

Euler to Wettstein  
Berlin, 11 August 1758  
Letter 299 (2800)

[...] For fear of forgetting some important points that I decided to tell you in answer to your very obliging letters with which you honored me on 24 July and before, I will start by telling you that the 70 almanacs from last year have arrived here in good condition and as for the last volume of the Transactions that we received which I could not tell you about before, because our library was closed due to the death of our librarian and very dear associate the late Mr. Peloutier, which I now have the pleasure to tell you that the last item that we have is vol. XLIX Part 1 of year 1755.

Now thank God that the face of the war has changed in our favor. Hardly had the great operational plan that was devised and approved of in Vienna, Versailles and Petersburg changed in our favor. So that no sooner had our enemies boasted that this plan could absolutely not fail and that we would soon be without any resources whatsoever, that Divine Providence completely upset the plan with such blinding strokes that would strike even the most opinionated atheists. All of England will be no doubt entirely feel the happy success of the hard work of our incomparable Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick who completely overthrew the formidable French army and delivered the states of Brunswick in a very short time. Hanover and Hesse and pursued them over the Rhine which is even more surprising since the French fortified the towns to the point of impregnability, which gave us reason to believe that that it would be impossible to evict them without destroying several towns even though those were our wishes. . However at first sight of our hussars, they abandoned their strongholds with their ordnance, their sick and a good part of their artillery. While considering these great

events, it is impossible not to see the hand of the Almighty. So here is the entire destruction of the Swedish hopes and especially the Austrians on top of the 30,000 French troops which were to invade Bohemia. The Russian catastrophe appears to be very strange, and our enemies boast that it is to their advantage, moreover it appears that the fall of Betuzev will be to our advantage especially since Mr. Keith has been recognized for the position of minister and all this under truly remarkable circumstances, however you will probably have better knowledge of this than we will by the time you receive this letter. The current newspapers say that the Russian court is demanding the recall of a certain foreign minister; we do not believe that this regards the English one since he is hardly known. However the last news into Prussia is that the Russians appear to be falling back to return at a later date, however all of this news is so unsettled and changes from day to day, so that one does not dare to trust it. There are rumors that one hears that Poland is in great turmoil and that a great confederation is assembled and that the King has left Warsaw. It is being said that the Poles are screaming against the Russian invasion and against the King who they suspect is behind it and that there is talk of deposing him and that the nation has cast its eyes to the heir apparent to Kassel and that the army of the Crown is about to join our army which has entered Poland in order to stop the Russians from fulfilling their operational plan of entering into Silesia. These are the rumors that are running about here, perhaps without any substance, however since you will have certain information, and then you will not be upset to learn some things that might not be so sure, because perhaps something will come out of this at a later date.

There was a Swedish undertaking on the Pennemunde garrison which went badly in that the young Swedish nobles of the first ranking families wanted to storm the forts and found nothing but their own deaths. The army of the Empire is dispersing little by little so they say, and the Austrians being frustrated by not receiving the support that they expected from their allies have begun to put water in their wine. The hope of peace is being spoken about and there are some big bets on it,

these encouraging words are coming from our army. God who has so far and so visibly directed our fate wishes to end this war with his help by finishing this war with a solid peace.

I hope that our almanacs will have better luck this year than last year even though they will arrive late. As for the figures, I tell those who ask me that their significance is that they contain certain predictions as the one concerning the month of November of last year is indicated by the siege of Schweidniz, as one should not doubt that the hunt for females did not take place during the month of March. The death of Mr. Schaub has struck me hard since I was the person who had to deliver the message here to his brother. Mr. Huber has left for Basel to get married to Mlle Rhoner, and it is said that he will not return.

My entire family and all our compatriots and in particular Baron de Gorgier present their best regards as well as to your wife. I have the honor to be with respect and fond attachment [...]

PS The French and Swiss officers who are prisoners here have been boasting, that up until now have said that the Russians had no reason to be proud of the battle of Rossbach, since the French did not defend themselves but that they will soon show their worth and everyone will know that they will crush Prince Ferdinand and his army. Their rudeness went so far that they invited many people to a feast that they will give as soon as the word of the defeat is received.

1<sup>st</sup> Edit 12/5/03