

Euler to Wettstein  
Berlin, 31 March 1753  
Letter 279 (2780)

[...] The happy childbirth by your wife has caused a great deal of joy, and by congratulating you with all our hearts we make the most heartfelt wishes for the protection and prosperity of your dear family.

The almanacs must have been held up for quite a while in Holland since they were sent from here quite early on, however a remaining 15 or 16 copies of 82 is a little thing, and in any event, there is no reason to return them yet. I will try to find a good reason to ask you to send a new supply of Virginian tobacco, the one for which I am so grateful for your goodness in supplying to me, is almost gone. You sent me two kinds, an ordinary cut and the other fine like saffron, the former being more to my taste than the latter. I request that you send a dozen pounds that you should give to Mr. Battier to have them sent to Mr. Splittgerber, which will be the shortest way for me to get it.

However, besides the almanacs that you will have the pleasure of adding, the Academy still requests the papers of the Transactions that have appeared since the last sending of the mulberry bushes, and one of my friends would be very appreciative of the following papers: 1. Theoph. Lobb. Particular treatise of painful distempers, Lond. 1739. II. Th. Lobb. A treatise on dissolvents of the stone, Lond. 1739. III Theoph. Lobb. Medical principles and cautions, II parts. London 1752. I hope that Mr. Collinson will also give you at the same time the mulberry seeds with some other grains that he has had the goodness to promise us. All of this together will make up a good-sized package, for which I should be most shameful were I to charge you, however it may cost a little more money than the

almanacs brought in, however the remainder will be remitted as promptly as possible.

As for Mr. Dolland's letter for which the old debt is of no consequence, I feel that the best thing to do is to not reply, since he does not deal with a single word concerning the strongest argument of my theory taken from the eye's structure, and as for the other arguments, everything that he says goes back to saying what the great Newton said in another way.

You honor me, Sir, by asking for a small paper that I wrote some years ago concerning the truth of religion or more correctly of the revelation, as soon as I find an occasion I will send it to you, even though the subject is not fully developed and that it is well beneath the merits of your attention. I will have some difficulty in locating a copy, since a little paper is lost so easily and that the number of copies that the booksellers print up was very small in number. I have among other arguments which I have shared with you, that due to the diminishing orbits of the planets, the world or more likely the current arrangement could not have existed from the beginning of time, as it will not be able to exist forever. Therefore there must have been a moment when this happened. It appears to me that we have the upper hand over the "Hard-heads" when we force them to admit this, unless they are like La Mettrie who still believes that a fortuitous circumstance created it all.

As for the letters with which you honor me, Sir, please continue to send them to me directly, it will be the surest way to get them to me and I would not wish to lose any one of them.

Mr. de Maupertuis passes on his best regards and Mr. Formey was very pleased that you remembered him and your approval of Christian philosophy. All our Baslers are well and send their very best wishes. My family, being sensitive to your generosity gives you their best wishes with the greatest expression of affection and I have the honor of being with the greatest understanding [...]