

Salzb., the afternoon of the 18<sup>th</sup> [November], 1785

Thank you for the chicken, and if it is as good as the duck, I will *recommend* that Nannerl,<sup>2</sup> to whom I send greetings, be made High Princely Hen and Duck Feeder<sup>3</sup> in the High Princely Henhouse. – It is quite true that idleness is the undoing of children, [5] and what is one going to keep them busy with, since they have no skills? – – and the little that they learn and master is done only during the lesson when the teacher is there, and besides that not at all. Where will one find a *preceptor* who locks himself in the whole day, like a prisoner, with children who have no inclination to learn, [10] – and on top of that with so little talent that the teacher, for all his bitter trouble, can win no honour to his name? – it will indeed continue to be difficult, even though it is always in my thoughts.

As far as Vogler<sup>4</sup> is concerned, Herr Hübner only enclosed the article<sup>5</sup> as his *correspondent* sent it to him, an article which Vogler had commissioned himself. [15] It is obvious to everyone that he is a fool, – and he is already known as such. He no doubt carried out this fool's prank while drunk, the same way as he got lost in *Cassl*<sup>6</sup> after the meal in the house of the *Marquis N.B.* the *superintendent* of the *musique*, and later they found him intoxicated and completely undressed in the *Marquise's* bed, where he had lain down to sleep [20] and shit and vomited all over it. – The soldier who was due to have been shot has been *pardoned*.<sup>7</sup> –

The *Zezi's* Waberl<sup>8</sup> is better again, she was in a bad way. –

The clerical Herr Egedacher<sup>9</sup> has just come back from Polling,<sup>10</sup> where he set up an organ that his father had already made here. [25] Now he is going to Radstatt<sup>11</sup> because of the new organ and will be away 2 or 3 weeks. – I will certainly look at the fans<sup>12</sup> closely.

– The morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>. The pleasure of the early morning Mass is something you have to thank mainly me for, I have been pushing for it step-by-step for a long time now with the gentlemen Mayrler, – *Mölk*, – *Racher* – *Prehauser*<sup>13</sup> etc.; [30] the esteemed Dean<sup>14</sup> was given a little reprimand *in silentio* because he did not inform himself about it, because there is

<sup>1</sup> 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].

<sup>2</sup> BD: Leopold's daughter's (Nannerl's) step-daughter, Anna Margarete (also known as Marianne), born 1771. Received keyboard teaching from Nannerl and was later godmother to Nannerl's daughters Johanna and Marie Babette, who both died young. After her marriage, Leopold addressed his daughter as “Frau Tochter” [“Madame Daughter”] in correspondence.

<sup>3</sup> “Hochf: Henndl und EntenFütterin”. “High Princely” refers to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Georg Joseph Vogler (1749-1814). After studying law and theology he became a court chaplain in Mannheim. He was sent to study in Italy for two years, returning to become spiritual adviser and deputy music director. Also active as teacher and theorist. Mozart usually spoke disparagingly of him.

<sup>5</sup> BD: A newspaper report praising Vogler's improvisations inspired by four paintings. Full article in BD VI, p. 256.

<sup>6</sup> BD: Kassel, a residence of Landgrave [Landgraf] Friedrich II of Hesse; “Marquis” de Luchet was the superintendent of the music; he came to Kassel in 1776 on the recommendation of Voltaire.

<sup>7</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0897/19 ff., 138-139.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Anna Maria Zezi, the wife of Christian Zezi in the “tradgasse” (= Getreidegasse).

<sup>9</sup> BD: Johann Rochus Egedacher, cathedral vicar, son of the “old man”, as the now deceased court organ builder was often called.

<sup>10</sup> BD: Polling, south of Weilheim in Upper Bavaria.

<sup>11</sup> BD: Radstadt, 57 km southwest of Salzburg, noted for suffering a number of major fires.

<sup>12</sup> BD: Cf. No. 0897/140. Buying fans for Nannerl.

<sup>13</sup> BD: Various court and church officials, cf. BD VI, p. 256.

