

[Munich, between 11th February and 3rd March, 1786]

I will keep Leopoldl,² you need have no worry about that. – Monica³ is a slow, coarse, and very susceptible person; I will not be at all sorry if she leaves. Nor is she in good health; [5] and I am certainly not mistaken, she loves brandy, – she will develop dropsy; she furthermore spreads confusion. Just see to it that you keep the cook and Lenerl,⁴ these two will get along with each other very well. Otherwise, one servant is easily enough for the children and other household work, as long as she is industrious. – [10] How could it ever occur to you that Nandl⁵ would go out to you with Leopoldl among these noisy, malicious children? All the more so since she has her own space in the attic here with all her goods and chattels, where she goes to check them from time to time; she would not be able to give that up. By the way, I would ask you not to expose yourself to any vexation, or as little as possible, with the children. [15] Should anything happen between the children and Monica, say to your husband in these dry words: I have done all that I could, you are the father, they are your children, it is your duty. – In short! Let things take their own course, lend a hand to the cook and Lenerl so that they grow fond of you, – send Monica away; and he should choose whoever he wants for the children; [20] stand firm, and let him do his duty as a father looking after the children; do not get angry over anything! laugh! and go to your room. Of course, there is always something to fight about with 3 servants, but I think things will run peacefully with the cook and Lenerl. If a third one joins them and is not capable, take another one again; [25] as long as you keep the cook and Lenerl. As soon as it proves possible, I will come out to you. I kiss you from the heart and am eternally your sincere father

Mzt mp⁶

I send my greetings to Lenerl.

So that you know everything I have in mind, I am letting you know that I will keep Leopoldl with me as long as I live; [30] this is my resolve, and already was from the beginning. I will bring him out with Nandl for a time in summer, but will also take him back with me again.

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: Nannerl’s son Leopold (Alois Pantaleon von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg), born on 27th July, 1785. Was left with his grandfather until the latter’s death in May, 1787.

³ BD: Leopold’s daily household help, on loan from the Berchtolds.

⁴ BD: Nannerl’s serving girl Lena, often called Lenerl.

⁵ BD: Maria Anna Pietschner (1732-1805), Leopold’s servant girl (“child nurse”).

⁶ mp = *manu propria* = in his own hand.