

Vienna, 23rd January, 1768

I received the obituary notice safely.³ This is simply how things go in the theatre of this world! Today we are watching amusing *comedies*, tomorrow *tragedies*; today we are terrified by vices, tomorrow we are edified by virtuous actions; [5] today we feel pleasure, tomorrow torment and sorrow etc. etc. I wanted to buy the book requested at Herr von Trattner's,⁴ but they assured me that although Father *Manzador's*⁵ Sermons and Laudations for Holy Days, which cost 6 florins, had appeared, no sermons for all Sundays had so far been printed. So I found it necessary to inform you of this, [10] since Trattner's bookshop, as the most respected, ought to know if the Sunday sermons requested were in fact in print. The latest thing I have to tell you about |: besides the good health, praise God, of all of us :| is that we were with Her Majesty the Empress⁶ on the afternoon of the 19th, from half past two to half past four. [15] His Majesty the Emperor⁷ came out into the anteroom where we were waiting until the elevated company had taken coffee, and led us in himself. Present, beside Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress, was Prince Albert of Saxony⁸ and all the Archduchesses.⁹ But besides this elevated company not a soul. It would take too long to describe to you [20] what was discussed here and all that happened. Altogether, all I need say is that you cannot possibly imagine the familiarity with which Her Majesty the Empress spoke to my wife and conversed in part about my children's smallpox, in part about the circumstances of our grand journey etc., how she stroked her face and cheeks and pressed her hands. [25] Meanwhile, His Majesty the Emperor spoke with me and with Wolfgangerl about music and many other things and very often brought a blush to Nannerl's face. More in due time from my own mouth, for you know me. I do not like writing things that some inflated Gogelhopf¹⁰ |: as yeast dough rings are called in Swabia :| [30] sitting behind the heating oven might consider to be lies. But you must not draw conclusions because of this and from this affability and quite exceptionally friendly condescension. I, at least, cannot picture anything favourable coming from all that I see here¹¹ and from all the circumstances in Vienna at this time. But these are all things that time must teach us, and of which it is better to speak person to person. [35] My wife and children commend themselves, and I am, sir, yours as ever.

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 = "Miss". BD: Robinig's daughter Maria Josepha (1743-1767), in protracted poor health. Died 21st November. Cf. No. 0123/38 ff.

⁴ BD: Johann Thomas Trattner (1717-1798). When Mozart first came to Vienna, he was already the owner of several bookshops and printing works in and around Vienna. With the Trattnerhof, he erected one of the most impressive buildings of the period in Vienna. Mozart lived there between January and September, 1784. Trattner's wife Theresia took keyboard lessons from Mozart. The Trattners were godparents to a number of Mozart's children.

⁵ BD: Pio Manzador (1706-1774), priest from Dalmatia, later bishop.

⁶ "S:^r Majestätt der Kayserin". Empress Maria Theresia.

⁷ "S:^c Majestätt der Kayser". Emperor Joseph II.

⁸ "Prinz Albert": BD: Of Saxony-Poland, (1738-1822). Married the favourite daughter of Maria Theresia. Governor of Hungary; Governor of the Netherlands. Collected a rich library and numerous valuable engravings.

⁹ "Erzherzoginnen", the daughters of the Emperor and Empress.

¹⁰ BD: Gugelhupf. A ring cake, inflated with yeast. Used figuratively of "inflated" loud-mouths.

¹¹ BD: They did in fact remain for almost a year largely because of the Emperor's opera commission for Wolfgang.