

*Monsieur!*Munich, 10th Nov., 1766

As far as I can recall, my last letter was from *Lyon*, which we left after a stay of 4 weeks and went to Geneva.³ There we found the internal civil war⁴ still fully ablaze, which did not hinder us, however, [5] in staying there for 3 weeks. And, after examining some curiosities and after making the acquaintance of persons famous for their skill and special talents, we continued our journey to Berne. You will perhaps know that the famous *Msr. Voltaire*⁵ has his castle, [10] where he lives and which is called *Fernay*,⁶ immediately outside Geneva. If one wants to go to Berne, one must also pass through *Lusane*,⁷ and although we only intended to stop there at midday, we were in fact approached on descending from the coach by the servants of Prince Louis⁸ of Wirtemberg, *Madame d'Aulbone*, *Madame d'Hermenches*, *Msr. de Sévery*⁹ etc., and I had no choice but to let myself be persuaded [15] by these eminent persons to stay 5 days in *Lusane*. What kind of person His Highness Prince Louis¹⁰ is must be kept for an account given in person. It will suffice if I tell you that Würtemberg could consider itself fortunate indeed if it had this worthy gentleman as its ruler. He was still with us as we got into the coach [20] and I was furthermore pressed to promise, as we shook hands when we were already sitting in the coach, to write frequently and give him news of our circumstances. – Here I leave out the major part of it. – I know how different judgements can be, depending on differences in the sometimes very poor insight of human beings. From *Lusance* we went to Bern¹¹ and then on to Zurch.¹² [25] In the first of these places we stayed only a week, in the second a fortnight. In both places we had the opportunity of making the acquaintance of learned persons. In the latter place, the two estimable scholars named Gessner¹³ made our stay very pleasant and our departure very sorrowful. We took with us tokens of their friendship.¹⁴ From there the way led via Winterthur to Schaffhausen: [30] here,

¹ BD: Original lost. Copyist A, B; NissenB.

² BD: Johann Lorenz Hagenauer (1712-1792), Salzburg merchant. Friend of the Mozarts and their landlord 1747-1773.

³ BD: Probably stayed until around 10th September. (Also “3 weeks” in No. 1212/158). Letters of the time indicate that children played at least twice here.

⁴ BD: Disputes between patricians and the citizenry. A mediating committee had been set up.

⁵ BD: Voltaire (really François-Marie Arouet, 1694-1778), lived in Ferney near Geneva from 1760. In a letter of 26th September, 1766, he states that the Mozarts never visited him. For Leopold's reaction to his death cf. No. 0457/222.

⁶ Should be Ferney; today Ferney-Voltaire.

⁷ BD: Lusane, Lusance = Lausanne. Stay of probably 5 days. The children played 2 concerts. Met Prof. Dr. Samuel (Simon) André Tissot (1728-1797), was interested in the nervous system persons of genius and wrote an article about is examination of Wolfgang.

⁸ BD: Prince [Prinz] Ludwig Eugen, Prince von Würtemberg (1731-1795), brother of the ruling Duke Karl Eugen (1728-1793). In his presence, Wolfgang composed “various solos for the flauto traverso” KV 33a (lost), dedicated to the Prince.

⁹ BD: Würtemberg, Aubonne, Hermenches, Sévery.

¹⁰ “der durchleuchtige Prinz Louis”.

¹¹ BD: Stay of 8 days. No information available about concerts.

¹² BD: The arrival in Zurich was probably 27th September, the stay 14 days (cf. No. 1212/161). Children gave at least two concerts, probably involving members of the “Musikkollegium”, in whose minutes Mozart notated the keyboard piece KV⁶ 33B. Mozart later (No. 0349/61) mentioned one of the 3 Graf brothers who was leader of the orchestra. The “Kollegium” also bought “symphonies and nocturni” from Leopold.

¹³ BD: Johannes was a physicist, Salomon a poet; from the latter we have a pen sketch of the Mozart children making music (Deutsch Bild 615).

¹⁴ BD: Including numerous publications, among them 4 volumes of the works of S. Gessner, Wieland's *Poetische Schriften*, and the German translation of *Hudibras* by Samuel Butler (1612-1680). The firm Orell, Gessner and Co. also took over sales of the Paris engravings.

too, our stay of 4 days was very pleasant, and, on our arrival in Donauöschingen,¹⁵ we met Herr Meisner,¹⁶ whose welcome greeted us while we were still in the coach and who helped us out of the coach along with our baggage! He stayed on for 4 days near us in Donauöschingen. I was the first to bring him news of his wife's illness.¹⁷ [35] I was just as completely astonished at his not knowing as he was at what I told him. But he did receive a letter from his wife after a couple of days. I gave him a recommendation for my friends in Switzerland, and I hope that it may go well with him, especially in Bern. His Highness the Prince¹⁸ received us exceptionally graciously, it was not necessary to wait to be called. [40] They were already waiting for us expectantly – Herr Meisner is a witness – and Herr Rath and Music Director *Martelli* immediately came to us with *compliments* and invitations. In short, we were there for 12 days. On 9 days there was music from 5 to 9 o'clock in the evening. We did something special each time.¹⁹ If the year were not already so far gone, we would not yet have cut ourselves free from there. [45] To me the prince gave 24 *louis d'or*²⁰ and to each of my children a diamond ring. The tears flowed from his eyes as we took our leave and, in short, we all wept at our farewell. He asked me to write to him often and, in the same measure as our stay had been most pleasurable, our farewell was very sad. Then we set off helter-skelter over Mösskirchen²¹ to Ulm, Günzburg and Dillingen, [50] where we stayed only 2 days, collected a 2nd ring from the prince, and reached Munich after a stay of one day in Augsburg.²² Herr Provino²³ will send to you a little parcel or crate for me. Aha!, you will say, now they are at least in Munich. Yes, that is all very well. I promised that I would not come until I could drive in through the New Gate. [55] But now I hear that they are not yet letting anyone drive in by the Sigismund Gate.²⁴ I am not very happy with this at all. I am waiting for your answer, we are staying at Störzer's²⁵ and I can see that we will not move on at once. We arrived in the evening the day before yesterday. Yesterday, Sunday, we visited His Electoral Highness²⁶ as he dined. [60] We were received most graciously. Wolfgang had to compose a piece on the table,²⁷ right next to the Elector, after His Highness had sung the beginning or the idea of a couple of bars. He also had to play it in the presence of this most elevated personage in his chamber after the meal. How astonished everyone was to see and hear this can easily be imagined. In the night, however, [65] I noticed that he was not at all well.²⁸ He had a restless night, too. So I had to keep him in bed today and then perhaps at home for some days. But it will by all appearances, as I hope, soon be over. It is no wonder in this weather, and since we

