

= Princess Charlotte of Wales =

Princess Charlotte Augusta of Wales (7 January 1796 ? 6 November 1817) was the only child of George , Prince of Wales (later to become King George IV) and Caroline of Brunswick . Had she outlived both her grandfather King George III and her father , she would have become Queen of the United Kingdom , but she died following childbirth at the age of 21 .

Charlotte 's parents disliked each other from before their arranged marriage and soon separated . The Prince of Wales left most of Charlotte 's care to governesses and servants , but only allowed her limited contact with the Princess of Wales , who eventually left the country . As Charlotte grew to adulthood , her father pressured her to marry William , Hereditary Prince of Orange (later King of the Netherlands) , but after initially accepting him , Charlotte soon broke off the intended match . This resulted in an extended contest of wills between her and her father , and finally the Prince of Wales permitted her to marry Prince Leopold of Saxe @-@ Coburg @-@ Saalfeld (later King of the Belgians) . After a year and a half of happy marriage , Charlotte died after giving birth to a stillborn son .

Charlotte 's death set off tremendous mourning among the British , who had seen her as a sign of hope and a contrast both to her unpopular father and to her grandfather , whom they deemed mad . As she had been King George III 's only legitimate grandchild , there was considerable pressure on the King 's unmarried sons to find wives . King George III 's fourth son , Edward , Duke of Kent , fathered the eventual heir , Victoria , who was born 18 months after Charlotte 's death .

= = Background = =

In 1794 , George , Prince of Wales , sought a suitable bride . He did not do so out of any particular desire to secure the succession , but because the Prime Minister , William Pitt the Younger , promised him an increased income if he married . George , despite receiving large incomes as Prince of Wales and as Duke of Cornwall , lived well beyond his means , and by 1794 , his income was insufficient to cover even the interest on his debt .

George had attempted marriage once , to his mistress , Maria Fitzherbert . The attempted marriage was legally invalid as no attempt had been made to obtain the consent of King George III , the Prince 's father , which was required by the Royal Marriages Act 1772 . Nevertheless , the Prince kept Fitzherbert as his mistress , that is , when other mistresses , such as Lady Jersey , were not in greater favour .

George considered two German princesses as possible brides , both of whom were his first cousins . Louise of Mecklenburg @-@ Strelitz was the daughter of George 's mother 's brother , while Caroline of Brunswick was his father 's sister 's daughter . George 's mother , Queen Charlotte , had heard disquieting rumours about Princess Caroline 's behavior , and so favoured Princess Louise , whom she considered prettier , and who was her niece by blood , rather than by marriage . Princess Caroline had , it was said , behaved improperly with an Irish officer in her father 's army , and earlier negotiations for her hand had broken off for unknown reasons . George , under the influence of Lady Jersey (who considered Caroline a less formidable rival than Louise) , selected the Brunswick princess although he had never met her , and despatched the diplomat , James Harris , 1st Earl of Malmesbury , to escort her from Brunswick to Britain .

Harris found the Princess dressed in a dishevelled manner , and it was obvious that she had not washed in several days . He found her conversation coarse and overly familiar . Harris spent almost four months with her , doing his best to improve her behaviour and habits , before they reached England , a time lengthened by poor winter weather and delays occasioned by the war against France . The diplomat brought Caroline to St. James 's Palace ; on first sight of his bride , the Prince stated , " Harris , I am not well , pray get me a glass of brandy . " After the Prince had left , Caroline said , " I think he is very fat and nothing like as handsome as his portrait . " When the couple dined together that evening , the embittered Princess made coarse allusions to the Prince 's relationship with Lady Jersey ; according to Harris this served to cement George 's dislike of her . Before the wedding on 8 April 1795 , George sent his brother William , Duke of Clarence (later William IV) , to

tell Fitzherbert that she was the only woman he would ever love , then went to the ceremony , drunk

George later stated that the couple had sex only three times , and that the Princess had commented on how large his penis was , leading him to conclude that she must have had a basis for comparison and so was most likely not a virgin . Caroline on the other hand later hinted that the Prince was impotent . The royal couple separated within weeks , though they remained under the same roof . One day short of nine months after the wedding , Caroline gave birth to a daughter .

