

Salzb., 6th Octob., 1785

Now I hope to God that one of my great vexations has come to an end. Perhaps Monica² will tell you the story concerning Nandl³ and her sister, it would take too long for me to put it all in writing. [5] Now Nandl is staying here the whole time, [5] and is not going to her sister at all. Otherwise hear these words as a general rule: – all servants lie, and add something on top, or – take something away, whatever suits their purposes. In fact, one must not believe anything they say that contributes in any way to their gaining more praise or to ingratiating themselves by gossip, for these are certainly lies! [10] Since I say nothing, only listen, give no answer, I leave them not knowing where they are, and this way the business takes care of itself. A few serious words which I said: The child has to be looked after: I must know where I stand. They cannot always leave Monica here in town; her sister can take someone else. And so, hey-ho, otherwise I will go to the municipal legal officer.⁴

[15] For Nandl's sister had already fixed her mind on going to her a fortnight ago, and now she still has not started her confinement. Enough! Now an end has been put to all argument. I have sold the 4 candlesticks for 1 florin 27 kreuzers⁵ per loth,⁶ I am sending the money with this. – Have I done the right thing or not? – I did not want to miss the opportunity, – [20] so I had to decide on the spot. Here too are my expenses. I wanted to send the money for the candlesticks in its entirety, but I thought it would be better to deduct them right away so that it does not have to be sent into town again. Perhaps I will be able to find a taker for the silver, the Hagenauer's Tresel⁷ has found out something, so I hope for a message about what course I have to take. [25] – There is no *chocolate* to be bought at court, the dearth has run away out of control everywhere. This *chocolate* costing 1 florins 15 kreuzers does not make the body hotter, since it is boiled in water: it only makes it hotter, as bread does, if it eaten piecemeal. Actually, it is only the *chocolate* costing 2 florins 30 kreuzers and 3 florins that makes the body hotter, because of the large amount of *vanilla*. And quite generally I never take a whole cake at once. [30] One can cut or break each cake into 3 parts and take 2 as one portion, so with 2 cakes one has enough for 3 days: this is economical and consequently takes care of both *physical* and *moral* warming, since it does not cost as much as *coffee*, because one cake does not amount to 4 x 3 pfennig⁸ and is healthier than coffee.

[35] Little Leopold⁹ is well, praise God, Monica will have told you. Frau Zezi¹⁰ has just visited us, that is, at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 7th; she commends herself. Yesterday at the Summer Riding School¹¹ there was tightrope-walking at 4 o'clock, and at half past 6 there were fireworks, one after the other. I do not watch such things, the money is needed more urgently.

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 daily household help.

³ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl (“child nurse”).

⁴ “zum Statt Syndicum”.

⁵ 60 kreuzers = 1 florin.

⁶ BD: Lot, loth = 1/30 pound (“lb”) or 16 2/3 g; approximately half an ounce.

⁷ BD: Maria Theresia Hagenauer (1740-1820), the eldest daughter of Johann Lorenz Hagenauer.

⁸ BD: 4 pfennig = 1 kreuzer.

⁹ BD: girl (“child nurse”).

⁹ BD: Nannerl's son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27th July, 1785) had remained with Leopold since the birth; Nannerl returned to St. Gilgen at the beginning of September.

¹⁰ BD: Maria Anna Zezi, née Polis, married the merchant Johann Bernhard Zezi in 1764.

¹¹ “Sommerreitschule”.

[40] Prince *Baar*,¹² – Count Gundacker *Colredo*¹³ and his wife are here, otherwise no-one. Ranftl's¹⁴ son *Father Rupert* died of typhus fever in Frauen Chiese, ¹⁵ where he was chaplain: he was only 35 years old. Before they could get a *doctor*, the pernicious malady had already gained the upper hand.

In the afternoon.

[45] The messenger has just brought me the letter, and the very fine fish, for which I thank my esteemed son very much, Nandl is already pursing her lips towards a little piece of it.

How could the cook come up with the idea of saying that Leopoldl would be brought out to you on St. Teresia's day? This will likely have been another *spiritosa inventione*¹⁶ [50] of Monica's¹⁷ with the aim of comforting the cook about her impending arrival. It costs the servants no effort to present lies to each other. The man who wanted to take the cook's barrel out to you has not shown his face again: – Monica will already have told you; the people send their excuses, they were already heavily loaded anyway. Heaven knows how we will carry all this stuff out to you. [55]

Since yesterday I have been waiting constantly for the return of the deputy administrator and his wife.¹⁸ I have been keeping everything in readiness, – *chocolate*, lemons, money, etc., and no-one appears. – If they have not come by tomorrow morning, I will hand it to the messenger, perhaps they have taken another route [60] and are going home over Monsee.¹⁹

Timbers for the frame²⁰ could have been sent in on occasions during this Dult²¹ period because the tinkers, bakers and traders came into town. – I will no doubt have to fetch it myself. If only Herr Egedacher²² had finished his organ: then he will come out at once. I will speak to him again.