<sup>14</sup> BD: Responsible for the parish church in St. Gilgen.

a *general* order that there must be an early morning Mass anywhere where the *Vicarius* and *Coadjutor* may choose to go etc.

I could not speak to the *doctor*<sup>15</sup> because he is not here and will not come back before tomorrow. Herewith I send you 4 such powders again, [35] it is always good if one has such things to hand because they are powders which will not deteriorate in the cool room. The main mistake was that you did not purge yourself completely with a good little potion for mothers after your confinement, since Becker's pillules are really only solvents, and should then be purged out afterwards. The pillules will probably not have done much more for you than produce *ordinari* stool. [40] If, after the regression of the uterine lining, your stomach is weak and empty from one mealtime to the next, you should make arrangements to drink a bowl of broth or a couple of little slices of bread dipped in it. – Since your throat will become dry during concentrated *clavier* playing, you should have some barley gruel in a bag so you can put a little in your mouth. [45] This dryness comes from holding one's breath when doing something with great fervour, by which the finer and moistening saliva, which is always in the mouth, becomes dry, and by breathing air in, one dries out the whole throat because one breathes even less in one's complete absorption, and does not stimulate the necessary fine salivary moisture: that is what happens at night when, without knowing it, one sleeps with an open mouth. [50] I would try it, and therefore immediately put some water in your mouth on getting up and gargle at length, letting some drops go down your throat if need be, and set the salivary juices in motion so that the throat and mouth become moist. Is no barley gruel sugar to be had from your general merchant, then? – that little bit of *coffee* with barley cannot do any harm; [55] but that a *chocolate* drink, such as this, should generate heat: – everyone has to laugh at that, – we understand it better, since there is nothing in it except *cocoa* |: a *specificum*<sup>16</sup> for the breast |: sugar, and in the cheap *chocolate* à 1 florin 15 kreuzers there is hardly as much *vanilla* as is needed to give the *chocolate* a little aroma, little vanilla because one smells it at once because of the very *penetrating* smell. [60] By the way, *vanilla* is good for the stomach. Yesterday I went to the *opera Adelheide von Veltheim*,<sup>17</sup> it is the same kind of plot as the Abduction. The music is more than good enough for this Grätz, but not theatrical, rather in church style – mainly sad, long music, and one will hear it 10 times without being able to remember any of it [65] because he is always leaping to and fro in his ideas, and one can readily see the forced and laboured patterns in the music, and there is very little natural flow. The *finale*, and whatever is done by 4 or 5 characters etc., resembles an *Et vitam venturi saeculi*, or *cum Sancto Spiritu* etc. from a Mass. It is on tomorrow again. I will not see any more of it. [70] It was very full, for it is fairly *spectacular*: for that reason one may perhaps stand it 2 or 3 times, but hardly more.

Leopold<sup>18</sup> is in the best of health, praise God, nothing but thorough pissing, shitting and dribbling. If the saying dribblers are stronger, slobberers live longer<sup>19</sup> is true, he is in no danger, for he vomits out everything bad that the stomach does not tolerate, [75] since he vomits 5, 6, 7 times a day with a smile on his face and is quite well at the same time. Now *addio*, the servants commend themselves, I kiss both of you and am as always your

Mozart

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<sup>15</sup> BD: Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani.

<sup>16</sup> = "specific remedy".

<sup>17</sup> BD: *Adalheide von Veltheim* or *Der Pascha von Tunis*, play in four acts by Gustav Friedrich Wilhelm Grossmann, music by Joseph Grätz (1760-1826), a pupil of Michael Haydn. A critic (AmZ 1802/03 V 337) described it as having "too beautifully set vocal parts unsuitable for most theatres."

<sup>18</sup> BD: Nannerl's son Leopold (born in Salzburg on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1785) was to remain with Leopold from his birth until his grandfather's death in May, 1787; Nannerl returned to St. Gilgen at the beginning of September, 1785.

<sup>19</sup> "*Speibende Kinder, bleibende Kinder*" = "Dribbling children, children that last":