

Salzb., 2nd Decemb.,
1785Leopoldl² is well!

For some weeks already I have been having occasional pain on the outer parts of the cartilage of my left ear. [5] But for some days now, and even as I was writing the letter sent via the glass-carrier woman,³ it was red and now for the last 3 days so severely swollen that, in the greatest consternation, I have to stay at home and keep the painful part properly warm, and as a result I also have the annoyance of not hearing with the covered left ear. [10] Yesterday the postman finally⁴ brought a well-protected little packet from the post-coach with the 6 quartets,⁵ and 3 scores, namely a quartet⁶ with clavier, violino, viola, and violoncello obbligato. Then the 2 new grand clavier concertos.⁷ The clavier quartetto dates only from the 16th October of this year, and I already include the printed violin and viola parts because they have already been engraved. [15] The time was passing murderously slowly for me. Luckily, young Preyman⁸ came at 5 o'clock, – and even though my eyes were no longer in proper order, since I had had to put together a quite astonishingly long letter to Marchand in the morning and afternoon and take it to the post, it did serve as entertainment for me to play through 3 of the new quartets seriously with Preyman until 8 o'clock [20] so that we can play them later, when I will prepare someone for the violin and violoncello, but play the viola myself. – Now the music copyist has enough to write again, but it will progress slowly. I will have him write out the clavier part⁹ first, there is plenty to practice in the concertos.

[25] The theatre story with Herr Grätz¹⁰ was his unexpected and great good fortune. In fact, he left for Venice yesterday morning at Herr Sigmund Hafner¹¹ expense, gets to Botzen¹² free with his servants, and from there he is conveyed free to Venice, where he is assured of receiving 4 ducats¹³ per month, and need only say what else he needs and can stay a year or even longer. Herr Gschwendner¹⁴ gave him 12 ducats¹⁵ for the journey and Herr Hafner I don't know how many thalers. Herr Gschwendner must be very rich, his extravagance has been attracting the attention of everyone – including the merchants – for some time now, since one could not keep him for less than 2000 florins per year for his entertainment alone.

[35] This story with Herr Gratz¹⁶ was over in 3 days, – in the coffee house¹⁷ they spoke disparagingly about the theatre story and the actors – Gratz was praised as a person of ability

¹ BD: Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia (“Nannerl”), née Mozart, (1751-1829). After her marriage in 1784 her name was Maria Anna von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg. In all letters to Nannerl after her marriage Leopold refers to her as “Frau Tochter” [madam daughter] and to his son-in-law as “Herr Sohn” [esteemed son].

² BD: Leopold's grandson by Nannerl.

³ From letter No. 0808 (14th Sept., 1784) onwards, the “glasträgerin” [“glass-carrier woman”] is Leopold's regular messenger to St. Gilgen, where Archbishop Thun established a glassworks in 1701.

⁴ BD: As promised by Wolfgang, cf. No. 0904/84-86.

⁵ BD: The quartets dedicated to Joseph Haydn, cf. No. 0874.

⁶ BD: KV 478, cf. No. 0872/8.

⁷ BD: KV 466 and 467.

⁸ BD: Anton Breymann (1762-1841). Despite all Leopold's efforts he was not employed in the court music in Salzburg. He became a violinist for Prince [Fürst] Liechtenstein and at the Burgtheater in Vienna.

⁹ Following DME's “party”; BD has “partyen”.

¹⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0904/4 ff. His opera enjoyed a mixed reception in Salzburg.

¹¹ BD: Siegmund Haffner the Younger (1756-1787), son of the eponymous Salzburg merchant.

¹² = Bozen, Bolzano.

¹³ BD: = 18 florins.

¹⁴ BD: Joseph Franz Xaver Geschwendtner (1740-1800), city councillor and merchant in Salzburg.

¹⁵ BD: = 54 florins.