= = Childhood = =

Charlotte was born at the Prince 's residence , Carlton House , London , on 7 January 1796 . While George was mildly unhappy that she was not a boy , the King , who preferred girl babies , was delighted at the birth of his first legitimate grandchild , and hoped that the birth would serve to reconcile George and Caroline . This did not come to pass ; three days after Charlotte 's birth , George made a will directing that his wife have no role in the upbringing of their child , and leaving all his worldly goods to Fitzherbert . Many members of the royal family were unpopular ; however , the nation celebrated Charlotte 's birth . On 11 February 1796 , the little princess was christened Charlotte Augusta , after her grandmothers , Queen Charlotte and Augusta , Duchess of Brunswick @-@ Lüneburg , in the Great Drawing Room at Carlton House by John Moore , Archbishop of Canterbury . Her godparents were the King , Queen and Duchess of Brunswick (for whom the Princess Royal stood proxy) .

Despite Caroline 's demands for better treatment now that she had given birth to the second @-@ in @-@ line to the throne , George restricted her contact with the child , forbidding her to see their daughter except in the presence of a nurse and governess . Caroline was allowed the usual daily visit which upper class parents paid to their young offspring at this time ; she was not allowed any say in the decisions made about Charlotte 's care . Sympathetic household staff disobeyed the Prince and allowed Caroline to be alone with her daughter . George was unaware of this , having little contact with Charlotte himself . Caroline was even bold enough to ride through the streets of London in a carriage with her daughter , to the applause of the crowds .

Charlotte herself was a healthy child , and according to her biographer , Thea Holme , " The impression one gets from all the early recorded stories of Charlotte is of a happy recklessness , and a warm heart . " As Charlotte grew , her parents continued to battle , and to use the young girl as a pawn in their conflict , with both parents appealing to the King and Queen to take their side . In August 1797 , Caroline left Carlton House , establishing herself in a rented home near Blackheath and leaving her daughter behind ? English law at the time considered the father 's rights to minor children paramount . However , the Prince took no action to further restrict Caroline 's access to her daughter . In December 1798 , the Prince invited his estranged wife to spend the winter at Carlton House , which she refused to do . It was the last serious effort at reconciliation , and its failure meant there was little likelihood that George would have a legitimate son who would come between Charlotte and the British throne . Caroline visited her daughter at Carlton House , and sometimes Charlotte was driven out to Blackheath to visit her mother , but was never allowed to stay in her mother 's house . During the summers , the Prince leased Shrewsbury Lodge at Blackheath for his daughter , which made visitation easier , and according to Alison Plowden , who wrote of George 's relationship with his wife and daughter , Caroline probably saw as much of her daughter as she wanted to .

When Charlotte was eight , her father , whose affections had returned to Fitzherbert , decided that he wanted Carlton House to himself . He took over his wife 's apartments (Caroline received space in Kensington Palace instead) , and moved their daughter into Montague House , adjacent to Carlton House . As James Chambers , another Charlotte biographer , put it , the young Princess " lived in a household of her own , in the company of no one who was not paid to be there " . The move took place without the presence of Charlotte 's governess , Lady Elgin (widow of Charles Bruce , 5th Earl of Elgin) , with whom she was very close . Lady Elgin had been forced to retire , ostensibly on account of age , but most likely because George was angry that Lady Elgin had taken

Charlotte to see the King without George 's permission . George also dismissed the sub @-@ governess , Miss Hayman , for being too friendly with Caroline ? and the Princess of Wales promptly hired her . Lady Elgin 's replacement , Lady de Clifford (widow of Edward Southwell , 20th Baron de Clifford) , was fond of Charlotte , and too good natured to discipline the child , who had grown into an exuberant tomboy . Lady de Clifford brought one of her grandsons , the Honourable George Keppel , three years younger than Charlotte , as a playmate for her . Forty years later , Keppel , by then Earl of Albemarle , would remember Charlotte in his memoirs , the source of many of the anecdotes of Charlotte as a small girl . In addition to tomboy tales of horses and fisticuffs , he remembered them seeing a crowd gathered outside the Keppel house at Earl 's Court , who were hoping to see the young Princess . The two children went outside and joined the crowd , unrecognised .

In 1805 , the King began making plans for Charlotte 's education , and engaged a large staff of instructors for his only legitimate grandchild , with the Bishop of Exeter to instruct her in the faith that King George believed one day Charlotte , as queen , would defend . The King hoped that these teachers would " render her an honour and comfort to her relations , and a blessing to the dominions over which she may hereafter preside " . According to Holme , this instruction made little impression on Charlotte , who chose to learn only what she wanted to learn . Her piano teacher was composer Jane Mary Guest , and Charlotte became an accomplished pianist .

