

Monsieur!

The Hague, le 5th Novb., 1765.

Yes, yes, truly, *Homo proponit, Deus disponit*.³ I have sure proof of it. Man cannot escape his fate. – I had to go to Holland against my inclination in order, if not actually to lose my daughter, [5] then indeed to see her almost in her last throes. And who did more than my daughter to push me into going to Holland? – She had the greatest longing to travel wherever her destiny led her. – You will remember that I said in my first letter from here that my daughter was affected by *catarrh* right on the second day after our arrival here, namely the 12th September. [10] It initially seemed insignificant. Yes, it appeared to be on the way to improvement; yes, it was better, too, and she was never in bed. But on the evening of the 26th, she unexpectedly felt such coldness that she longed for her bed. After the coldness came fever. I saw then that she had fever in her neck. [15] The day after she was no better, and I sent for a doctor. In brief, blood was let at 4 o'clock in the evening on the 28th, and although the pulse improved somewhat, there was still a little fever present. – It went on this way with some expectoration of *catarrh*. And since the blood was very inflamed and half of it white mucous or fat and, in short, looked very bad, she was not allowed to take much soup, [20] but rather a lot of water mixed with milk, with a drop of cornflower juice added etc. After it had gone on this way for some days, the *medicus* unfortunately came up with the idea that the *catarrh* had created a deposition *ad pulmonem*⁴ and *quod sit vomica in pulmone*.⁵ In a word, he considered it to be an accretion of various pustules and little furuncles in the lung. [25] He prescribed that she drink goat's milk at 7 o'clock in the morning, but only after already taking soda water mixed with milk as her ordinary drink. Between these, he gave her, in order to prevent |: as I suspect |: her getting *diarrhoea*, the following pills: *Rp. Picis liquid: ʒiβ. Kerm: mineral. Gr: V. pulv. cort: peruv: quantum sufficit.* [30] *Fiant pillulae gr. IV.* Later, he came with this cordial: *Rp. Extr: Cort: peruv: ʒij. Aqu: cort: citr: ʒiβ. Kerm: mineral. gr: II Syrup. papav: errat: & Syr: papav: alb: āā ʒβ.* Then, after he had even stopped the coughing and expectoration with a milk treatment and had caused more mucous in the body, he came with *Syr: 5. Rad. Aper: ʒiβ. Oximell: squillit: ʒiβ.* [35] *Sperm. Cet: Vov: sol: ʒiβ. Kerm miner: gr: II.* – – – Now all my patience left me in a moment. I saw my daughter dwindling daily; she was now nothing but skin and bones, and now her stool was also beginning to show me that a *relaxatio universalis causate per aquam seltranam*⁶ was developing. The *medicus* himself had given up hope. [40] My poor child partially saw the danger herself, and felt her weakness. I prepared her to resign herself to the divine will, and she received not only Holy Communion, but the clergyman found her to be in such poor shape that he also gave her the Holy Sacrament of Extreme Unction, for she was often so weak that she could hardly utter what she wanted to say. [45] If anyone had heard how the 3 of us conversed together – my wife, myself and my daughter – on some of these evenings and how we persuaded the latter of the vanity of this world, of the blessed death of children etc., he would not have listened to it without moist eyes, while Wolfgang! in the meantime diverted himself with his *musique* in the other room. [50] The very same day, the 21st October |: on which we arranged for her be provided with the Holy Sacraments at 5 o'clock in the afternoon |: I summoned a council at half past 1 |: which is called in the morning 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 Man proposes, God disposes.

⁴ In the lung.

⁵ That there was mucus in the lung.

⁶ Universal diarrhoea caused by the soda water.