[65] Did I write telling you that the ailing Royal High Steward²³ has set off for his domain in Deutschmetz?²⁴ The report of his safe arrival in Insprugg²⁵ has already reached us, but will his illness perhaps become worse due to this journey? – will he stand up to the whole journey? – or is it even possible for him to hope for an improvement during this season when the year

¹² “Fürst”. BD: Wenzel Johann Joseph, Count [Graf] Paar, from 1769 Prince [Fürst], (1719-1792), postmaster to the Hereditary Lands [Erblandpostmeister]; along with his son Wenzel, chamberlain and president of the Viennese Lodge “Zur gekrönten Hoffnung” [“At the Sign of Hope Crowned”] (cf. No. 0921), he appears on Mozart's subscription list for 1784 (cf. No. 0780/18, 37).

The Mozarts had known him since 1762.

¹³ “Graf” BD: Franz de Paula Gundacker, Count [Graf] Colloredo (1731-1807), eldest brother of the Archbishop of Salzburg. From 1788 Imperial Vice- Chancellor [Reichsvizekanzler] and Prince [Fürst]. His wife was Maria Isabella Anna Ludmilla, née Imperial Baroness [Reichsgräfin] Mansfeld, cf. No. 0321/57.

¹⁴ BD: Matthias Ranftl, bourgeois merchant in Salzburg. His sons were Franz Ranftl, merchant, and Rupert Ranftl, Benedictine priest.

¹⁵ BD: The island Frauenchiemsee (with monastery) on the lake Chiemsee.

¹⁶ BD VIII, p. 92: Leopold is quoting Goldoni: “invention of a lively mind”.

¹⁷ BD: Leopold's daily household help.

¹⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0876/73.

¹⁹ BD: Mondsee, 28 km east of Salzburg.

²⁰ BD: Window frames, cf. No. 0881/87-89.

²¹ Dult = annual market in Salzburg.

²² BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the “old man”, as the court organ builder was often called.

²³ “Obersthofmeister”. BD: Franz Lactanz, Count [Graf] Firmian (1712-1786), member of a very extensive and influential Tyrolean family (cf. BD V, p. 8), occupied various positions at court, ultimately that of Royal High Steward [Obersthofmeister].

²⁴ BD VIII, p. 131: Mezzocorona, north of Trent, where Firmian's brother was born and also died. 340 km from Salzburg.

²⁵ BD: Innsbruck, 180 km from Salzburg.

is declining? [70] – our good God knows! All at once he had the most astonishing longing and irresistible urge to travel: *e questo basta!*²⁶ As far as the jewellery is concerned, no further thoughts should be expended on it, and even less should we speak of it; but it serves as a warning for future actions of this kind. By the way, this does not mean that you know neither more nor less about the value of the jewellery, [75] for I have already had it valued at Mayer's and Neiner's. – It is still the case that one must be happy if one can sell it for 1 000 florins without a pin,²⁷ because there are few buyers for such a thing, and the *interest* lost on the capital eats up the gain in value. When I wrote to you about this, only the Munich Jew had called on me to see it. – [80] Once I knew that the Vienna Jew was there too, I went to the Traubenwirth²⁸ and told both of them: so they both came, and that was in the first enthusiasm before the *auction*. The only advantage could be that both know of the jewellery and have seen it, in case they find an opportunity to make use of it or to trade profitably with it.

[85] I am pleased that the Polish bonnet is to your liking; it is also truly more beautiful than Frau von Amand's: – and 16 kreuzers as maker's wages! With the Hubers' Nannerl²⁹ I have one or two things to discuss. The waistcoat has already reached me. – Nandl told me the Hubers' Nannerl wanted to travel to St. Gilgen on St. Theresia's Day.

[90] Our dear God knows what is to be done with the peas, lentils and string beans. This ragbag will not hold all this stuff, and I split my sides laughing when you write that I should first of all wrap it in paper: wrap 10 massl³⁰ of peas, a whole schafel full in paper? – – wrap 4 massl of lentils in paper? – when you see it, you will laugh over it yourself. – [95] May heaven inspire me with good ideas, for I certainly cannot take cushion and pillow cases either and ruin them. Nandl and Tresel commend themselves, and Leopoldl asks me to put on paper a little smile |: oh, such a smile! :| which he sends to you both, he is in good health and just now he is walking around the room full of curiosity. Now I kiss you all from the heart and am as always your sincere

[100]

father Mozart mp³¹

On the morning of the 8th.

You have forgotten that Nandl wrote to you about whether you had something old as an undersheet. Due to the frequent washing, the old rags you had for filling out will become unusable anyway, [105] for one often takes 3 simple undersheets in addition so that it does not run through onto the cushions so much.

²⁶ = “And that is enough”.

²⁷ BD: Cf. No. 0833/3,10.

²⁸ BD: Inn “The Grape”, still extant.

²⁹ BD: (Maria) Anna Huber, daughter of a Salzburg antechamber servant.

³⁰ Massel = 2.32 litres; schaffl ≈ 26.4 litres (R. Klimpert, *Lexikon der Münzen, Maße und Gewichte usw.*, Leipzig 2/1896). BD: 1 massl = 1 schafel = about 0.37 litres[?].

³¹ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.