¹⁶ BD: Cf. No. 0904/5 ff.

if he would go to Italy to learn something and hear *operas*; on the 2nd day Herr Gschwendner asked whether something could come of this person; – [40] since people assured him of that with a Yes, on the third day, in the *coffee* house, Herr Hafner said to Gratz that he should call on him the next morning at 8 o'clock. For Herr Hafner was always in the *coffee* house and heard all the *raisonnements*¹⁸ which took place there: – and so Gratz found his fortune. He called on me two days ago, from 10 to 12 o'clock in the morning, to obtain *information* and take his leave.

[45] The messenger¹⁹ has just been. – My thanks to both of you for the fish.

As I read in your letter that it is an appalling story about the actor Teller and the Amman's Tonerl,²⁰ I certainly must tell you much more appalling things. Herr Teller wanted to put the whole thing onto Herr Waitzhofer,²¹ and they had a long argument over who should be *cher Papa*.²² [50] The matter is so secret that Herr Gratz, when the talk was of other villainies of which the two of you ought to hear or read immediately, told me this of his own accord, as a piece of general knowledge. Now, what do you say to that? – *M.^{dme}* Hornung,²³ who has now got her portion once again and nevertheless wants to have an honourable confinement, has apparently written to her husband²⁴ saying that she is pregnant and hoping that he, [55] since he has often helped out in times of need, might help her again now by writing her a letter maintaining that he had slept with her in Augspurg at some point etc. – And her husband answered too, saying he would have no objection to doing it if she sent him 6 ducats.²⁵ He wrote to someone in the ensemble saying that he did not bear the least grudge in his heart against Holzmann²⁶ [60] if he still found so much pleasure in the withered charms of his wife. – the new Swabian singer *M.^{lle}* Kraus has apparently received a visit from Herr Waitzhofer, about which her other admirers in the company are very annoyed. *Md.^{me}* Weizhofer and Teller are known to be a couple anyway, even if he diligently visits his neighbour, the *Simonellis'* Nannerl; [65] and Waitzhofer's wife, wrapped up in a coat looking like a man, lurked by the house |: at night |: and boxed Teller's ears as he came out. Then, when the latter threatened to leave the troupe at once because he has enough money himself, *Md.^{me}* Waitzhofer wanted to shoot herself.

But why does Teller have money? Why does he keep a servant? [70] a coach? Why does he have a silver dinner *service* and a splendid *wardrobe*? Because his wife is an outstandingly beautiful, fine and seductive paramour who sent him on his way, providing him with everything that is splendid and supporting him with money so that he does not disturb her in her work and leaving her free to acquire large amounts of money with her bodily capital. He often receives letters with money, [75] and Herr Rauchenpichler²⁷ furthermore told us he has had to deliver a letter with 150 florins to him.

¹⁷ BD: Salzburg had two coffee houses at this time.

¹⁸ = arguments, discussions.

¹⁹ BD: There was no post-coach to St. Gilgen. Leopold therefore sent letters and packages to Nannerl by a messenger, a carter who came to Salzburg once a week. The "glass-carrier woman" also provided a service on this route.

²⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0905/43, 57.

²¹ BD: Romanus Waizhofer's theatre ensemble was in Salzburg. He had also spoken of taking responsibility for the Carnival balls (cf. No. 0895/105 ff.).

²² = "dear Papa".

²³ BD: Member of Waizhofer's ensemble.

²⁴ BD: Scenery painter, decorator, stage machinery technician, once with Johann Heinrich Böhm's troupe.

²⁵ BD: = 36 florins.

²⁶ BD: "Holzmann", "M.^{lle} Kraus": members of Waizhofer's ensemble.

²⁷ BD: Franz Joseph Rauchenbichler, later "von Rauchenbichler" (1736-1810), merchant, city council, administrator of St. Marci's chapel [St. Marci-Kapelle].

