

Euler to Wettstein

Berlin, 17 September 1757

Letter 295 (2796)

[...] The change in the public's mood, since the honor of last writing to you, has so afflicted me that I nearly gave up all letter writing; however I strongly urged myself to write to you today as much to let you know that the tobacco that you had the kindness to send me as well as the mailing of the 50 maps of Germany according to Mr. Jeffrey's instructions has arrived. If I had not hoped that the next letter would provide me with some good reason to write to you there would not have been the long delay in my reply and one for which I am very ashamed. However, so as not to avoid my duties and to tell you most assuredly of my gratitude for the many things that you have done for me, I will pursue my need to write to you today, even though I do not have any good news or any reason to rejoice. This is because despite fighting, the strongest of our enemies are attacking us from all sides, and now the Swedes have also joined in the hostilities, and England, our only ally has appeared to have abandoned us entirely after having concluded a truce with the French and by having done this placed them in a position to fall onto us from all sides. Everyone here is frightened because this fatal alliance, since at the start nothing would have been easier than to build an army large enough to stop the entry of the French into Westphalia. However instead of taking that precaution, we are calmly giving up the King's provinces, we are sacrificing Hesse and Brunswick and have surrendered all of Hanover into the hands of the enemies and during this string of disasters we learned that the Prince of Cumberland made no attempt to increase the size of his force, even having refused a conscription of 12'000 Hessian troops that the Landgrave had offered to the English. The worst of it all is that these good Protestant countries are not only ruined, but are being used to furnish the enemy with the necessary funds for the continuation of the war, we will

never find examples in all of history of such a badly attempted alliance. But just to let you know that here there is no lack of faith, but one must recognize that in all these strange proceedings, that there has been a hand of divine providence into which I place my entire trust that it will deliver us from all the enemies that threaten us, not through the intervention of man, but rather by the blinding appearance of the Almighty so that we finally learn what the world has entirely forgotten, that it is the Eternal One who rules the world and that He is the King of Kings.

I still have fond memories of our dear compatriot Sir Schaub, and I ask you to kindly present my very humble regards. His brother Mr. Schaub is a best friend, as well as his daughter and Mr. Gruninger her husband. The entire family is worthy of the consideration of the entire town and they certainly are an honor to Sir Schaub. Mr. Gruninger possesses the character of a commission counselor of the Saxon court, but he is unfortunately unemployed, even though he is a very distinguished lawyer, Mr. Schaub is a model of honesty which even he seems too ambitious. You must judge for yourselves by the following story that everyone here admires. You know so a certain Stupanus was exiled from Basel who spent much of his life in Silesia as well as Saxony, where he undertook a friendship with Mr. Schaub. He fell sick in Silesia and formed a plan to spend his last days at Mr. Schaub's, who being his only friend and unhappy with his family, he thought of leaving all his assets which was more than 20000 ecus to him. But he died on the road, after having told his traveling companions that he recognized no other inheritor but Mr. Schaub in Berlin and he had them state that they would deliver all his worldly possessions to him and they swore an oath to do so. These persons delivered on the commitment of their commission and were prepared to take the oath. However, the very scrupulous Mr. Schaub, who did not want to profit from this inheritance, renounced it and had it delivered to the Stupanus family who showed him little gratitude for the generosity, and in fact made the delivery of the letters difficult by not paying for their postage. The son-in-law is a man of the same

character, even though he did not approve of the generosity knew that this honest windfall would place the family in a well-off situation, when the poor Mr. Schaub has to work for someone who does not recognize his just services.

As for my work on the *Analyse des infinis*, I understand that there will not be a whole much that might be accomplished during the war, and I also fear that it will not be to the English taste, however if the bookseller would assume all of the transport costs, I would be able to let the copy go for 3 ½ ecus. I will not send the almanacs unless then are ready before the month of November and I would wish to send them through Hamburg as we did with the maps.

Baron Gorgier still sends you his affectionate regards. Our President is expecting to spend the winter in Rome. My entire family presents their very humble regards to you Sir and as well to your wife and I have the honor of being with the most respected affections [...]

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