

Euler to Wettstein
Berlin, 28 June 1758
Letter 298 (2799)

[...] This letter will be given to you by Mr. Gunttieri, the son of one of our most respected French ministers and a minister in his own right. He is one of my friends and after you know him, you too, will find him worthy of your friendship which he has immediately requested of you and that he will not miss being worthy of it. I trust that you will be charmed by his knowledge and what it is worth will allow you to feel that my recommendations of him have not been unfounded. He proposes to preach in England and in this respect your counsel will be very worthwhile.

I fervently hope that he finds you in good health, as it has been such a long time since I have not had any news from you which has caused me to worry. I have no idea what the cost of the overdue almanacs should be, in case that they should be as much as 12 pounds of tobacco, I urge you to obtain this stock for me as I am in a great deal of need.

The exploits of our Prince Ferdinand continue to have an absolutely marvelous success even though the news concerning the great English expeditionary force is still very unsure. Yesterday some letters arrived from Hamburg which indicated that the English flotilla had penetrated the port of Brest and destroyed 104 ships amongst which were 11 warships, but this news was immediately contradicted by other letters. The future progress of our forces in Moravia depends on the taking of Olmutz, news of which we impatiently expect every day. Under these assumptions, Austria as much as France feel that they will be lost without the intervention of the Russians; we have also learned that French currency is running like a river towards Russia so as to have them react with all of their strength. Their

viciousness is much feared by all. And there is apparently nothing that the English ministers can do to stop this enterprise. We were obliged to completely abandon the Swedes so as to open a dike to stop the advancing Russians. The French are threatening us as well with a new army that is supposed to arrive in Germany, but as all of these efforts do not amount to those with which we were burdened last year and which were so vigorously repelled by such blinding assistance from the Almighty that we should rest assured with a full confidence in our present circumstances. There is a great deal of talk concerning the disposition of the Danish court, and there are other soothsayers who feel that it is not to our advantage and that it is the result of French politics and that the Danish army could very well join the Swedes and fall onto us. The statement from the Danish minister at The Hague protests that there is no alliance between his court and that of France appears to smell suspect, if it is true to think the opposite of such statements. There was also talk of a revolt in Poland, as there was in Sweden and in Turkey, but it appears that French money has dulled all possible advantages. If that were the case we would find ourselves in an unimaginable crisis, but the freedom of which we hope that Divine Providence will deliver us will be all the more of a blessing. I have just learned that our Mr. Dietrich of Basel has died. You will, Sir, be as embarrassed as I am since I still have one of his instruments to observe the inclination of the magnetized needle with me. I would not wish to evaluate it during these belligerent times. He still expected to profit from his discoveries concerning magnets but did not wish to tell the Russian Academy for the 100 ducats prize.

We have just been struck senseless by the death of our best and great Prussian Prince. England will be as sorely touched as we are, and we must redouble our wishes that God prolongs the days of our great King and to direct his undertakings to emancipate the Protestant church and towards a quick and solid peace. Baron de Gorgier is still filled with fond memories of you, but since he was obliged to move, it has been some time since I last saw him. You are aware that his nephew is the assistant-tutor to the young Henry of Prussia as Mr. Beguelin, also a

compatriot, is that of Prince Frederick. What glory is there for our nation when the education of the Prussian princes is in the hands of the Swiss?

My entire family presents their fond affections as well as to your wife, and all our compatriots do the same, with whom I have the honor of being most attached and respectful [...]

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