 Février dernier ainsi que le constate mon passeport.

'Avant de quitter l'Angleterre, ma position devenue très pénible par la falllite dont je viens de parler, m'obligea à presenter au Gouvernement Anglais un mémoire tendant à rétablir et revendiquer mes droits à la succession du Cardinal Duc d'York, mon grand-oncle maternel. Dans le cas où le Gouvernement B^{que} ne croiroit pas devoir accueillir cette réclamation, je restreignis mes prétentions à une pension, ou un emploi honorable dont j'ai le plus grand besoin pour subsister, ne pouvant même aujourd'hui me soutenir qu'à l'aide des avances que veut bien me faire Mr. Coutts, banquier de Londres ainsi que deux autres amis. J'ai eu, au sujet de ce mémoire plusieurs entrevues avec Lord Sidmouth dont l'accueil n'a pas détruit mes espérances.

'Je dois saisir cette occasion pour protester contre tout autre projet de prétentions qu'on auroit pu m'attribuer dans l'intention de me nuire, et je déclare n'avoir jamais porté mes vues au delà des bornes que me prescrit ma raison et que m'imposent les devoirs de citoyen Anglais plus jaloux de la tranquillité de sa patrie que de son bonheur personnel. Je n'ai jamais pris aucun titre, formé aucun projet ni entretenu aucune relation contraire à ces sentimens. Je crois devoir faire connoitre ici mes véritables intentions; afin de détruire, s'il est possible, les fausses impressions, que des rapports mensongers dont j'ai été menacé, auroient pu donner sur mon compte; à cet égard, je crois avoir a redouter la méchanceté de deux individus dont j'ai éprouvé l'ingratitude, et la mauvaise foi, l'un nommé Schrader qui lui même m'a déclare être employé concurrement par la police de France et celle d'Angleterre, et l'autre Assig, prussien contre lequel je fus obligé de faire une déclaration lorsqu'il fut arrêté pour vol par la préfecture de Police.

'En m'expliquant sur mes projets ultérieurs je déclare qu'ayant l'espoir que S.M.C. l'Empereur de Russie daigne recommander ma réclamation au Gouvernement Britanique je me soumettrai a habiter le lieu qui me sera désigné pour jouir paisiblement des

¹ This part of the story is untrue. What means he had ever had were lost in other ways.—H. T.

moyens d'existence qu'il m'assurera et que je regarderai comme un bienfait; dans le cas contraire j'userai des seules ressources qui me resteroient en allant reprendre mon emploi chez S.A.R. le Duc de Wurtemberg, en Russie, ou utiliser mes talents dans cette contrée ou en Italie. Je donnerai a S.E. le Ministre de la police générale tout autre renseignement dont il auroit besoin sur mon compte et je ferai toutes les communications qui pourront être exigées; et j'ai signé la déclaration ci-dessus comme étant l'expression de la vérité.

{Signé} EDWARD ROEHENSTART.