

*Monsieur!*London, the 19th Martii 1765.

I have no doubts that my last short letter³ will arrive in good time, as it was sent off before the end of the Salzburg Lent Market.

[5] My *concert*,⁴ which I intended to give on the 15th of last month, was not performed until the 21st, and was not as successful as I hoped because of the multitude of *plaisirs*⁵ |: which are enough to make one tired here :|, yet it came to around 130 *guineas*⁶ and, since the associated expenses amounted to over 27 *guineas*,⁷ there is not much more than 100 *guineas*⁸ left over.

[10] But I also know what went wrong, and why they did not treat us with more *generosité* |: although we have taken in some 100s of *guineas* since being here :| – – I turned down a *proposition*⁹ which was made to me. But what good is it to speak about a matter in which I acted with due consideration after long reflection and after a number of sleepless nights, [15] and which is now past, since I do not wish to raise my children in such a perilous place |: where most of the people have no religion at all and where one has only bad examples in front of one's eyes :|. If you saw the upbringing of the children here, you would be amazed. Of other religious matters let nothing should be said at all. – – – I absolutely must tell you briefly a pleasant story. [20] It is the custom here, when a child is baptised, that the main personages, besides other good friends, are 1st the godfather and 2nd the godmother. They normally have the child baptised at home, and usually many days and even weeks after the birth. A music dealer¹⁰ |: who also sells *instruments* :|, [25] a German from Hessen whose wife is Swiss, asked my wife, along with a certain German gentleman and a German spinster, to be godparents at the baptism of his child. We kept making excuses, until finally the German godfather, a commissioner from Brunswick, asked us personally. The baptism was 4 weeks after the birth at 5 o'clock in the evening. [30] The remarkable thing about this baptism consists in the fact that the father of the child had no religion at all, and his principles consisted only of one must worship God, love Him and one's neighbour, and be an honest man. The mother, who was present, is a *Calvinist*, and still adheres to her religion fairly much. The godfather is Lutheran, and the spinster godmother is *Calvinist*, [35] my wife, as the 2nd female godmother, is a good Salzburg Catholic, and the esteemed pastor |: who is named a minister here :| is of the English religion.¹¹ How do you like this christening party? – – For us Catholics, there was nothing unusual about the baptism itself, for the I believe in God and the Our Father which are prayed here [40] are word for word in the English church as with us. But the Lutheran and the *Calvinist* had to take part in something very unusual for them, namely to kneel with all of us, for they pray in kneeling in the English church. Isn't it a pity that there was not at least one Jew as well in the party? If Herr Zunsen,¹² a Jew and a commissioner from Paderborn who often comes to us, [45] had heard about it, he would at least have come to the christening supper. But I must tell you that the Jewish gentlemen here

¹ BD: Original lost. Copyist A; NissenB.

² BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

³ BD: No. 0095.

⁴ BD: Because of the performance of the oratorio *Judith* by Thomas Arne on the same day, it was put off until the 21st February.

⁵ Pleasures, entertainments.

⁶ BD: ≈ 1040 florins.

⁷ BD: ≈ 216 florins.

⁸ BD: ≈ 800 florins.

⁹ BD: The nature of the proposition is unknown.

¹⁰ BD: Perhaps the "Ms. Humel" mentioned in No. 0099/54?

¹¹ BD: Anglican.

¹² BD: Probably the "Zuns" mentioned in No. 0099/128.

