

0878. LEOPOLD MOZART TO HIS DAUGHTER, ST. GILGEN

À Madame / Madame de Sonnenbourg / à / St. Gilgen

Salzb., 14th Sept.,
1785. at 7 o'clock
in the evening

I am letting you know that we have been very disquieted since Sunday. [5] So far the aphthous ulceration has been causing little Leopoldl¹ great discomfort. On Monday it was very ugly, on Tuesday it was milder, this evening it is better than it was this morning. He has very pronounced hot flushes. – The best point is that he drinks a lot and urinates a lot, – shits dutifully, and eats little, because his mouth has too much suppuration on the inside.

Now, I got up during the evening meal and went to him because he had woken up [10] and when they were putting him into dry things, I had the honour of hearing half a dozen *crepidos ventris*² in an uninterrupted sequence every time they lifted his legs up. *Proficiat! Prosit, conducatur, sitque Saluti.*³ – then what the harbingers foretold did in fact follow afterwards. And all of us are glad about it, for there is nothing more healthy than when one's bowels are open. [15] We hope to God that we can give the messenger the news of his complete recovery. *Dr. Prex*⁴ paid visits to us on Sunday, – Tuesday |: yesterday |: and today. It is simply a drawn-out business with aphthous ulceration until it is completely over. Up until now the nights have been disrupted most, since little Leopoldl did not sleep through a single hour without interruption. [20] What I have to admit is that Nandl⁵ is without doubt an excellent children's maid: speedy, resolute, and untiring, – takes no account of interrupted sleep, – and on top of that has erysipelas on one leg and consequently a large swelling, – I gave her a white dressing for the erysipelas. – Now they are calling me! What was it about? – something very important! Leopoldl had pissed into Nandl's face. – [25] Nandl, *Monica*⁶ and Tresl⁷ commend themselves. Nandl sends her thanks to the deputy administrator's wife⁸ for sending the hank of yarn. Now, because it is striking 10 o'clock and everyone is going to bed and the child is sleeping, I will go too. Goodnight!

The morning of the 15th.

Little Leopoldl is still not at all peaceful at night. [30] It will be some days yet until his body is clear of the foul matter from the ulcers since, as everyone says, aphthous ulcers take so a long time. I wish it were over, for I cannot be at peace. Now he is asleep. This morning he is no longer as hoarse as he was, and can scream loud and clear again. So let us be patient! I still hope to be able to report something better to the messenger, [35] as the worst is hopefully now past. Now lead healthy lives, all of you, the woman is standing here, we kiss you all.

¹ BD: Leopold's grandson by Nannerl.

² *Crepitus ventris* = loud noises out of the belly.

³ Various Latin phrases equivalent to "Cheers!", "Good health" etc.

⁴ BD: Dr. med. Johann Nepomuk Prex (1733-1809), Landschaftsphysicus [= "Physician to the Parliament of the Estates"]. The Mozarts encountered him in Paris in 1766. In 1778 he offered Wolfgang his "fine nag" if he should return to Salzburg.

⁵ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl ("child nurse").

⁶ BD: Leopold's daily household help.

⁷ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0876/73. The wife of Berchtold's second in command in the administrative area St. Gilgen.

Mozart mp⁹

On Saturday there was a violent thunderstorm, at 2 o'clock Herr *Fiala*¹⁰ left by boat on his way to Count Taufkirchen in Kazenberg.¹¹ [40] The thunderstorm came at half past 3, and threw hailstones like Italian nuts. In the room where we eat we had to hurry to pull the windows open, otherwise it would have broken all the windows. It threw hailstones as far as the table in the servant's room.

⁹ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

¹⁰ BD: Joseph Fiala (c. 1754-1816), oboist in Prague, Regensburg, Wallerstein, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, St. Petersburg, Donaueschingen. Also composed. Cf. Nos. 0485/67; 0529/7. Now leaving service in Salzburg to take a post in Vienna.

¹¹ "Gr: Taufkirchen". BD: Probably Hans Wolf, Baron [Freiherr] von Tauffkirchen, Electoral Bavarian Chamberlain [kurbayrischer Kämmerer], Court Counsellor [Hofrat] and chief administrator [Pfleger] in Schärding. Here "Kazenberg" could be Hausenberg in the Bavarian Forest.