

Salzb., 26<sup>th</sup>  
January, 1787Little Leopoldl<sup>2</sup> is well!

The esteemed brother from Strobl<sup>3</sup> called on me with his son<sup>4</sup> and Wolfgang,<sup>5</sup> [5] I was just giving the administrator's Sepperl<sup>6</sup> a lesson and had to go out immediately afterwards – he will have told you both that he encountered Leopoldl just at the moment when he was having another shirt put on, so he saw his whole body. Whenever he hears the *Ave Maria* ringing, at midday or evening, and Nandl<sup>7</sup> does not immediately observe it, he immediately begins to shout bla – bla – bla – and raises his hands, folding them in prayer etc. [10] and looks up at the *crucifix*.

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Heinrich<sup>8</sup> is playing the first violin, and *Strinasachi*<sup>9</sup> is in the seconds. But they say that the Archbishop is in correspondence about someone who should take *Brunetti's*<sup>10</sup> place, he is apparently called *Orlandi*, but should come for only a year on probation. But the Archbishop has really lost his trust. *Strinasachi* has been taken on for 2 years. [15]

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Letters are constantly coming about the journey to Munich,<sup>11</sup> although I immediately wrote that Heinrich will hardly be able to get away, and even if he could, I would perhaps send him there alone because of the state of my health. [20] What we are waiting for now is whether permission will be given, which will have to be settled before Candlemas, for it is not worth the trouble just to see the *opera*<sup>12</sup> once, for one cannot get everything out of it the first time, and since for some years now the *opera* has no longer been given on Shrove Monday, the journey would already have to start on the 3<sup>rd</sup> so as to see the *opera* on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. [25] My health is much better since I devoured almost 3 lb<sup>13</sup> of sago – all that matters is keeping myself warm, which can be done with felt shoes, a foot bag and hay, then a dozen shirts and waistcoats, suits and a heavy fur coat – nor would I ever undertake the journey without the advice of *Dr. Barisani*,<sup>14</sup> and in nothing except an enclosed, good coach with windows. [30] In the coming week my letter via the messenger<sup>15</sup> will tell you if I have gone or am still here.

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<sup>1</sup> 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].

<sup>2</sup> BD: Nannerl's son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1785) was to remain with Leopold from his birth until his grandfather's death in May, 1787; Nannerl returned to St. Gilgen at the beginning of September, 1785.

<sup>3</sup> BD VIII, p. 127: Joseph Sigismund von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg (1739-1794), older brother of Leopold's son-in-law, administered an iron warehouse in Strobl on the Wolfgangsee.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Vinzenz (1773-1809).

<sup>5</sup> BD: Nannerl's stepson, attending school in Salzburg.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Joseph Wölf(f)l (1773-1812), a pupil at the cathedral music school (Kapellhaus) 1783-1786, son of Johann Paul Wölf(f)l, administrator of the St.-Johannes-Spital [“St John's Hospital”] close to Salzburg.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl (“child nurse”).

<sup>8</sup> BD: In No. 1023/28, Leopold speculated on who might lead the orchestra. Heinrich Marchand was the son of the theatre director Theobald Marchand. He had board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in the Mozarts' home for three years. His sister Maria Margarethe (“Gretl”) joined him in February, 1782. They left in September, 1784. (Cf. No. 0665/13).

<sup>9</sup> BD: Recently employed, not yet very proficient. Cf. No. 1020/39.

<sup>10</sup> BD: The violinist and Salzburg concertmaster died on 25th December, 1786 (cf. No. 1015/6-7).

<sup>11</sup> BD: Leopold customarily visited Munich with Heinrich during Carnival as a guest of the Marchands.

<sup>12</sup> BD: *Castore e Polluce* by (Abbé) Georg Joseph Vogler. It had already been performed on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1787. Cf. No. 1025/25.

<sup>13</sup> = lb. = pound weight ≈ 0.5 kg.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

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The Archbishop has banned the *sponsalia*.<sup>16</sup> – and yesterday gambling on the *lotteries* was most strictly forbidden,<sup>17</sup> – both are salutary and sensible and make me glad.

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[35] I also hoped that the game *Faro*<sup>18</sup> would be banned. On Tuesday the bank lost over 1000 florins, the new *Deputy Master of the Hunt*<sup>19</sup> and *Major Dücker*<sup>20</sup> and whoever else is *interested* it in any way made shocking faces. I had Heinrich go to the ball and slept peacefully. There were 130 persons. Bishop Schrattenbach<sup>21</sup> won 100 ducats.

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[40] On Monday, in the Drinking Room,<sup>22</sup> my tailor Ferdinand Balle held his wedding with the cook of the esteemed Chief Administrator<sup>23</sup> of Hallein.

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10 o'clock at night:

When I received the letter complete with the money today at 2 o'clock before I went out, and read it through, I was most astonished that there was not a word in it about the esteemed brother from Strobl.<sup>24</sup> [45] I do indeed hope that he handed in the *Clementi sonatas* which belong to you and which I entrusted to him? – – I will lay the offering on the altar in the *congregation*<sup>25</sup> myself along with mine, or, properly, in the basket. The rest of the money, 1 fl 54 kr, is correct. I thank you on Leopold's behalf for the wood contribution, for without it [50] the oven in this room would truly never have known what a fire feels like, – but Leopold will also make his devotional bla – bla – for it with raised hands; and in the face of the continuing cold, it is a further piece of good fortune that wood still comes into town along the sleigh path, since initially I had to try to get it by river transport.