sport no beards and wear velvet clothes and hair-net periwigs; that the Portuguese Jews in particular go to the synagogue in all their finery, like a Frenchman, and there is nothing visible about them at all that resembles a Jew. [50] Yes, I must also tell you that the leading Jews and others who think according to the current fashion have as low an opinion of their religion as the majority of French, English, Italian and Portuguese Christians, for the former, like the latter, when *Dies Domini*¹³ comes, which is the Sabbath and Sunday, drive out of town on the evening before and stay on their country estates until this sad day of prayer is past, [55] for there is neither theatre nor *opera* nor any other diversion in the town, and would the common people find a place in the church if the powerful and rich also attended? – – They stay away out of *complaisance*.¹⁴ You see how one thing leads to another: if I continue to write like this, this will become another letter which you need fully half an hour to read. [60] But do not fear! It will not be so long, and I will save the following to tell you in person: first of all, the organisation of the way of governing here; the power and rights of the king and the people; the valid opinions, and the false, that foreign nations have of the English people in general; their manner of judging and sentencing; [65] their customs generally and in particular; their dress, from head to foot, especially for the children, every last one of whom looks like our German farmer’s boys, with even the grown-up students in *Oxford*¹⁵ having short hair, cut off all the way round and a small, round felt cap on their heads. – – *Raison?*¹⁶ So that the mass of hair is not detrimental to the development of the faculty of reason. [70] For this same reason they cut off the tails of their horses so that, as they believe, it will enhance the vigour of the horse, because many branches take away the strength of a tree, or rather take the vigour of growth away from the fruit of the tree etc. – I will also save until we speak personally [75] the account of the changes that each season brings regarding food, whether in fish, meat etc. and especially in fruit dishes, the quality of the same, and the unbelievable size of the cattle etc., the fish etc., the crabs. – – Turtles and oysters, things which will appear unbelievable. – – – I will furthermore tell you about how they bear their dead to the grave. – – [80] The usefulness of their hospitals¹⁷ in raising the young, from which the greatest *admirals* come forth. – – The way they proceed with people in debt. – – Their horse-races and cock-fighting. – – The kinds of wagon and wagoners, who do not go on foot beside their goods wagons, but ride alongside on a horse, and do not keep their horses on a bridle, [85] but govern them with a blow from a little whipcord hanging on an astonishingly long pole and emitting numerous terrible words. – – – I will describe the *Tower*¹⁸ |: namely the fortress :| to you in person and tell you how the roaring of the lions there put our Herr Wolfgang into a state of fear. I will describe to you *St. Paul’s* and *Westminster*,¹⁹ [90] the machine which propels Thames water into the whole town, and certain skilfully made roasting-spits etc. I will depict to you the handsomeness of the men and women here and the well-formed stature and fullness of their bodies; on the other hand, I will provoke anger and horror in you when I tell you that sometimes 2 people get involved in a fist fight out in the street [95] – certainly quite atrocious! One moment they are tugging at each other’s heads with their hands, then they use their fists either to knock an eye out of the head or the teeth down the throat or to break a rib. 2 smith’s helpers even went into this fight with certain small irons which are used to poke the fire here, having made them glowing hot, [100] and burned each other’s naked bodies in the presence of some 10,000s of people in a public place. Could I describe all this here, along with the beautiful countryside, the most beautiful and most

¹³ = “the day of the Lord”.

¹⁴ = “consideration, obligingness”.

¹⁵ BD: There is no record of the presence of the Mozarts in Oxford.

¹⁶ = “reason”.

¹⁷ BD: E.g. Christ’s Hospital, whose wards had to serve in the navy.

¹⁸ BD: The Tower had contained zoological exhibits since the 12th century (until 1825).

¹⁹ BD: St. Paul’s Cathedral; Westminster Abbey, used for royal coronations and burials.

fruitful regions etc.? – – – No! I prefer to tell you about it. This letter is intended to remind me of everything.

[105] Now I have to ask you to reply to this letter as soon as you can. For I must have an answer, by the end of Aprilis; it could happen that I will have left here by the beginning of *Maii*. You write²⁰ about scarlet cloth for a coat, but I cannot take any cloth with me, as one is searched thoroughly in France. And in small quantities, which is by the yard, there is nothing on sale at a good price. [110] Unless one takes a whole piece of cloth and sends it via Holland. Write telling me whether the freight from Frankfurt to Salzburg is expensive. I am considering, yes, am almost forced, to send some of my baggage to Frankfurt via Holland, for, although I have much baggage and the most valuable things in Paris,²¹ [115] amounting to 300 *louis d'or*,²² my baggage has grown greatly here again. I am only sorry about the beautiful clothes! For my black velvet clothes and the very rich clothes with silver and gold leaf worked into the foundation layer will not improve with travel, no matter how much care one takes. This last garment cost 59 *louis d'or*²³ in Paris, and I got it *par hazard*,²⁴ [120] by a wonderful coincidence N.B. new, not even worn twice, from a court gentleman who was already a good friend of mine in Frankfurt. – – –

The price of the gold watches here is from 12 *guineas*²⁵ and upwards without end, as far as you may wish to go. [125] Whatever costs over 25 and 30 *guineas*²⁶ depends mainly on the costly *façon*²⁷ and exterior elaboration. The most common purchase of beautiful and good watches is from 14 to 20-something *guineas*,²⁸ for 14 to 20 *guineas* you can buy outstanding gold watches. Now, it depends whether one likes plain or ornamented work, things which contribute nothing to the inner value of a watch. [130] Right at the start I would say to you that the English have the advantage regarding the quality, but the French please me better as far as taste is concerned, and here large watches are preferred rather than small ones. N.B. Ask the watchmakers in Salzburg if they know what a horizontal watch is. This is a new invention: the mechanism has one wheel less, and one main wheel runs horizontally. [135] I am afraid that if I had a watch of this kind and it should ever be dropped, it would not be possible to get it back in order again in our country. If I had made as much money here as had seemed likely at the beginning, I would have used some of it for many curiosities, but *quod differtur non aufertur*.²⁹ I have, and will always have, my correspondence³⁰ in *London*. Now I have to be careful with money. [140] Whether I turn to right or left, I need to have money, and have ahead of me a long journey which has to be thought out in such a way that others have to pay for the travel.³¹ I wish you and all your dear ones continued good health. My wife and children commend themselves to you and your dearest wife and all who belong to you, and I am yours as always.

