

Leipzig, February 29th, 1838

Most Reverend Pastor!

In those unforgettable moments when we were together privately for the last time, you made me an offer for which I would have to love and respect you, if I hadn't already done so. However, I feel that I would be hurting the love and respect I truly and deeply feel for you if I were to accept your kind proposal; at least for now, it's impossible for me. I have no doubt that you will understand and forgive me; but I must ask you not to let me stop you from being the kind-hearted person I find so endearing.

As for my journey, it has proceeded quite smoothly under the gracious protection of the Lord so far. The company as a whole was rather disappointing. This circumstance, as well as the memory of some touching farewells in Dresden, made me speak little, even though it was often necessary. Upon my arrival in Leipzig, as I stepped out of the postal carriage, Mr. Schneider happened to be passing by; which was of course most welcome to me. He immediately accompanied me to Mr. Tauchnitz, where I believe I have found a most lovable, unpretentious Christian; he had not expected my arrival so soon. After that, we went to Schneider's parents, but a certain Miss Schlottens, who also claimed to know you, spoiled the entire evening with her unbearable vanity and kindness.

This morning, at the instruction of Mr. Tauchnitz, I went around all of Leipzig to track down Luther's works; however, we haven't managed to obtain them yet. Perhaps a student, whom we didn't find at home this afternoon, might give them to us. If that happens, I'll receive news before 9 o'clock, the time of my departure, and I'll either mention it at the end or at the top of the letter. I bought Köpper's "Bible, a Work of Divine Wisdom" from Fleischer for just 20 marks. Please tell Brother Cordes that Dr. Schellwitz, whom I visited this morning, told me that he not only received his letter, but also wrote to Mr. Joachim long ago. However, since Mr. Joachim hasn't replied yet, he hasn't been able to take legal action. Nevertheless, if Mr. Joachim delays any longer, he considers it necessary to do so, and he'll write to Cordes about it.

This afternoon, I spent several entertaining hours with Mr. D. Volkmann. Schneider introduced me to him the day before yesterday evening, but as he wasn't at home, his wife, with whom we had a very Christian conversation for a while, invited us to lunch today. Among the many things that were discussed, I can't fail to mention the following.

At the last meeting of the missionary society, D. Volkmann said that he had read out the letter of thanks from Dresden for the half of the contribution from the women's society that had been started, to which some members quickly remarked: "Surely they don't expect us in Dresden to agree with the local society, do they?" To which Volkmann reassured them that the term 'brothers and sisters' appeared in Naumann's letters. I didn't see the connection between this and what he was saying. Volkmann himself suggested that people in Dresden, and especially you, had become more lenient. He wanted to draw this conclusion from page 28 of the annual letter, which mentions the girls of the society in Leipzig talking about the missionaries working among the heathens. In the first appeal, he said, people had expressed themselves much more strictly and harshly. From everything I've noticed, it seems to me that a connection between the Leipzigers and the Dresden society is still a long way off. Even here, we often hear talk of Stephanists and strict Lutherans, to our disgust. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to visit Professor Lindner, partly due to lack of time, partly due to neglecting the right moment. Please also tell this to Brother Teichelmann; and also this: If he hasn't already packed up my 'Confessions of Augustine', he should give them to Brother Cordes as a souvenir from me, as I received them as a gift from Mr. Tauchnitz.

I don't know what else to say after the short time of our separation; indeed, there's much to say about the time before the separation, but I think that talking too much about such unfortunate and solemn events would lose much of its meaning. The heart, which seemed to be cold at the farewell, also bleeds deeply, especially because of the tears you dedicated to it; but, truthfully, I can say that it's also pleased that the Lord's faithfulness has helped us this far. Please greet, besides your dear family, the close friends, especially the brothers Mr. Schulz, Mr. Suschke, etc. With the repetition of my heartfelt love and sincere respect for you, I remain your brother in Christ.

C.W. Schürmann

P.S. Since I can't hand in the letter until I receive news about whether we can obtain Luther's works here, and the post office closes at 7 o'clock, I feel obliged to throw it unstamped into the mailbox, which I'm sure you'll understand.

I happily received the books you sent me, half an hour before my departure from Leipzig.

To the Most Reverend
Mr. Pastor Wermelskirch
at Dresden,
Freiburger Straße No. 662.

I wasn't able to acquire the works of Luther.

I forgot to greet C. W. Schurmann on my behalf,
so I hereby add my warmest greetings to you, your esteemed family, and all the dear
brothers to the letter I've already sent.

G. Fd. Wermelsk.