

Salzb., 10th Dec.,
1784.

Yesterday, the 9th, the Abduction was given for the 3rd time: the theatre was as full as it was the last time, at 5 o'clock the places downstairs were already entirely occupied, [5] and afterwards all 3 rows of benches upstairs as well: the Archbishop was also there. the Kapellhaus² boys were already there at 4 o'clock so as not to miss the 6 kreuzer places, the same *arias* were *repeated*: the carousing song 3 times once again. – and one of Herr Schmid's *arias* furthermore had to be repeated. Frisch zum Kampfe etc. nur ein feiger tropf verzagt also had to be repeated. – [10] Now I must first hear when it can be given again. But whether it will then be given twice in a row so quickly that you could hear it twice: I very much doubt it, because they have had to give it now. At the Egedachers³ the situation is now very grim – his wife has already been ill for 2 months, now she has not only gone blind, but she is almost always out of her mind and crazy. [15] In the last couple of days, the old man has fallen ill as well, could hardly walk when he came back from Radstatt,⁴ and now he is suffering painfully from sand and biliary sludge: if it wasn't for the clergyman,⁵ they would have no-one. – Yesterday I saw Captain von *Amand's*⁶ new wife with him in the theatre for the first time. A *Carmelite* brother came to St. Peter's⁷ with the post-coach, [20] having been transferred from Tyroll to the *convent* in Lintz. This of course caused a stir in the monastery, since such people usually come on foot because they only receive 12 or 13 florins travelling expenses from the order. But he had a couple of chests packed full, in which a large Turkish drum, cymbals, triangles, 2 guitars, pipes etc. etc. and everything that belongs to Turkish music were to be found. [25] And to what end? – He unpacked it! And by himself he performed a complete Turkish music performance with all these instruments at once. the worthy Prelate and everyone were so astounded at it that he immediately honoured him with a *carolin*.⁸ from the arch-duchess in Insprugg⁹ he received 12 ducats¹⁰ etc. – Here he certainly had takings of over 80 florins in the way of little *presents*. the Archb. heard him in Countess Wallis' home.¹¹ [30] He played at Count Khünburg's;¹² I heard him on the 8th *en compagnie*¹³ of numerous merchants at 3 o'clock in the afternoon in a guestroom at St. Peter's, then he had to go to the *university* at half past 4; and at 7 o'clock play in the town hall, where he received 4 thalers *ex cassa*¹⁴ of the marksmen,¹⁵ – nor did he receive any less from us. With his hands he plays the

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 Building dating from the 14th century, at this time used as a boarding school for training young people for the cathedral music.

³ BD: Johann Joseph Egedacher († 14th June, 1785), Royal Organ Builder and therefore also responsible for tuning and maintenance of the keyboard instruments; usually referred to in the letters as "old Egedacher".

⁴ BD: Radstatt in Pongau.

⁵ BD: Rochus, son of the "old man" Egedacher, a cathedral priest.

⁶ "die neue frau Kapitänin".

⁷ BD: Large Benedictine church and monastery in Salzburg.

⁸ BD: A southern German coin corresponding to 11 Salzburg florins

⁹ BD: Innsbruck: the archduchess was Maria Elizabeth (cf. note on No. 0121/32), daughter of Maria Theresia and abbess of the Imperial and Royal Nunnery in Innsbruck.

¹⁰ BD: = 50 florins.

¹¹ "Gräfin". BD: Maria Franziska von Wallis, née Colloredo (1746-1795), sister of the Archbishop of Salzburg.

¹² "Graf". BD: Leopold Joseph Maria, Count [Graf] Kuenburg (1740-1812), Royal and Imperial Chamberlain, Privy Councillor, from 1764 Master-in-Chief of the Stables [Oberstallmeister] in Salzburg.

¹³ "in the company".

¹⁴ "from the cash-box". BD: 4 [Convention] thalers = 8 florins.

guitar, [35] with his mouth the wind instruments, with his right foot he beats the strong beats on one side of the Turkish drum, and at the same time the cymbals, or plates, and with the left foot he beats the soft stick beats, and at the same time the triangle. Then, for contrast, he also ties a fine stick on each foot and uses his feet to beat the steel bobbins¹⁶ very *softly* to the guitar and pipes; [40] all at once come trumpets and timpani in the most natural way, and immediately the contrasting *soft* music once again; then he also does a high hunting-horn *solo* in between, and from time to time the *bassoon*, all with the mouth and the help of little tube. You too would no doubt have liked to see and hear this?

[45] *N.B.* He was barefoot with *sandals*. I have had the watches in my hands for a long time now, – but have neither paid for them nor sent them out to you because I would like to know how they run beforehand, since I suspected the inaccuracy right at the beginning. There was an *account* for 2 florins 24 kreuzers along with it. I will certainly not give another watch to any watchmaker here, but to the man by the shooting range; [50] he did not go blind, that was a lie, but rather he has done a very fine job of rebuilding his house. My esteemed son is dissatisfied with the felt shoes;¹⁷ yes, I have often been dissatisfied during my life, and yet have had to pay if I wanted to have a certain thing. I do of course remember a time when one paid 36 kreuzers, then it rose to 45 kreuzers, a year ago I had to pay 50 kreuzers. and *N.B.* [55] one cannot even get one's choice, and they are even proud of that: it is of course also quite horrifying that the blue shoes, because of the admittedly expensive *indigo*, are 5 kreuzers more expensive! – and 5 kreuzers every year ultimately make, in 12 years, 1 florin – the same wind had also raged here so much that, to the extreme dismay of Miss Mitzerl,¹⁸ [60] not only was the staircase window by the lantern thrown down in fragments, but also the gate, garden gate and all the planks next to the well were laid out in the garden in such a way that one could just get into the garden in the morning, the well stood there quite exposed, and not a stump or a batten was left standing etc. it looked so neatly done that I really had to laugh. [65] – just now at 10 o'clock, as I write this after my evening meal, another wind is being announced at the doors and windows: perhaps it will come as strongly again; that's almost how it looks. – One more thing! Can I be of service to you both with a little *presentation* box of saffron? – Now I must close. I should not be writing in this light, – and the messenger¹⁹ came at 5 o'clock, [70] and at half past 5 I go to the *theatre*. – I kiss my esteemed son, you and everyone and am as always your

father Mozart mp²⁰

¹⁵ BD: The “bürgerliche Schützengesellschaft” [“Citizens’ Marksmen’s Association”], not the airgun club of which the Mozarts were members.

¹⁶ “Stahlene gelächter”: BD: Instrument with metal bars on the same principle as the xylophone.

¹⁷ BD: Here Leopold is mocking his son-in-law’s parsimoniousness. Cf. Nos. 0827/50 ff., 0828/12 ff.

¹⁸ “Jgf: Mitzerl”. BD: Maria Anna Raab († 1788, aged 78), along with “Joly Sallerl” (cf. No. 0062/41) one of the most faithful friends of the family. Rented out the first floor of her house, the “Tanzmeisterhaus” [“Dancing Master’s House”] to the Mozarts from 1773 until Leopold’s death in 1787.

¹⁹ BD: There was no post-coach to St. Gilgen, and Leopold relied on messengers who usually made the trip once a week

²⁰ mp = “manu propria” = “in his own hand”.