[145] The Queen has made a present of 50 *guineas*³² to our *Wolfgango* for the dedication of the *sonatas*.³³

²⁰ BD: No. 95a (lost).

²¹ BD: Cf. No. 0088/141-142.

²² BD: ≈ 2400 florins.

²³ BD: ≈ 472 florins.

²⁴ = “by chance”.

²⁵ BD: ≈ 96 florins.

²⁶ BD: ≈ 200 and 240 florins.

²⁷ = “setting”.

²⁸ BD: ≈ 112 to 160 florins.

²⁹ = “but postponed does not mean cancelled”.

³⁰ BD: Leopold had already been looking round for business partners.

³¹ BD: Planning stops where the children can earn money with concerts.

³² BD: ≈ 400 florins.

³³ BD: Cf. No. 0093/9.

P.S.

Here is the second etc.³⁴ – I ask you to reply soon and, above all, [150] we ask you to give the most obedient compliments from all of us to *M.^{me} de Robini*³⁵ in particular and to tell her that I am very frightened that my attention may have drifted entirely amid the noise of *London* and I only managed to remember her name-day³⁶ when it was already almost at the door. I am sure of her kindness, that she will forgive me since I am, leaving all *compliments* aside, her faithful servant and sincere and obedient bondsman. [155] You, sir, most esteemed Herr Hagenauer, will furthermore have the goodness to communicate to *M.^{me} von Robini* all that I have said to you concerning the gold watches,³⁷ and to ask her |: since she deigned to let me know that I might have the honour of bringing a watch back for her :| [160] if she might give me no more than a sign with her little finger as to roughly the price to which I should go. She need not doubt that I will buy something good, since I have wealthy, respected and honest people on hand who understand the business and will consider it an honour to select the best for me. One thing is quite certain, and that is that most of the watches which are sold as English in Germany have never set eyes on *London*. – – – [165]

Furthermore, I would ask our dear Herr Spitzeder³⁸ for forgiveness that I have never answered his so very pleasant letter. He is so reasonable and knows what a person has to do when he lives with his entire family in a town such as this, [170] where one uses up 300 pounds *sterling*³⁹ annually even with the most careful housekeeping and is still expected to save something. Is Herr Adlgasser⁴⁰ not in Salzburg yet? – – *compliments* from myself and from all of us. We know of course – Herr Bach!⁴¹ I must close, it is time, the post leaves soon.

Please answer soon!

Please likewise arrange for 3 Holy Masses to be read:⁴² 1 at Loreto,⁴³ at the Holy Child, 1 at the Franciscan Fathers at the high altar, and 1 in Nunberg.⁴⁴ [175]

³⁴ BD: “second”: unexplained.

³⁵ BD: Viktoria Robinig (1716-1783), wife of the factory owner Georg Joseph Robinig von Rottenfeld (1710-1760), member of the air-rifle club and frequent guest at the Mozarts.

³⁶ BD: 23rd December (Victoria).

³⁷ Here the translation omits a line described in BD I, p. 185, footnote, as “erroneous”. It seems to have been a first attempt to formulate the request made to Hagenauer.

³⁸ BD: Franz Anton Spi(t)zeder (1735-1796), studied at Salzburg university, tenor in the Salzburg court music, later a favourite of the Archbishop and an influential figure in the court music. Sang in Mozart's *Die Schuldigkeit des Ersten Gebots* KV 35 and *La Finta semplice* KV 51 (46a).

³⁹ BD: ≈ 2400 florins.

⁴⁰ BD: Anton Cajetan Adlgasser (1729-1777), pupil of Eberlin. Salzburg court organist and composer. He married three times; Leopold was a witness at two of the weddings. The Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg had given him a grant to travel in Italy.

⁴¹ BD: Johann Christian Bach. Leopold is replying to some comment by Hagenauer.

⁴² BD: Cf. No. 0088/136 ff.

⁴³ BD: Loreto: a church in Salzburg with famous figure of the Christ-child in splendid clothes.

⁴⁴ BD: The church in the monastic foundation Nonnberg.