Honest old Professor Zwenke⁷ |: who does not go to anyone anymore, and who was sent to me by Princess⁸ von Weilburg |: immediately showed that he understood the business better. [55] First of all, he took the child by the hand and felt all her nerves. He put on his eye glasses and examined her eyes, tongue and the whole face. Then he perceived the *status morbi*.⁹ This was the first time that I have had some very special cause to be grateful for my knowledge of the *Latin* language. If I had not known *Latin*, [60] the professor would have been got his business into shape altogether differently. For, after the *medicus* was already convinced of his knowledge and leapt to the wrong conclusion,¹⁰ he was then of course obliged to determine the state of the illness in such a way as to justify the remedies he had used. But lies appeared so often and I often contradicted him, [65] in the same way as I constantly contradicted him regarding his suppositions of dazedness, furuncles, pustules on the lung |: or whatever he wanted to christen them all |: Most peculiarly, he said that she had pains and could not lie on either side, which was not true and which I contradicted all the time, since she had never felt any pain and could lie and sleep on any side. [70] The professor showed quite clearly that it was nothing but an exceptionally thick build-up of mucous. He forbade her milk and soda water. He said we should give her good soup from boiled veal with extremely soft-boiled rice. As a drink, water with baked bread and occasionally a kind of *orgeat*,¹¹ with barley water, almond milk, the 4 *sem: frig:*¹² and *aqu: cinam*, or cinnamon water. [75] Then he prescribed the following electuary, of which she was to take a full small coffee spoon, not more often than every 4 hours and, depending on the circumstances, every 6, yes, only every 12 hours, depending on the circumstances. Now you will hear it: *RP: pulv: rad: helen: ʒiij. Ol: amygd: dulc: rec: express: et mell: alb: aa. O:ar: q. S. Elect: diascord incompl:* [80] The *pulv: rad: helen:* is a very good expectorant. It also had a splendid effect. — — As soon as she had taken this electuary 2 or 3 times, however, she began to sleep most of the time. We then gave it to her only every 8, and finally every 12 hours, the reason being that there is some *opium* in the *elect: diascord:* But, because the almond oil and honey are laxatives, the *elect: diascord:* [85] had been added to strengthen the *intestine* and keep the *tonus* so as to prevent any *diarrhoea* developing, for that is a *signum mortale*¹³ in such illnesses. The *sedes*¹⁴ was really already *resoluta, sed non frequens*,¹⁵ and it continued this way with small, dried out excrement. During this whole time, [90] whether sleeping or waking, she never came to herself, and spoke constantly in her sleep, one moment in English, the next French, and then German and since she had enough material in her head from our travels, we often had to laugh, despite all the distress. That was something that lifted Wolfgangerl a little out of the sadness that he felt because of his sister. The esteemed professor then did his duty properly and, [95] as he saw that the fever was abating and that this stool was a small *diarrhoea critica salutaris*,¹⁶ he gave her a little *rhej: elect:* And now the fever was completely gone, and she took a mixture *ad corroborandum*.¹⁷ Now it all depends on if God gives her the grace to recover her strength, or whether something else befalls her and despatches her into eternity. [100] We have abandoned ourselves to the divine will at all times, and even before we departed from Salzburg we prayed fervently to God to prevent or to bless our planned journey. If my daughter dies, she dies blessed. If God gives her life, we ask that He might grant her a death

⁷ BD: Thomas Schwenke (1693-1767), professor of anatomy and personal physician to the Princess.

⁸ “Prinzessin”. BD: Cf. No. 0102/24 etc. and also No. 0105/14, 22.

⁹ = “State of the illness”.

¹⁰ Literally: “Put the patch next to the hole.”

¹¹ BD: Perhaps the orange blossom water mentioned in No. 0104/31-32.

¹² = “Cold seeds”.

¹³ = “Signal of death”.

¹⁴ = “Stool”.

¹⁵ = “Firm, but not frequent”.

¹⁶ = “Critical and advantageous diarrhoea”.

¹⁷ = “To strengthen her”.

just as innocent and blessed, whenever it should come, as she would have now. [105] I hope the latter, since, on the very Sunday when she was in a very poor state, I said in the words of the Gospel, *Domine descende*: Come, Lord, before my daughter dies. And this Sunday the text was, Your daughter was asleep; your faith has helped you. Just search through the Gospel, you will find it. – – – By the way, you can easily imagine how we have been living now, [110] and how my whole plan has suddenly been re-arranged again. We could not and would not trust our child to other hands. Consequently, for such a long time now, my wife has not been going to bed before 6 o'clock in the morning, at which time I get up and attend my daughter until midday. Then my wife and I divided the night up until midday, and each sleeps 5 to 6 hours. [115] Now, how long will it be until my daughter |: if she should recover :| is fit to travel again? – – This is the worst season of the year and it will not get any worse. Our furs have left *Calais* for *Paris*, for according to my calculations we were to have left Holland again by now. You always ask me what route I will take on the way home. [120] Did I not already write to you saying that I have sent a *coffre*¹⁸ from *Calais* to *Paris*? – And you know, of course, that I had already left a lot of luggage in *Paris* beforehand. So I must, and want to, travel via *Paris*. It is no disadvantage to me. My idea was to spend the three months *August*, *September* and *October* in *Brabant*, [125] to stay in *Paris* in *November* and to travel home in *December*. Now God has brought all my calculations to nothing, and it no longer depends on what I want, but on the circumstances of my daughter, and every reasonable person will see that, if God wishes to grant her life, [130] I cannot wantonly expose my child to the obvious danger of robbing her of life by such a badly-timed journey. That I have no profit, but suffer the greatest loss by this incident, can be easily perceived. And I believe that one has enough to be astonished at |: if one considers it carefully :| regarding the way I have been able to stand up to these journeys and *N.B.* under such force of circumstances. [135] For France, England and Holland are not countries where one speaks of *Zwölfers* and *Batzens*, but of *louis d'or*, *guineés*, *ducats* and *ryders*.¹⁹ Perhaps you do not know what that is, a *rider*? It is a gold piece in the Dutch currency; the whole ones are worth 14 Dutch florins, the half ones 7 florins. I will show you it. My running expenses are absolutely abominable, for here one has to pay for everything. [140] One knows, of course, what Holland is. This is tearing quite a hole in my purse. Enough! What does the money matter? As long as I and mine come through it all in good health.

