

Euler to Wettstein
Berlin, March 5, 1748
Letter 257 (2758)

I was very pleased to learn through a letter of your cousin from Amsterdam that you have decided to get married, I hope with all my heart that this change will provide for all the pleasures and all the satisfactions that you have been expecting and that God will heap onto you all sorts of blessings. These are the wishes of my entire family, and I beg of you to give our very best regards to your dear wife.

Based on a rumor of your design, which was the cause of your trip to Basel, I had already prepared my congratulations on this subject, in a letter which accompanied the almanacs with I took the opportunity to send you following your general instructions, and which I hope that have received even though I have had no reply from you. Perhaps you were waiting until the posting of the geographical maps that His Excellency de Kayserling is waiting for and that your Mr. Mortimer would have gotten together in your absence. If however some obstacle has come up, please do not hesitate to let us know.

The newspapers are saying a great deal about Parliament's plans to naturalize the foreign Protestants. It is a project to which I am not indifferent since by having a large family there is no other country where I would rather establish myself than England. You have provided, Sir, so many indications of my kindness and friendship that I cannot stop from opening my deepest thoughts onto this subject and to implore your help in this very delicate affair. . I am beginning to notice that the taste for the arts is supplanting that for mathematics, for which I fear that my need will soon grow useless. Under such conditions I would not wish to return to Petersburg, since there is no likelihood of a permanency.

However, since I have such a numerous family, I am afraid that I do not see our country or any other place as convenient if it is not England. However, I do know that it cannot be expected that I would be satisfied with an ordinary position, and that it would be necessary to offer me an extraordinary salary which could not be less than the one that I enjoy here. If you think that I could hope for such a solid position, I would appreciate your help towards this end on this occasion, perhaps the little reputation that I have acquired joined to your requests might well bring some great lord to offer me a sufficient salary so that I might provide for my family. However, as this is an extremely discrete request, I request that you use all possible discretion so that absolutely no one here might suspect that I have made these revelations.

I ask that you offer my very humble compliments to President Folkes, Mr. Mortimer and to Dr, Bradley and all of the Royal Society to which I wish I were in a position to provide all of my knowledge.

In closing I profusely apologize for taking the liberty from which the complete assurance of your friendship comes and by presenting my very humble compliments of all my family, I have the honor of being with the most perfect veneration [...]

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