

Salzb., 29th Sept.,
1785

Esteemed cousin Pertl² was just here for a midday meal today, and brought me the jewellery. After I had written to tell you that a severe bout of teething³ came on top of everything, [5] it was no wonder that cramps developed as well. God be praised! It is one of the greater miracles when a child recovers so well that no-one who had not seen him would believe that this child had had cramps 8, 10, or 12 times every day for 8 days in a row |: one day excepted :| and on the 26th without interruption from 12 noon to half past 6 in the evening. If we had not had the good fortune, through advice from *Dr. Prex*,⁴ to get hold of the right medicine, which is proving at this very moment that it is beneficial, it would have gone on like that forever, there was no way of getting anything in through his mouth, since it would not let anything through, in the end he would have given a bite block and then *addio!* But at 7 o'clock one could certainly give him something to take, [15] – he could drink, – the hotness dissipated completely during the night, on the 27th all signs of the cramps gradually disappeared, along with the abrupt jerking upright during his sleep.

The 30th Sept.

Briefly and essentially, from that very moment little Leopoldl⁵ has been getting better and better, [20] and this morning he was given a pudding for the first time again, since I had not let him have anything except white bread soup since the 26th after I asked *Doctor Prex* to explain the cause of the cramps, and had to admit that semolina is harmful as long as there is so much acid in the intestines, that this dish sets the nerves in motion by the clash and causes the cramps: [25] the acid came from the matter in the aphthous ulcers, – and the semolina pudding is *corrupted* immediately by this *putrid matter* and therefore aggravates the pernicious malady. This is the whole explanation, and what is sure is that there is no middle way for children. If one does not identify it and therefore does not find the cause of the illness, therefore not finding the remedy to treat it either, [30] they can soon be gone. If one can help them, they recover quickly again. By the way, one must always reckon with the possibility that there may be something amiss with children. Enough! little Leopoldl is now well again, thanks be to God!

With this I am sending the tea: for the first postpartum menstrual period several of its constituents had to be changed; [35] *Dr. Prex* had written a different prescription. There then follow: black and Margrave⁶ powders ☉. – 2 little brushes,⁷ as good as I could get. – I hope you have taken frequent foot-baths. – I am very worried, and yet did not know of any faster way of sending the things out to you than with the messenger or Herr Pertl. I will not send 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 BD: Joseph Max Kajetan Pertl (†1788), a relative of Mozart's mother (Anna Maria, née Pertl), a court clerk in St. Gilgen and thus subordinate to Mozart's brother-in-law Berchtold.

³ BD: girl (“child nurse”).

⁴ BD: Nannerl's son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27th July, 1785) had remained with Leopold since the birth; Nannerl returned to St. Gilgen at the beginning of September.

⁵ BD: Dr. med. Johann Nepomuk Prex (1733-1809), Landschaftsphysicus [= “physician to the parliament of the three estates”]. The Mozarts encountered him in Paris in 1766. In 1778 he offered Wolfgang his “fine nag” if he should return to Salzburg.

⁶ BD: Leopold's grandson by Nannerl.

⁷ BD: Schwarz(pulver): *Pulvis epilepticus niger*; Margraf(pulver): probably *pulvis magnesiae cum thea*.

⁸ BD: Cf. No. 0880/25.

watch until it is in perfect order again, [90] because it is sticking again. Yesterday Estate Manager Sepperl⁸ was not there, and I cannot send it out to you today, so I must send you the almond bran on another occasion.

The Huebers' Nannerl⁹ promised she would come to make the bonnets yesterday, but she came neither yesterday nor today; it will no doubt be impossible to send them before next messenger day; [45] I have given her the measurements. I commend myself to my esteemed son,¹⁰ and thank him for the fish. If the jewellery¹¹ does not bring in 1200 florins, I will keep it somewhere safe. On Monday there is the grand pearl¹² auction in the room at the town hall. They will not get more than 15 000; people from Vienna have also come here for it, – 2 ladies of standing from Vienna too. [50] In the Ursuline convent, the statues of some convent ladies and the 3 Strasser¹³ spinsters have been broken up, – weighed – and tied together with strings or silk and, according to weight, most laboriously bound together in loths¹⁴ so that the aficionados can take much or little. Work has been going on without pause for 6 weeks now. – [55] Tomorrow the cook will come out to you with the messenger. Now I am giving everything to the messenger, I have not seen anything more

The 1st October, in the morning.

of the cook, at least it will reach you safely.

To enable the peas, lentils and string beans to be sent out to you, a bag must be sent into town, [60] I will get it back to you the same way. All these things, and all greens generally, are astonishingly expensive. I have been sending someone to enquire at the shoemaker's the whole time, and still have not been able to get the little shoes because there is a lot of work during the market. – The cook, the previous one, called on me yesterday and said that you have now well and truly had your first postpartum menstrual period. I was very glad to hear it, hope you are well etc. [65] – Now I heartily kiss my esteemed son-in-law, you and the children and am your sincere

father Mozart mp¹⁵

Little Leopoldl has slept soundly, and is well. Nandl,¹⁶ Monica¹⁷ and Tresel¹⁸ commend themselves.

[70] For the new cook, having been in a nunnery for 6 years, the world will probably seem upside-down now that she is sleeping beside a 13 to 14-year-old boy, since there is not even a curtain in front of her bed to change a blouse in safety. You two will say that young people sleep well! But this just what you should not believe! These are now the years of wiliness. – [75] One acts as if asleep in order to see something new and commensurate with human curiosity. This is a matter of conscience, – you should at least have a couple of wooden rods nailed onto the maidservant's bed so as to be able to fit a curtain. Wolfgang¹⁹ will have had the finest opportunity in summer to see your cook, warm from the heat and even warmer from

⁸ “Verwalter Sepperl”. BD: Cf. Joseph Wöflf], cf. note on No. 0748/12.

⁹ BD: (Maria) Anna Huber, daughter of a Salzburg antechamber servant.

¹⁰ Leopold's customary form of address to his son-in-law.

¹¹ BD: Cf. Nos. 0804/41; 0884/71.

¹² BD: A reference to pearls from the cathedral treasury.

¹³ BD: Presumably the three sisters of Court Council Secretary [Hofrat-Sekretär] Nikolaus Strasser, cf. No. 0457/103.

¹⁴ 1 Loth (Lot) = 16-18 g. R. Klimpert, *Lexikon der Münzen, Maße und Gewichte usw.*, Leipzig ²/1896, p. 204.

¹⁵ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.

¹⁶ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold's servant girl (“child nurse”).

¹⁷ BD: Leopold's daily household help.

¹⁸ BD: Therese Pänckl, servant in the Mozart household in Salzburg for many years.

¹⁹ BD: Nannerl's stepson, at this point eleven years old. A Salzburg regulation of 1736, confirmed in 1756, forbade the sharing of bedrooms or beds by children of opposite sexes older than three.

drink, [80] lying half naked when he had, for example, to make use of the chamber pot, in the night or towards daybreak, since it is light early in summer, or, as sometimes happens, when he even had to get up and go to the kitchen for something to drink. The deceitfulness of young people goes indescribably far in such cases. The simple truth is that Wolfg. is already too old to sleep in the same room as a maid.— [85] I wash my hands! I beg forgiveness! I speak as I see it as a good Christian!