[55] My butcher's wife has already sent a message that if I wanted to have some good meat, I would have to pay around 7 kreuzers for it. They take the same meat at the Magister's<sup>26</sup> and actually do pay around 7 kr., since he wishes the boys to get good food. But I am still sticking to the 6 kr., for at the moment I hardly eat even a little morsel, – Heinrich is not so fussy, [60] and I do not want to pay more for the 2 servants, especially if we should go to Munich. I will therefore see how it all goes.

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The young merchants' *play*<sup>27</sup> was called The Children's Love. Although printed, an unknown piece in 2 acts.

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<sup>15</sup> BD: There was no post-coach to St. Gilgen. Leopold therefore sent his 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.

<sup>16</sup> BD: The Archbishop followed the Emperor in banning the so-called "Winkelkontrakt", a private and undocumented contract, between the families of engaged couples.

<sup>17</sup> BD: Playing the Bavarian lottery had already been forbidden for Salzburg citizens in 1771.

<sup>18</sup> BD: Card game of chance of French origin.

<sup>19</sup> "Vice Jägermeister".

<sup>20</sup> BD: Ferdinand Dück(h)er, Baron [Freiherr] von Haslau (1740-1814), from 1778 in charge of the Salzburg police, member of the war council [Hofkriegsrat]. After a long military career, he received his pension in 1806.

<sup>21</sup> BD: Vinzenz Joseph Franz Salesius, Count [Graf] Schrattenbach (1744-1816), Imperial Prince [Reichsfürst], Bishop of Lavant, later Bishop of Brno, member of Salzburg cathedral chapter.

<sup>22</sup> BD: The large room in the city inn.

<sup>23</sup> "Pfleger".

<sup>24</sup> BD: Joseph Sigismund von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg, cf. line 4.

<sup>25</sup> BD: This refers to the Marian Congregation at Salzburg University, a pious brotherhood which Leopold joined in 1738. Mozart too was a member of such brotherhoods.

<sup>26</sup> BD: Magister Abele, in charge of the Salzburg school attended by Nannerl's stepson.

<sup>27</sup> BD: Cf. No. 1023/43. Probably *Die doppelte Kindes-Liebe* by F. G. von Nesselrode (Regensburg, 1780).

[65] Regarding the bill, I will talk to the esteemed Magister. By the way, since the esteemed administrator of Strobl called on the Magister, as he told me, he will no doubt also have told you what he discussed with him.

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Herr *Duschek*<sup>28</sup> has stayed behind in Prague. The good man!<sup>29</sup> Your brother will probably be staying with him.<sup>30</sup>

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[70] Now even cotton has gone up in price, now they want around 1 florin to part with a  $\text{fl}$  of *Cyprian* cotton. – Since I have to have some larger stockings knitted for Leopoldl, I got a half  $\text{fl}$  at Hagenauer's for 29 kr. as a favour, and they are threatening with raised prices for sugar and *coffee* too.

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Salt will be difficult to get hold of, as I hear, until the river is open, [75] which means in the middle of Lent. They were not able to deliver everything to Bavaria this year because the water was too high and then too low. I will soon have to buy salt myself.

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Now I kiss both of you from the heart. I am touched that my esteemed son<sup>31</sup> does after all see that the proverb is wrong when they say: one child is no child, [80] – and I only hope that God will grant me a long enough life to be able to be useful to him with my effective instruction. *Amen!* I greet the children<sup>32</sup> and am as always your sincere father

Mozart mp<sup>33</sup>

Leopold sends kisses to both of you.

[85] As far as the loss of hair is concerned, I know of no advice but will enquire. – Perhaps there is a remedy in the Pomegranate,<sup>34</sup> as far as I know you have the book yourselves.

Nannl<sup>35</sup> and Tresel<sup>36</sup> kiss your hands, I greet Lenerl.<sup>37</sup>

We shall certainly congratulate Herr von *D'Ypold*<sup>38</sup> [90] and Leopoldl will write to him. He remains entirely still and feels the greatest joy when one guides his hand.

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<sup>28</sup> BD: Franz Xaver Duschek (1731-1799), pianist and composer in Prague. His wife Josepha (1753-1824) was a singer. They had known the Mozarts since 1777.

<sup>29</sup> BD: Ironic. Leopold is suggesting that Duschek considerably let his wife go off to Berlin alone to follow up her liaison with Count [Graf] Christian Philipp Clam-Gallas (cf. No. 0885/10-11!)

<sup>30</sup> BD: Mozart was in fact staying with Count [Graf] von Thun.

<sup>31</sup> BD: Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

<sup>32</sup> BD: Nannerl's stepchildren.

<sup>33</sup> mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

<sup>34</sup> BD: *Freywillig Auffgesprungener Granat-Appfel deß christlichen Samaritans*, [“*The Christian Samaritan's Pomegrate, which grew up of its own accord*”] a frequently reprinted household remedy book by Eleonora Maria Rosalia, Herzogin zu Troppau und Jägerndorf.

<sup>35</sup> BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl (“child nurse”).

<sup>36</sup> BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

<sup>37</sup> BD: Magdalena, nursery maid at the Berchtolds.

<sup>38</sup> BD: Congratulations on the name day (29th January) of Franz Armand d'Ippold (c. 1730-1790), Imperial and Royal Captain, supervisor of page training in Salzburg. He added the “de” (in the Viennese style) himself. Sometime suitor of Nannerl.