

Salzb., 4<sup>th</sup> Decemb.  
1780.*Mon très cher Fils!*<sup>1</sup>

Your letter of 29 Nov. did not reach me until 3<sup>rd</sup> Decemb., yesterday at midday, when the worthy Professor Döhl<sup>2</sup> came to me with Herr Sieger,<sup>3</sup> [5] it was my first question – how is your health, and, since he put my mind completely at peace, I was quite content. It was just half past 11, and at that moment Herr von Edlbach<sup>4</sup> too came into the room with 3 strangers, so I slipped the letter into my pocket without reading it, your sister had to play them a little piece on the *pianforte* and they all promised to come again at a more convenient time. [10] Herr Sieger will stay here some days, he is staying with Herr Döhl, who will show him everything here. If I had received the letter on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the *sordini*<sup>5</sup> would already be in Munich; as it is, however, they will arrive with the next post-coach in one week. I have just this moment come from *Varesco*,<sup>6</sup> – when in the meantime your letter of 1<sup>st</sup> December arrived, [15] your sister read it, looked out that part of *Metastasio*,<sup>7</sup> and sent the letter and book on to *Varesco* for me. Everything that you had noted will be done. You know that I too found the subterranean speech certainly too long. I told him my opinion in full, and it will now become as short as conceivably possible. We are pleased that the rehearsal turned out so well. [20] I have no doubt or worries at all about your work, if only the performance is good, that is, if only good people are there at the performance, – and they are there, – I am therefore free of worry. But with a mediocre orchestra your music will always lose, because too much thought goes into the parts for all the instruments and they are not as commonplace as in the writing of Italian music in general. [25] That your *catarrh* became worse after the rehearsal is quite natural, all the nerves in the head become heated and tense from the sharp hearing and seeing, and this tension spreads to the chest through the effort and concentration. One does not draw breath properly in the usual even manner; instead on sometimes holds one's breath [30] and occasionally takes a number of quick and hefty breaths one after another etc., this heats and fatigues the chest, the blood starts to search, so the *catarrh* cannot subside: rather, the congestion becomes greater. That you have now taken violet cordial and almond oil is just the right thing, – with the Black Powder and Margrave Powder you cannot cause any harm N.B. [35] in the evening before going to bed – but not much, – and you can, when you are not hot, take a little Black Powder on its own, the Margrave Powder is only when one is hot. The main thing is the *dieta*. Eat little. Soups as often as you wish, but no beef. A little tender veal or lamb, well boiled till it falls apart. [40] Best of all are beef lights boiled well and soft. Rice boiled properly down to mash. Barley gruel, but not the sugar, rather the paste after the barley has been boiled to disintegration and pressed through clean cloth. This keeps up the strength

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<sup>1</sup> = “My very dear son!”

<sup>2</sup> BD: Johann Baptist Döll (\* c. 1742), cf. No. 0552/5. Appears to have been a tutor for law students in Salzburg. He and his friend Schaffmann visited Mozart and his mother in Mannheim (cf. No. 0366/37-40) on their journey to Wetzlar.

<sup>3</sup> BD: Lawyer and music-lover in Munich; cf. No. 0549/55; 0555/13, 16, 19.

<sup>4</sup> BD: 0722/36: BD: Probably Benedikt Schlossgängl von Edlenbach (\*1748), son of the teacher of law in Salzburg. For the strangers cf. Nannerl's diary, No. 0552/6-7.

<sup>5</sup> = “mutes” – requested frequently in recent letters.

<sup>6</sup> BD: *Abbate* Giambattista Varesco (c. 1736-1805), court chaplain in Salzburg from 1766, wrote the texts for *Idomeneo* KV 366 and *L'oca del Cairo* KV 422. The latter was his response to Mozart's request for an opera buffa for Vienna.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Pietro Metastasio (1698-1782). Came to the Vienna court in 1730; Apostolo Zeno (1668-1750) had suggested him as his own successor. He remained there until the end of its life. He met Mozart at least once, cf. No. 135/60-61. Mozart set several of his libretti (KV 118/74c; 126; 208; 362) and numerous arias (KV 21 (19c); 369; 23; 78 (73b); 79 (73d); 88 (73c); 71; 74b; 77 (73e); 82 (73 o); 83 (73p); 368; 440 (383h); 294; 512; 468a (295a); 432 (421a); 538; KV Anh. 2; KV<sup>6</sup>: 73 A (lost)).

