

Dearest, most treasured little wife! –

[Vienna, 7th July, 1791]

You will surely pardon the fact that you now always receive only one letter from me. This is the reason: I have to hold a certain *X.Y.*³ prisoner, cannot let him *escape* – I am already there beside him at 7 o'clock every morning.

[5] I hope that you have received my letter of yesterday safely as well – I did not go to the balloon,⁴ for I can imagine it anyway, and furthermore believed that nothing would come of it this time either – but now there is jubilation among the people of Vienna! – They are now praising it with the same ardour as they had previously scorned it. –

There is something in your letter that I cannot read and something I do not understand – [10] you wrote “Now my . . . little man will certainly be in the great com. in the Brader⁵ as well” etc. etc. – I cannot read the adjective before little man – I suspect the com. will be *compagnie*, – but I do not know whom you understand under the great company.⁶

To Sourmayer⁷ I send the message that I did not have time to be running to his *Primus*⁸ all the time [15] – and whenever I got there he was never at home – just give him the 3 *Florēn*⁹ so that he doesn't cry –

Now I wish for nothing more than that my affairs¹⁰ were already in order, only so that I could be with you again, you cannot believe how slowly time has been passing for me here without you! – [20] I cannot explain to you how I feel, there is a certain emptiness – which, in brief, causes me pain, – a certain longing which is never fulfilled and therefore never ceases – persists the whole time, yes, grows from day to day; – when I think how high-spirited and child-like we were together in Baaden – and what sad, tedious hours I spend here – nor does my work bring me any joy because, [25] being accustomed to pausing occasionally and exchanging a few words with you, this pleasure is now unfortunately impossible – if I go to the keyboard and sing something from the opera,¹¹ I have to stop at once – it stirs up too much feeling in me – *Basta!*¹² – If my business¹³ is concluded this present hour, the next I will no longer be here. – I do not know of any news I must tell you. [30] The illuminations in Baaden¹⁴ were obviously a little premature! – because the actual news is precisely the opposite. I will enquire at the Royal Apothecary's, perhaps they can obtain the electuary for me after all, – then I will send it out to you at once; in the meantime (if it should be necessary) my advice is more towards cream of tartar¹⁵ than wind-water.¹⁶ – *Adieu* my dearest little wife [35] Vienna, 7th July, 1791.

¹ BD: Original unknown. Edition Nottebohm.

² BD: Constanze had problems with her feet (cf. note on No. 1106/14) and was having spa treatment in Baden, by Vienna; now, furthermore, she was soon due to bear a child.

³ BD: If the name blotted out here by Nissen is Goldhahn (cf. note on 1152/12), this is the person referred to in “code” by Mozart in No. 1161/4, 12, 27, 35.

⁴ BD: The hot air balloon experiment mentioned in No. 1182/12.

⁵ Brader = the Prater, a pleasure park in Vienna.

⁶ BD: Constanze did not of course mean a specific group of friends, but rather a great crowd in general.

⁷ BD: Typical Mozartian play on words: “Süss” in Süsmayer = “sweet”; replaced by “Sauer” = “sour”.

⁸ BD: Supposedly the nickname of the waiter Joseph Deiner in the inn “Zur goldenen Schlange”; cf. 1171/15.

⁹ BD: Florēn = florins, the common French designation, often used in southern Germany, for the gulden, the coin used most extensively in Germany in the 18th century.

¹⁰ BD: Mozart's negotiations for a loan.

¹¹ BD: From the first act of *The Magic Flute*.

¹² = “Enough”.

¹³ BD: The continuing battle with debts and finance.

¹⁴ BD: Erroneously believing Mozart had concluded his business, Constanze had obviously already celebrated with friends.

¹⁵ BD: Used as an emetic.

¹⁶ “Luftwasser”. BD: *Aqua carminativa*, used against flatulence.

eternally your
Mozart.