Princess Caroline 's unconventional behaviour led , in 1807 , to accusations that she had had sexual relations with other men since the separation . Caroline was caring for a young child , William Austin , who was alleged to be her child by another man . The Prince of Wales hoped that what was termed " the Delicate Investigation " would turn up evidence of adultery that would permit him to get a divorce , and forbade Charlotte to see her mother . The investigators did not interview Caroline or her purported lovers , but concentrated on Caroline 's servants . When the servants were asked if Caroline had appeared pregnant , some said yes , some no , some were uncertain , and others indicated the Princess was so overweight that it was impossible to tell . The servants could confirm no individual as a lover , though Caroline 's footman , Joseph Roberts , stated that the Princess " was very fond of fucking " . Charlotte was aware of the investigation . The ten @-@ year @-@ old was deeply hurt when mother and daughter caught sight of each other in the park , and Caroline , obedient to the Prince 's command to have no contact with Charlotte , pretended not to see her . To George 's bitter disappointment , the investigating committee found no evidence Caroline had had a second child , though it noted that the Princess 's behaviour was very much open to misconstruction . The King , who was fond of Caroline , had refused to see her during the investigation , but began to receive her again afterwards . After the conclusion of the Delicate Investigation , the Prince reluctantly allowed Charlotte to see her mother again , with the condition that William Austin not be a playmate .

= = Adolescence = =

As Charlotte entered her teenage years , members of the Court considered her behaviour undignified . Lady de Clifford complained about Charlotte 's allowing her ankle @-@ length underdrawers to show . Lady Charlotte Bury , a lady @-@ in @-@ waiting to Caroline and a diarist whose writings have survived , described the Princess as a " fine piece of flesh and blood " who had a candid manner and rarely chose to " put on dignity " . Her father was proud of her horsemanship . She was fond of music by Mozart and Haydn , and she identified with the character of Marianne in *Sense and Sensibility* . In 1808 , Charlotte Jones was appointed as Charlotte 's own official miniature portrait painter .

In late 1810 , King George III began his final descent into madness . Charlotte and the King were very fond of each other , and the young Princess was greatly saddened by his illness . On 6 February 1811 , Charlotte 's father was sworn in as Prince Regent before the Privy Council , as Charlotte rode back and forth in the gardens outside Carlton House , trying to catch glimpses of the ceremony through the ground @-@ floor windows . Charlotte was an enthusiastic Whig , as her father had been . However , now that he was exercising the powers of the monarchy , he did not

recall the Whigs to office as many had expected him to do . Charlotte was outraged by what she saw as her father 's treason , and , at the opera , demonstrated her support by blowing kisses in the direction of the Whig leader , Earl Grey .

George had been raised under strict conditions , which he had rebelled against . Despite this , he attempted to put his daughter , who had the appearance of a grown woman at age 15 , under even stricter conditions . He gave her a clothing allowance insufficient for an adult princess , and insisted that if she attended the opera , she was to sit in the rear of the box and leave before the end . With the Prince Regent busy with affairs of state , Charlotte was required to spend most of her time at Windsor with her maiden aunts . Bored , she soon became infatuated with her first cousin , George FitzClarence , illegitimate son of the Duke of Clarence . FitzClarence was , shortly thereafter , called to Brighton to join his regiment , and Charlotte 's gaze fell on Lieutenant Charles Hesse of the Light Dragoons , reputedly the illegitimate son of Charlotte 's uncle , Frederick , Duke of York . Hesse and Charlotte had a number of clandestine meetings . Lady de Clifford feared the Prince Regent 's rage should they be found out , but Princess Caroline was delighted by her daughter 's passion . She did everything that she could to encourage the relationship , even allowing them time alone in a room in her apartments . These meetings ended when Hesse left to join the British forces in Spain . Most of the Royal Family , except the Prince Regent , were aware of these meetings , but did nothing to interfere , disapproving of the way George was treating his daughter .

