

Euler to Wettstein
Berlin, 30 August 1756
Letter 292 (2793)

[...] Your letter of 15 April which you had the goodness to entrust to Mr. Mitchell has provided me with the knowledge as important as it was pleasant of this minister who, based on your recommendations, has showered me with marks of his affection and well being. So it is to you alone that I am the recipient of this advantageous liaison for which I have the honor to present my very humble thanks. At the same time I wish to recommend one of my best friends who will give you this letter, It is Mr. Bertrand of Geneva who for the past four years has stayed with me so as to perfect his mathematics, to which he had already brought quite solid knowledge. He perfectly well succeeded and as such he deserves a place in our Academy, however what distinguishes above and beyond is that His Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia chose him to provide enlightenment in mathematics, to the extent that he is in the employ of His Royal Highness however since the war he wishes to place an interval in his studies and we have granted him permission to make a trip to London. He joins to these merits in the sciences, a perfect conduct, and I can promise you that you will be engaged by his conversation, and you will not regret having provided him with all the help necessary to a foreigner who has arrived to stay a while in London.

He has a brother in London who is a merchant and who will help him to make the necessary connections, however in what concerns the scientists of the Royal Society I implore you to provide him with your support, and I have no doubt that the President and the principal members, to whom I ask that you present at every occasion my very best regards, will find that he will be ready very soon to be inducted into their illustrious body.

A distinction of this nature will always be due to the recommendations that you make for him. His stay could be as long as two years, depending whether the war lasts that long.

The maps which you asked me for, Sir will no doubt have arrived by now to which I added the last volume of our Memoirs, and the almanacs for next year will be leaving shortly as you had ordered. I am upset that the credit for the almanacs had been reduced. Voltaire never had a part and the author of the verses is still the same Mr. de Franchville. Those which found the greatest approval in London received nothing but criticisms which according to all likelihood had diminished the light over the poets. Mr. Mitchell has yet to deliver the history of the Royal Society. He had already promised to me when his books had not yet arrived, and since that time he has been so busy, that he forgot and I forgot to remind him. I will do it at the first possible moment and you can count on it that we receive it, as you read this letter, and I can preemptively present the thanks of the academy.

As for that which might interest my family which you have had the goodness to be interested in, Mr. Bertrand will provide you with a full report, and he will tell you that I have been reduce to smoking plugs of tobacco. I have taken the opportunity to ask for a new a stock of Virginia tobacco, however I know that you passed the summer in the country and it is my fault that I did not tell you of my needs.

My mother and all my family present you and your dear wife our most affectionate regards to which we join the assurance of my affection and unlimited devotion with which I have the honor of being [...]

1st Edit 12/4/04