Now, because of my daughter, I would ask you to have a Holy Mass be read at Maria Plain, a Holy Mass at the Holy Child in Loreto, one in honour of St. Walburga, [145] and 2 in Passau on Maria Hilf mountain.²⁰ Now, my girl also thought about the pious *Crescentia*,²¹ and also of having a Mass read in her honour. But, since we are not permitted to do things of this kind before our Church has decided something regarding this pious person, I will leave it to your dearest wife to hold a consistory on this with sundry [150] *Franciscan Fathers* and to arrange the matter so that my daughter is content but without offending against the statutes of God and our Church.

Your first letter, and what Herr Adlgasser²² wrote, reached me safely via *Amsterdam*. The accident which resulted from some stones from the [155] *Mönchberg*²³ aroused great compassion in us, but no astonishment. Now I have very little inclination to come back to Salzburg before the new gate is finished.²⁴ For the gate to Mülln is also bound to collapse: it

¹⁸ = “Chest”.

¹⁹ Comparing the coinage in the Netherlands with that in Salzburg. “Rijder”: a Dutch coin.

²⁰ BD: Maria Hilf, a pilgrimage church above Passau town centre. Cf. No. 0098/131 and *passim* for similar requests.

²¹ BD: Kreszentia (Höss) of Kaufbeuren (1682-1744), a beatified (but not yet canonised) Franciscan nun.

²² BD: Anton Cajetan Adlgasser (1729-1777), pupil of Eberlin. Salzburg court organist and composer.

²³ BD: One of the six mountains of the city of Salzburg; topped by the fortress; being tunnelled for the new gate.

²⁴ BD: The “Neutor” city gate in Salzburg was opened by Archbishop Siegmund Christoph on 26th June, 1766, but not made available to the general public until 1774.

has been standing in mid-air by the water side for a long time now. And when I come I will drive round the Riedenburg. [160] There may be no shortage in Salzburg of diligent checks and frequent inspections, especially if someone has an official daily target, but – – yes, but what? – – That can no doubt be surmised by yourself and other clever people.

We commend ourselves to Herr Adlgasser. He will have a reply very shortly. Frau Hagenauer, to whom we all commend ourselves most obediently, [165] will forgive me for not sending best wishes on her name-day. We were in circumstances which excuse us, and I know she is as convinced of my good sentiments as I am of hers. I congratulate her, you and all who are yours for the pleasure you enjoy because of your dear son *Brother Dominicus*.²⁵ God preserve you all! We commend ourselves to him.

[170] Our regrets regarding Frau von Wohlhaupt.²⁶ We commend ourselves, and wish her that she may yet live many years. We will all pray for her.

I have not yet been to *Amsterdam*, but as soon as my daughter's condition is such that I can leave my wife alone with her, I will drive there for some days with Wolfgang alone. With the post-coach one is there in 6 to 7 hours. [175] By water it takes longer. N.B. These are remarkable things that I will relate personally in due time.

I shall not fail to attend to your wishes²⁷ in Amsterdam.

Finally, I must also mention to you that you may believe from the circumstances of the illness and cure of my daughter [180] that I took the next best simple *medicus*. No! It was *Dr. Heymans*, the *medicus* to the Emperor and to the Portuguese, Spanish, French and Neapolitan ambassadors etc., who recommended him to me.

Buy me a beautiful bureau!²⁸ A few guldens more or less do not matter. Do not doubt that the chest²⁹ will bring a big bill of charges with it, [185] but it is of course large and heavy. There is much paper in it, which weighs a lot.

I would like to know if the freight charges by sea to Hamburg are also included, so that I do not end up paying *Msr. Teissier*³⁰ in London double for it.

[190] We all commend ourselves to your whole household, sir, and to all our good friends, and I am yours.

²⁵ BD: Kajetan Rupert (Father Dominicus) Hagenauer, 4th son of the Salzburg merchant Johann Lorenz Hagenauer.

²⁶ BD: Probably the wife of the deceased personal valet Georg Ignaz von Wohlhaupt.

²⁷ BD: Nothing more known.

²⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0102/128 ff.

²⁹ BD: Cf. No. 0102/120 ff.

³⁰ BD: Stephen Tessier, shareholder in the banking house Loubier & Tessier.