In 1813 , with the tide of the Napoleonic Wars having turned firmly in Britain 's favour , George began to seriously consider the question of Charlotte 's marriage . The Prince Regent and his advisors decided on William , Hereditary Prince of Orange , son and heir @-@ apparent of Prince William VI of Orange . Such a marriage would increase British influence in Northwest Europe . William made a poor impression on Charlotte when she first saw him , at George 's birthday party on 12 August , when he became intoxicated , as did the Prince Regent himself and many of the guests . Although no one in authority had spoken to Charlotte about the proposed marriage , she was quite familiar with the plan through palace whispers . Dr. Henry Hallford was detailed to sound Charlotte out about the match ; he found her reluctant , feeling that a future Queen of Britain should not marry a foreigner . Believing that his daughter intended to marry William , Duke of Gloucester , the Prince Regent saw his daughter and verbally abused both her and Gloucester . According to Charlotte , " He spoke as if he had the most improper ideas of my inclinations . I see that he is compleatly [sic] poisoned against me , and that he will never come round . " She wrote to Earl Grey for advice ; he suggested she play for time . The matter soon leaked to the papers , which wondered whether Charlotte would marry " the Orange or the Cheese " (a reference to Gloucester cheese) , " Slender Billy " [of Orange] or " Silly Billy " . The Prince Regent attempted a gentler approach , but failed to convince Charlotte who wrote that " I could not quit this country , as Queen of England still less " and that if they wed , the Prince of Orange would have to " visit his frogs solo " . However , on 12 December , the Prince Regent arranged a meeting between Charlotte and the Prince of Orange at a dinner party , and asked Charlotte for her decision . She stated that she liked what she had seen so far , which George took as an acceptance , and quickly called in the Prince of Orange to inform him .

Negotiations over the marriage contract took several months , with Charlotte insisting that she not be required to leave Britain . The diplomats had no desire to see the two thrones united , and so the agreement stated that Britain would go to the couple 's oldest son , while the second son would inherit the Netherlands ; if there was only one son , the Netherlands would pass to the German branch of the House of Orange . On 10 June 1814 , Charlotte signed the marriage contract . Charlotte had become besotted with a Prussian prince whose identity is uncertain ; according to Charles Greville , it was Prince Augustus , although historian Arthur Aspinall disagreed , thinking that her love interest was the younger Prince Frederick . At a party at the Pulteney Hotel in London , Charlotte met a Lieutenant @-@ General in the Russian cavalry , Prince Leopold of Saxe @-@ Coburg @-@ Saalfeld . The Princess invited Leopold to call on her , an invitation he took up , remaining for three quarters of an hour , and writing a letter to the Prince Regent apologising for any indiscretion . This letter impressed George very much , although he did not consider the impoverished Leopold as a possible suitor for his daughter 's hand .

The Princess of Wales opposed the match between her daughter and the Prince of Orange , and had great public support : when Charlotte went out in public , crowds would urge her not to abandon her mother by marrying the Prince of Orange . Charlotte informed the Prince of Orange that if they wed , her mother would have to be welcome in their home ? a condition sure to be unacceptable to the Prince Regent . When the Prince of Orange would not agree , Charlotte broke off the engagement . Her father 's response was to order that Charlotte remain at her residence at Warwick House (adjacent to Carlton House) until she could be conveyed to Cranbourne Lodge at Windsor , where she would be allowed to see no one except the Queen . When told of this , Charlotte raced out into the street . A man , seeing her distress from a window , helped the inexperienced Princess find a hackney cab , in which she was conveyed to her mother 's house . Caroline was visiting friends and hastened back to her house , while Charlotte summoned Whig politicians to advise her . A number of family members also gathered , including her uncle , Frederick , Duke of York ? with a warrant in his pocket to secure her return by force if need be . After lengthy arguments , the Whigs advised her to return to her father 's house , which she did the next day .

= = Isolation and courtship = =

The story of Charlotte 's flight and return was soon the talk of the town ; Henry Brougham , a former MP and future Whig Lord Chancellor , reported " All are against the Prince " , and the Opposition press made much of the tale of the runaway Princess . Despite an emotional reconciliation with his daughter , the Prince Regent soon had her conveyed to Cranbourne Lodge , where her attendants were under orders never to let her out of their sight . She was able to smuggle a note out to her favourite uncle , Augustus , Duke of Sussex . The Duke responded by questioning the Tory Prime Minister , Lord Liverpool , in the House of Lords . He asked whether Charlotte was free to come and go , whether she was allowed to go to the seaside as doctors had recommended for her in the past , and now that she was eighteen , whether the government planned to give her a separate establishment . Liverpool evaded the questions , and the Duke was summoned to Carlton House and castigated by the Prince Regent , who never spoke with his brother again .