of your chest since it moisturises it. Now comes the barleywater for drinking as well, which soothes the heat in the chest, moisturises the chest, keeps the blood fluid, [45] sweetens it and promotes the necessary natural good moistness etc. One takes 6 loths<sup>8</sup> of brewer's barley, that is the barley as used by beer brewers; to that one adds a small loth of liquorice, let it all simmer in 3 kands<sup>9</sup> of water, which according to Munich measures is |: in 2 maas<sup>10</sup> of water :| – but only let it simmer until the barley opens or bursts, [50] then one takes it off the fire, otherwise it becomes cloudy. And throw in a little aniseed, and let it get cold and settle, then one pours it slowly into another vessel for drinking so that the sediment stays on the bottom. If one wishes furthermore to add a loth of Althaea root |: marsh mallow root :| cut up small to the liquorice to simmer along with it, that is excellent for the chest. [55] When drinking one puts a little piece of lemon leaf in it.

Now you have remedies enough to choose from. Your sister, who finds herself well, and I have now been drinking barley water the whole time, and drinking it frequently, and you have too, as you know. Then you do not need any more Black Powder, which absolutely does not require to be taken daily anyway. A foot bath, [60] not too hot, is always good, keeps your head clearer because it draws downwards. Only no wine, and do not drink anything cold. Carrots boiled till soft are incomparable, eaten at midday and in the evening too. Sweet beetroot,<sup>11</sup> boiled but firm, or, in the language of the kitchen, steamed yellow<sup>12</sup> and sweet beetroot are excellent, then occasionally a couple of roast Maschanzker apples etc. [65] during the day for moisturising, which one can of course simply lay on the heating stove or in an oven etc. etc. Now you have half an apothecary's shop, and also a good menu to boot. Yet, having said all that, the best thing, by which one also gets free of it most quickly, is if, in good time, one burdens the stomach only a little, goes to bed, so as to leave nature in peace and in constant warmth, by which the corrupted humors which caused the catarrh are dispersed, become fluid and are excreted by the saliva, partly by the *urina* and *secessum*.<sup>13</sup> ita Clarissimus Dominus Doctor Leopoldus Mozartus.<sup>14</sup>

Yes, there is nothing to laugh about here! [75] For Terese *Barisani* was already there at 9 o'clock in the morning, but the letter did not come until half past 10, otherwise your sister would have fulfilled her commission.<sup>15</sup> – But really I could have carried it out too.

*à proposito*<sup>16</sup> of compliments – on my name-day *Md:<sup>me</sup> Maresquelle* came to congratulate me, she said her compliments in French and [80] during this constantly inclined her thoroughly pockmarked cheeks towards my face. I thought nothing of it and understood no subtle message, finally she came so near that my stupidity woke up and I perceived that I should enjoy the graciousness of placing a kiss there; I did it with the greatest embarrassment, and in a moment she turned the left one to me as well, and then I had to kiss that one too. I quickly looked at myself in the mirror, for my feeling was that I was as ashamed of myself as when I gave my first kiss to a woman in my youth, or when the women in Amsterdam forced me to kiss them after the ball. I believe it would be no bad idea to call her when I am having myself painted; [90] then I will at least have a more lively colour. Oh-ho, I see the paper is full. We kiss you, wish you a good recovery, be patient! Take good care of yourself! Pause during writing! Go to bed early! Do not let yourself get cold! Sweat a little in the morning! Diet! Goodnight! I am your faithful, honest father

L

Mzt

<sup>8</sup> 1 Lot[h] = 17.6 g / 17.5 g in Austria / Bavaria.

<sup>9</sup> 1 Kand[e]l = approx. 0.6 litres in Austria.

<sup>10</sup> 1 Maas = approx. 1 litre in Bavaria.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Presumably sugar beet.

<sup>12</sup> BD: The term “Gelbe Rüben” [“yellow beet”] is used in many areas for carrots.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Urine and stool.

<sup>14</sup> So says the most famous Master Doctor Leopoldus Mozartus.

<sup>15</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0547/62, Mozart's request to embrace Theresia Barisani on his behalf.

<sup>16</sup> “On the subject of”.