I and many others would have thought that Peyrl and his wife²⁸ were the most orderly of all, especially since they have 25 florins a week between them. But we are all deceived! [80] They have no-one with them except Frau Payerl's mother, namely Frau Berner, since *Md.^{me}* Peyrl is Berner's daughter. Now, as soon as the *cher Mama*²⁹ even opens her mouth, the daughter is already screaming: Shut your mouth, you old hussy! You old beast! or I want to continue the story, you *shut!* etc. etc. etc., and what kind of beautiful things do you think follow that? – That you made me a whore for money, locked me in with *suitors* etc. etc. etc. [85] Have you had enough? – No! the story continues: My father keeps a whorehouse of young girls, – makes them pregnant one after the other etc. etc. – But now you have had enough! – – – If anyone calls on *M.^{de}* Peyrl, her husband goes out at once. – At present the newspaper writer³⁰ and Herr Gschwendner were the known visitors. [90] The latter often has her out for *treats* and *supper*, coach-drives etc. etc., one time at Eyzenberger³¹, another time somewhere else; then there are *presents* enough, I alone know quite certainly and off the top of my head of 6 pairs of shoes and cloth for a dress. – Her husband goes his own way too, and the *cher Mamma* needs the theatre *hairdresser* to cool herself down. In the meantime I know that *M.^{dme}* Payerl does not even have a blouse to her name, [95] the *adorateurs*³² do not think of that and they squander their money as if the devil were taking it. Another thing they are saying is that a butcher's serving girl who is now to marry is demanding money from Herr Schilling³³ because he threw her down on the stairs, complete with her dirty feet, as she came from the cow stall one evening and gave her a double liver.³⁴ Now, what do you do say? – [100] That must have been some other news than that story about the 2 ecclesiastics who ran off,³⁵ about which I know nothing. Was there ever a more appalling company here? – Herr Poysel and his wife³⁶ are the only honest married couple. But I would specifically request that no-one should get to read this, I am only telling you two about it.

The esteemed *Doctor Barisani*³⁷ kisses your hands and commends himself to you both. [105] I am sending pillules along with this,³⁸ of which you should take 4 in the morning and evening and then refrain from them for 2 days, then take them again. – But you should not take the pillules until the 9 days are past. – Now, when you reach the 4th week after this, when it ought to come, you should then have 5 to 6 ounces of blood let to advance it so that it is more likely to come at the right time. [110] Nandl³⁹ always maintains that you must be pregnant, since it frequently happens that it still comes irregularly on occasions despite everything. *N.B.* some time after the pillules, after roughly quarter of an hour, you must, as otherwise, take camomile tea, – perhaps you can even omit the pillules for a few days after 3

²⁸ BD: Johann Nepomuk Peierl (1761-1800), singer and actor, married the singer Else Berner (* 1766) in 1782. Subsequent engagements included Salzburg and Munich. Mozart wrote two humorous canons referring to him: “*Difficile lectu mihi Mars*” KV 559 and “*O du eselhafter Peierl!*” KV 559a. Peierl's wife Elise, née Berner, had this epitaph put on his gravestone in Munich in 1800: “The loving spouse dedicates ... this gravestone ... which keeps her grief immortal ... to the shadow of her beloved husband. With him she lost everything, art lost much ...”. In 1801, however, she married the horn player Franz Lang.

²⁹ “*dear Mama*”.

³⁰ BD: Lorenz Hübner (1753-1807), for a short time a Jesuit, then a grammar school teacher; called to Salzburg to take over and improve the *Salzburger Staatszeitung* [Salzburg State Newspaper].

³¹ BD: The Eizenberger Hof, an inn with a large functions room outside Salzburg on the road to Bavaria.

³² “*admirers*”.

³³ BD: An actor.

³⁴ BD: A traditional circumlocution for pregnancy.

³⁵ BD: No other information known.

³⁶ BD: No other information known.

³⁷ BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

³⁸ Cf. Leopold's concern in recent letters about irregularities in Nannerl's menstrual periods following the birth of “Leopoldl”.