Despite her isolation , Charlotte found life at Cranbourne Lodge surprisingly agreeable , and slowly became reconciled to her situation . At the end of July 1814 , the Prince Regent visited Charlotte in her isolation and informed her that her mother was about to leave England for an extended stay on the Continent . This upset Charlotte , but she did not feel that anything she might say could change her mother 's mind , and was further aggrieved by her mother 's casualness in the leavetaking , " for God knows how long , or what events may occur before we meet again " . Charlotte would never see her mother again . In late August , Charlotte was permitted to go to the seaside . She had asked to go to fashionable Brighton , but the Prince Regent refused , sending her instead to Weymouth . As the Princess 's coach stopped along the way , large , friendly crowds gathered to see her ; according to Holme , " her affectionate welcome shows that already people thought of her as their future Queen " . On arrival in Weymouth , there were illuminations with a centrepiece " Hail Princess Charlotte , Europe 's Hope and Britain 's Glory " . Charlotte spent time exploring nearby attractions , shopping for smuggled French silks , and from late September taking a course of heated seawater baths . She was still infatuated with her Prussian , and hoped in vain that he would declare his interest in her to the Prince Regent . If he did not do so , she wrote to a friend , she would " take the next best thing , which was a good tempered man with good sence [sic] ... that man is the P of S @-@ C " [Prince of Saxe @-@ Coburg , i.e. Leopold] . In mid @-@ December , shortly before leaving Weymouth , she " had a very sudden and great shock " when she received news that her Prussian had formed another attachment . In a long talk after Christmas dinner , father and daughter made up their differences .

In the early months of 1815 , Charlotte fixed on Leopold (or as she termed him , " the Leo ") as a spouse . Her father refused to give up hope that Charlotte would agree to marry the Prince of Orange . However , Charlotte wrote , " No arguments , no threats , shall ever bend me to marry this detested Dutchman . " Faced with the united opposition of the Royal Family , George finally gave in and dropped the idea of marriage to the Prince of Orange , who became engaged to Grand

Duchess Anna Pavlovna of Russia that summer . Charlotte contacted Leopold through intermediaries , and found him receptive , but with Napoleon renewing the conflict on the Continent , Leopold was with his regiment fighting . In July , shortly before returning to Weymouth , Charlotte formally requested her father 's permission to marry Leopold . The Prince Regent replied that with the unsettled political situation on the Continent , he could not consider such a request . To Charlotte 's frustration , Leopold did not come to Britain after the restoration of peace , even though he was stationed in Paris , which she deemed to be only a short journey from Weymouth or London .

In January 1816 , the Prince Regent invited his daughter to the Royal Pavilion in Brighton , and she pleaded with him to allow the marriage . On her return to Windsor , she wrote her father , " I no longer hesitate in declaring my partiality in favour of the Prince of Coburg ? assuring you that no one will be more steady or consistent in this their present & last engagement than myself . " George gave in and summoned Leopold , who was in Berlin en route to Russia , to Britain . Leopold arrived in Britain in late February 1816 , and went to Brighton to be interviewed by the Prince Regent . After Charlotte was invited as well , and had dinner with Leopold and her father , she wrote :

I find him charming , and go to bed happier than I have ever done yet in my life ... I am certainly a very fortunate creature , & have to bless God . A Princess never , I believe , set out in life (or married) with such prospects of happiness , real domestic ones like other people .

The Prince Regent was impressed by Leopold , and told his daughter that Leopold " had every qualification to make a woman happy " . Charlotte was sent back to Cranbourne on 2 March , leaving Leopold with the Prince Regent . On 14 March , an announcement was made in the House of Commons to great acclaim , with both parties relieved to have the drama of the Princess 's romances at an end . Parliament voted Leopold £ 50 @,@ 000 per year , purchased Claremont House for the couple , and allowed them a generous single payment to set up house . Fearful of a repetition of the Orange fiasco , George limited Charlotte 's contact with Leopold ; when Charlotte returned to Brighton , he allowed them to meet only at dinner , and never let them be alone together .

