

MADAME ROYALE THE LAST DAUPHINE

MARIE-THÉRESE-CHARLOTTE DE FRANCE
DUCHESSÉ D'ANGOULEME

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Yet although she was becoming "Austrianised," as Louis called it, the Imperial family showed deep annoyance at her refusing to marry an Archduke.

"Madame Thérèse is on very cool terms with the Empress, ever since her arrival," M. de la Fare wrote to Louis XVIII. on August 29, 1798. "It is my duty to warn you, sire, that Madame is of a determined character, thoughtful and obstinate when once her mind is made up. She forms her own estimate of people, and likes none but those she herself feels deserving of respect."²

It is easy to guess at the constantly recurring difficulties which beset her path, and at the disappointment she experienced at being detained in Vienna and prevented by her Imperial relations from rejoining her uncle.

Many a time tears of anger overflowed her eyes, and at such moments the company of Mlle. de Choisy, an *émigrée*, sent to her by M. de la Fare, comforted her greatly. The Minister had selected this lady because she was approaching middle age, and he rightly thought she would be more useful to the Princess than a younger person. Mlle. de Choisy talked to her about the *émigrés* living in Vienna, and told her that although the Emperor and his Minister, M. de Thugut, affected to protect them, they did not do so; nor did they show any sincere desire to serve the cause of the monarchy in France. The young Princess was surprised that a sovereign should speak in one sense and act in another. This feeling tinged her manner towards the Emperor with a reserve which happily was mistaken for respect, but which really proceeded from disapprobation.