³⁹ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl (“child nurse”).

days; – [115] depending on how you feel, and then take them again. I enclose a letter from Marchand,⁴⁰ which I ask you to return to me with the next messenger. The document which the citizenry presented to the Elector⁴¹ is not at all flattering to the Emperor.⁴² But the Elector's answer is too cold for my taste, and speaks of nothing except old things from the past which were already known anyway. [120] But what the Duke von Zweybrücken⁴³ said to Herr von Reichl⁴⁴ is of course very disquieting. – What I am quite convinced of is that Austria will never take her eyes off the exchange of territories.⁴⁵ For this reason, Russia has already received her share in the Crimea etc.; France knows her share, what she will get out of it, and also desires. – Is Prussia, with little support, likely to contest the issue with these 3 powers? – Never again! Prussia only made so much noise in order to be given an opportunity to meddle in things again, and also to gain something by begging. – Prussia will also make a proposal which is of advantage to herself. – If they can agree on a settlement, then exchange of territories, – right to elect the Emperor, – [130] and perhaps also the rank of Electoral Princes⁴⁶ for the House of Wirttemberg⁴⁷ will go its right and proper way.

On the morning of the 3rd Dec.!

Leopoldl is in good health; and my ear is better too. On Wednesday evening we had a terrible wind, on Thursday and Friday heavy snow fell. Now one will see the first winter fur wraps, for so far there have been none to see; I have still been going out without fur, for the cold has always been moderate.

With the *Robini* Fräulein⁴⁸ things are changing constantly. Now they have divided up the shares amongst themselves, – I saw Herr Hagenauer signing the 3 copies as their counsel. [140] Regarding the *clavier*, one must certainly wait for the organ builder, for one must have absolutely the same proportions in the strings, and a great deal even depends on a wide or narrow spacing between the wire windings: – it makes a great difference. This is of course a time when the *fortepiano* will always go out of tune, just as the air gets into the wood and, being the finest of corpuscles, penetrates everywhere; [145] playing it warms everything again, and then yet something else changes again. Herr Schmid⁴⁹ will surely get it in order, and from what I gathered from his letter he will fit other strings for the lower notes. When she comes again, I will send the *oeuvres mêlées*⁵⁰ with the glass-carrier woman. [150] Concerning announcing the silver⁵¹ in the newspapers, I will think about what – and how it should best be done.

⁴⁰ BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand, two of whose children (Heinrich, Margarethe or “Gretl”) had for a time board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold Mozart's home.

⁴¹ “Khurf.” BD: Cf. No. 0900/81 ff. on unrest in Munich, tension between citizenry and Elector Karl Theodor.

⁴² “Kayser” BD: Joseph II (1741-1790), Holy Roman Emperor [Kaiser] 1765-1790. Son of Maria Theresia.

⁴³ “Herzog von Zweybrücken”: BD: Karl (II) August von Pfalz-Zweibrücken (1775-1793), a relative of the Elector of Bavaria.

⁴⁴ BD: Joseph von Reichel auf Knodorf, Esquire [Edler], Bavarian Court Chamber Secretary [Hofkammersekretär] and representative of Salzburg in Munich.

⁴⁵ BD: Cf. No. 0847/79 ff. Essentially the wish of the Emperor [Kaiser] in Vienna to exchange the Austrian Netherlands for Bavaria.

⁴⁶ “Churfürstenthum”.

⁴⁷ = “Württemberg”.

⁴⁸ BD: Maria Aloisia Viktoria (1757-1786), known as Louise. Her condition is mentioned in No. 0904/46.

⁴⁹ BD: Johann Evangelist Schmid (1757-1804), worked in Salzburg from 1786 to 1803 as the successor to “old” Egedacher; he had previously learned in Rottweil and worked in Vienna, Hungary, Bohemia, Saxony and Augsburg.

⁵⁰ BD: *Oeuvres mêlées*, published in 12 parts by Johann Ulrich Haffner (1711-1767) in Nuremberg from 1755 to 1765 and including works by Philipp Emanuel Bach and Johann Ernst Eberlin.

⁵¹ BD: The continuing story of the jewellery, which started in No. 0804/41.

Along with this I send you the watch case, I never noticed it because paper was lying on it.

Now I kiss both of you from the heart, send my greetings to the children, and am eternally your sincere father [155]

Mozart mp⁵²

Nandl and Tresel⁵³ commend themselves.

⁵² mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

⁵³ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.