¹⁵ BD: Residence of the Prince [Fürst] von Furstenberg. The Mozarts would certainly have their former servant Winter here (cf. No. 0082/35 ff).

¹⁶ BD: Joseph Nikolaus Meissner (c. 1724-1795), son of the Salzburg court musician Nikolaus Meissner. Employed in Salzburg from 1747, but often on tour. Reputed to sing everything from high tenor to deep bass, but cf. Mozart's judgement in No. 0453/83 ff. His sister also sang in Salzburg.

¹⁷ BD: Maria Cäcilia Barbara, daughter of the Salzburg musician Johann Ernst Eberlin. They married in 1751.

¹⁸ "S:^c Durchlaut der Fürst". BD: Joseph Wenzel, Prince [Fürst] von Fürstenberg (1728-1783). Mozart composed for him "various solos for violoncello" KV⁶ 33b (lost), cf. No. 0144/43, 44.

¹⁹ BD: Probably including the *Gallimathias musicum* KV 32, of which an early copy is preserved in the Prince's archive.

²⁰ ≈ 240 florins.

²¹ BD: Messkirch.

²² BD: Before reaching Augsburg, an organ "duel" took place in Biberach between Wolfgang and the 12-year-old Joseph Sigmund Eugen Bachmann. In Augsburg, Leopold saw his mother for the last time. He died six weeks later

²³ BD: Presumably a member of the merchant family of this name in Augsburg recurrently mentioned in the letters, e.g. No. 0083/150.

²⁴ BD: Sigismund Gate = New Gate, whose protracted construction was much discussed in Leopold's recent letters.

²⁵ BD: As on the outward journey: cf. No. 0050/54, 66.

²⁶ "Churfürstlichen Durchleucht". BD: Elector Maximilian III Joseph, cf. No. 0050/7 etc.

²⁷ BD: Perhaps the lost "Stabat Mater" KV 33c, cf. Nos. 0369/103-104; 1212/169 ff; 1336/23.

²⁸ BD: Recurrence of the illness of 1763? Cf. No. 0113/12-13, 19 ff.

now have to get used to the heating oven again, that such a delicate body has to suffer, [70] only it probably delays us longer. Our compliments to your good wife, to your whole family, to our good friends, and I am yours as always.

Something for you alone! Enclosed with the letter of 10th N^{ber} 1766

We ask you, or rather your esteemed spouse, to procure a good housemaid for us. In addition, this is now also the time when one should shove wood into the heating oven. [75] Both are indispensable, or a *malum necessarium*.²⁹ I ask you therefore to take care of this, and perhaps you have already done it? – As far as room for a servant is concerned, I find it more necessary to think about room for us,³⁰ and I have made the decision to continue the short stretch left of our journey |: while it is not without its difficulties :| without a servant, [80] as I got rid of our servant a little time ago.³¹ Our own necessary furnishing of the apartment is a concern of my heart, as you will understand yourself and see with your own eyes on our |: may God grant :| happy arrival. God |: the God who is all too kind to me, a wicked man :| has given my children talents such as would induce me, [85] without bearing in mind the obligations of a father, to sacrifice everything for their good upbringing. Every moment that I lose is lost forever, and if I ever knew how valuable time is for young people, I certainly know it now. You know that my children are accustomed to work. If, on the excuse that one thing hinders the other, [90] they ever grew accustomed to idle hours, all my building work would collapse in a heap. Habit is an iron corset, and you also know yourself how much my children, especially Wolfgangerl, have to learn. – – – But who knows what intentions people have for us when we arrive back in Salzburg? Perhaps people will meet us in such a way that we will quite happily put our roaming back-pack on and go on our way.³² [95] At least I am restoring the children |: if God will :| to their native land again. If no-one wants them, I am not to blame, but they are not to be had for nothing. – Enough, sir, I rely entirely on your intelligent insight and true friendship. A personal conversation will bring us more pleasure. Farewell. [100]

N.B. If your esteemed spouse finds a good maid, do not let it depend on a question of a few guldens as far as the wages are concerned. She has complete executive power.

²⁹ BD: A necessary evil.

³⁰ BD: Cf. No. 0104/90 ff.

³¹ BD: Cf. No. 0109/33 ff.

³² BD: Leopold is not only financially stronger, but obviously now has a more independent attitude toward Salzburg.