The marriage ceremony was set for 2 May 1816 . On the wedding day , huge crowds filled London ; the wedding participants had great difficulties in travelling . At nine o 'clock in the evening in the Crimson Drawing Room at Carlton House , with Leopold dressing for the first time as a British General (the Prince Regent wore the uniform of a Field Marshal) , the couple were married . Charlotte 's wedding dress cost over ? 10 @,@ 000 . The only mishap was during the ceremony , when Charlotte was heard to giggle when the impoverished Leopold promised to endow her with all his worldly goods .

= = Marriage and death = =

The couple honeymooned at Oatlands Palace , the Duke of York 's residence in Surrey . Neither was well and the house was filled with the Yorks ' dogs and the odour of animals . Nevertheless , the Princess wrote that Leopold was " the perfection of a lover " . Two days after the marriage , they were visited by the Prince Regent at Oatlands ; he spent two hours describing the details of military uniforms to Leopold , which according to Charlotte " is a great mark of the most perfect good humour " . Prince Leopold and his wife returned to London for the social season , and when they attended the theatre , they were invariably treated to wild applause from the audience and the singing of " God Save the King " from the company . When she was taken ill at the Opera , there was great public concern about her condition . It was announced that she had suffered a miscarriage . On 24 August 1816 , they took up residence for the first time at Claremont .

Leopold 's physician @-@ in @-@ ordinary , Christian Stockmar (later , as Baron Stockmar , advisor to both Queen Victoria and Prince Albert) , wrote that in the first six months of the marriage , he had never seen Charlotte wear anything that was not simple and in good taste . He also noted that she was much more calm and in control of herself than she used to be , and attributed this to Leopold 's influence . Leopold wrote later , " Except when I went out to shoot , we were together always , and we could be together , we did not tire . " When Charlotte became too excited , Leopold

would say only , " Doucement , ch?rie " (" Gently , my love ") . Charlotte both accepted the correction and began calling her husband " Doucement " .

The Coburgs , as they came to be called , spent the Christmas holidays at the Brighton Pavilion with various other royals . On 7 January , the Prince Regent gave a huge ball there to celebrate Charlotte 's 21st birthday , but the Coburgs did not attend , having returned to Claremont and preferring to remain there quietly . At the end of April 1817 , Leopold informed the Prince Regent that Charlotte was again pregnant , and that there was every prospect of the Princess carrying the baby to term .

Charlotte 's pregnancy was the subject of the most intense public interest . Betting shops quickly set up book on what sex the child would be . Economists calculated that the birth of a princess would raise the stock market by 2 @. @ 5 % ; the birth of a prince would raise it 6 % . Charlotte spent her time quietly , spending much time sitting for a portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence . She ate heavily and got little exercise ; when her medical team began prenatal care in August 1817 , they put her on a strict diet , hoping to reduce the size of the child at birth . The diet , and occasional bleeding , seemed to weaken Charlotte . Stockmar was amazed at a treatment he saw as outdated , and declined to join the medical team , believing that , as a foreigner , he would be blamed if anything went wrong .

Much of Charlotte 's day to day care was undertaken by Sir Richard Croft . Croft was not a physician , but an accoucheur , or male midwife , much in fashion among the well @-@ to @-@ do . Charlotte was believed to be due to deliver on 19 October , but as October ended , she had shown no signs of giving birth , and drove out as usual with Leopold on Sunday 2 November . On the evening of 3 November , her contractions began . Sir Richard encouraged her to exercise , but would not let her eat : late that evening , he sent for the officials who were to witness and attest to the royal birth . As the fourth of November became the fifth , it became clear that Charlotte might be unable to expel the child , and Croft and Charlotte 's personal physician , Matthew Baillie , decided to send for obstetrician John Sims . However , Croft did not allow Sims to see the patient , and forceps were not used . According to Plowden in her book , they might have saved her and the child , though there was a very high mortality rate when instruments were used in the era before antiseptics .

At nine o 'clock in the evening of 5 November , Charlotte finally gave birth to a large stillborn boy . Efforts to resuscitate him were in vain , and the noble observers confirmed that it was a handsome boy , resembling the Royal Family . They were assured that the mother was doing well , and took their leave . An exhausted Charlotte heard the news calmly , stating it was the will of God . She took some nourishment after her lengthy fast and seemed to be recovering . Leopold , who had remained with his wife throughout , apparently took an opiate and collapsed into bed .

