

Euler to Wettstein
Berlin, 27 October 1753
Letter 280 (2781)

[...] The death of your brother-in-law Mr. Sarasin was also asked of from Basel has made me particularly sad, having had the pleasure meeting with him here, and I take particular part in the pain that this death would have caused you. I have received the seeds in good condition from Mr. Collinson who wishes to help us improve our garden and I request that you tell him of our sincere thanks, I hope that he received the plants that he wished for, and in the future he can have whatever he finds there. He has flattered himself to be our colleague, and then I shall propose him to be a member of our Academy. As for Mr. Lobb's treatise I have handed it to Mr. Eller, first Doctor to the King, who is praising it and is infinitely obliged and I am no less grateful to Mr. Scott for his present, to which I take the opportunity to enclose something. It was an unfortunate circumstance that happened to Mr. Collinson, to send back his package, I cannot imagine to whom he addressed it, and at least he should know that anything that is addressed to the Academy or to me will always be received with the greatest thanks and courtesy. I am annoyed that I cannot have the seeds for the Virginian mulberry bushes; however I expect to find a way to multiply them some other way.

In the expectations that the tables and the transactions and other things with which you wish to delight me have not yet left, might I ask you to include two more of Sherwin's tables I have two students in my house who are learning mathematics, one is an adjunct to the Petersburg Academy and the other is from Geneva, and it is a book that they cannot do without. However, I ask a thousand pardons for the hardships that I cause you by such requests. I am looking for an opportunity to send you my

pamphlet on the Revelation. The gossip here is that Voltaire is dead, but there are people who do not wish to think such thoughts. I am delighted that all but 6 of the almanacs were sold. But I fear that the revenues will not be sufficient to pay off the accounts of the items that you charged to it.

You have undoubtedly seen, Sir, the map by Mr. Delisle and his paper on the countries above Kamtschatka. They are extremely upset in Russia due to the way he condemns the Russian Atlas as well as the way he speaks about the expedition to Kamtschatka. We have authorized a naval officer to examine this paper and to provide for the entire description of the expedition, which has produced a paper which was sent to me to make it public and to issue it to all of Europe. As a result of this I have had the work printed in French and German and I was hoping that a copy will make it to Mr. Formey who will introduce it into the new Germanic Library. You will see that a dozen Russians were eaten by the savages in America above California. One hears nothing more of Mr. Dobb's expedition in these same places; perhaps the natives also enjoyed him.

I have no knowledge whatsoever concerning the surgeon from Aargau who you mention, however I have heard mention of the chemical flower and other quackeries that have been presented to the court, but our chemists have simply passed them off as the chemical flower as nothing else than Diana's tree.

All of our compatriots as well as my family is very well thank God and there is hope that the architect Mr. Raillard will be employed soon. All of us offer our very best regards to your wife. I have the honor of being with perfect affection [...]

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