

1052. THEOBALD MARCHAND<sup>1</sup> TO LEOPOLD MOZART, SALZBURG

To Herr / Herr *Mozart* / High Princely Director of Music<sup>2</sup> / in / Salzburg

Most treasured friend!

Munich, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1787

Beloved B • <sup>3</sup>

My son<sup>4</sup> informed me some days ago that the circumstances of your health were not yet showing better prospects; that you, sir, had even entrusted him with writing to me; [5] that you were worried you would hardly survive the summer! etc. You can easily imagine how heavily this news weighed on me |: after I had read in your last letter of your hope of recovering again :! I therefore dare to suggest to you a remedy with which I have seen two splendid *cures* this spring. As far as I was able to gather from your letters, [10] your *medicus* considers your illness to be an obstruction of the spleen;<sup>5</sup> and in just such circumstances I saw exactly the success one would wish for. The first case was that of the wife of the *acteur Urban*,<sup>6</sup> who suffered such an obstruction of the liver and pancreas that one had to be afraid of dropsy, consumption etc. The other case was that of Privy Councillor Heissler,<sup>7</sup> [15] who lived in our house. The latter had such an obstruction and mucus in the kidney that they had given up all hope. The esteemed personal *medicus* Fischer, who had been called, prescribed for him the *specificum* mentioned, and in 3 weeks he was again able to move around in his room. It is the so-called *spiritus salis dulcificatus Brecheri*, which the foreign doctor, about whom I wrote to you once, introduced here. [20] The esteemed personal *medicus* Fischer said to me that this remedy enjoyed a great reputation in London some years ago. I told him about your illness to the best of my knowledge from your letter, and he answered me that you should have no hesitation in using it, since it would not be harmful in any way at all. I am therefore sending you a little vial of it at once by the esteemed *Abbé Bullinger*,<sup>8</sup> [25] with the request that you try this remedy.

#### Use.

In the evening, on going to bed, take a soup-spoonful mixed with half a soup-spoonful of fresh water. In the morning, 2 hours before getting up, again take a spoonful without water. [30] Then have properly warm bedclothes laid over you, after which you will lapse into mild sweating. Once you have lain this way for 2 hours, you can put on a dry shirt and take a cup of tea, *coffee* or *chocolate*. In the afternoon, around 4 o'clock, have a mild *enema applied* every 2 days, and every 6 days a mild *laxative*. Use it for only a week, and then let me know what *effect* it has, [35] so that I can say to you whether you should continue to use it or not.

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<sup>1</sup> BD: Munich theatre director Theobald Marchand (1746-1794), two of whose children had for a time board, lodging and teaching in keyboard, violin and composition in Leopold Mozart's home.

<sup>2</sup> "Hochfürstl Kapellmeister".

<sup>3</sup> BD: B. = Bruder = Brother; the whole line is a Masonic greeting.

<sup>4</sup> BD: Heinrich Marchand, son Theobald Marchand, who had had board, lodging and teaching in the Mozarts' home for three years until 1774.

<sup>5</sup> BD: This was the opinion of Joseph Barisani (1756-1826), eldest son of the Salzburg Archbishop's personal physician, Dr. Silvester Barisani. According to the *Salzburger Intelligenzblatt* of 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1787, Leopold Mozart died "of consumption".

<sup>6</sup> BD: Probably the "Mad.<sup>me</sup> Urban" mentioned by Mozart in No. 0504/18 as one of the two leading actresses in the Marchand troupe.

<sup>7</sup> "GeheimRath". BD: Probably the "Mad.<sup>me</sup> Urban" mentioned by Mozart in No. 0504/18 as one of the two leading actresses in the Marchand troupe.

<sup>8</sup> BD: Abbé Franz Joseph Johann Nepomuk Bullinger (1744-1810), Jesuit, private tutor, friend of the Mozart family in Salzburg, now based in Munich.

I am glad that the esteemed *Abbé Bullinger* is spending some time in Salzburg, there you do indeed have a friend on hand who consoles you; he will tell you everything in person that I cannot put on paper because of the lack of time. [40] May God grant you recovery! This is my only wish, perhaps I will visit you by the end of June if work permits.

I am, sir, your most devoted

*Marchand*

My wife, daughter, in short everyone, sends greetings.