Soon after midnight , Charlotte began vomiting violently and complaining of pains in her stomach . Sir Richard was called , and was alarmed to find his patient cold to the touch , breathing with difficulty , and bleeding . He placed hot compresses on her , the accepted treatment at the time for postpartum bleeding , but the blood did not stop . He called in Stockmar and urged him to bring Leopold . Stockmar found Leopold difficult to rouse , and went to see the Princess , who grabbed his hand and told him , " They have made me tipsy . " Stockmar left the room , planning to try again to rouse the Prince , but was called back by Charlotte 's voice , " Stocky ! Stocky ! " He entered the room to find her dead .

= = Aftermath = =

Henry Brougham wrote of the public reaction to Charlotte 's death , " It really was as though every household throughout Great Britain had lost a favourite child . " The whole kingdom went into deep mourning ; linen @-@ drapers ran out of black cloth . Even the poor and homeless tied armbands of black on their clothes . The shops closed for two weeks , as did the Royal Exchange , the Law Courts , and the docks . Even gambling dens shut down on the day of her funeral , as a mark of respect . Wrote The Times , " It certainly does not belong to us to repine at the visitations of Providence ... there is nothing impious in grieving for that as a calamity . " Mourning was so

complete that the makers of ribbons and other fancy goods (which could not be worn during the period of mourning) petitioned the government to shorten the period , fearing they would otherwise go bankrupt . A dissenting note was struck by poet Percy Bysshe Shelley , who in his *An Address to the People on the Death of the Princess Charlotte* , indicated that the execution of three men the day after the Princess 's death for plotting to overthrow the government was a greater tragedy .

The Prince Regent was prostrated with grief , and was unable to attend his child 's funeral . Princess Caroline heard the news from a passing courier , and fainted in shock . On recovering , she stated , " England , that great country , has lost everything in losing my ever beloved daughter . " Even the Prince of Orange burst into tears at hearing the news , and his wife ordered the ladies of her court into mourning . The greatest effect fell on Prince Leopold . Stockmar wrote years later , " November saw the ruin of this happy home , and the destruction at one blow of every hope and happiness of Prince Leopold . He has never recovered the feeling of happiness which had blessed his short married life . " According to Holme , " without Charlotte he was incomplete . It was as if he had lost his heart . "

Prince Leopold wrote to Sir Thomas Lawrence :

Two generations gone . Gone in a moment ! I have felt for myself , but I have also felt for the Prince Regent . My Charlotte is gone from the country ? it has lost her . She was a good , she was an admirable woman . None could know my Charlotte as I did know her ! It was my study , my duty , to know her character , but it was my delight !

Leopold did not remarry until 1832 , when , as King of the Belgians , he married Louise @-@ Marie of Orleans , daughter of Louis Philippe I , King of the French . They had four children .

The Princess was buried , her son at her feet , in St. George 's Chapel , Windsor Castle , on 19 November 1817 . A monument was erected , by public subscription , at her tomb . It was not long before the public began to pin blame for the tragedy . The Queen and the Prince Regent were blamed for not being present at the birth , though Charlotte had specifically requested that they stay away . Although the postmortem was inconclusive , many blamed Croft for his care of the Princess . The Prince Regent refused to blame Croft ; nevertheless , three months after Charlotte 's death and while attending another young woman , Croft snatched up a gun and fatally shot himself . The " triple obstetric tragedy " ? death of child , mother , and practitioner ? led to significant changes in obstetric practice , with obstetricians who favoured intervention in protracted labour , including in particular more liberal use of forceps , gaining ground over those who did not .

Charlotte 's death left the King without any legitimate grandchildren ; his youngest surviving child was over forty . The newspapers urged the King 's unmarried sons towards matrimony . One such leading article reached the King 's fourth son , Prince Edward , Duke of Kent and Strathearn , at his home in Brussels , where he was living with his mistress , Julie de St Laurent . Edward quickly dismissed his mistress and proposed to Leopold 's sister Victoria , Dowager Princess of Leiningen . Their daughter , Princess Alexandrina Victoria of Kent , would eventually (in 1837) become Queen of the United Kingdom . Leopold , by then King of the Belgians , served as long @-@ distance advisor to his niece , and was able to secure her marriage to his nephew , Prince Albert of Saxe @-@ Coburg and Gotha .

= = Ancestry = =