

Item #9 of the Hildebrand Nachlass

Translated and Notes by Edwin Hoepfner on 2004 Oct 02

Glasgow, 30th Sep 1788

My dear and esteemed H[err] Bartsch!

Your valued letter of the 1st of last month came to my hands in Edinburgh the capitol of the Kingdom of Scotland in the very moment of my departure for Glasgow in order to view the numerous and important factories [note 1] here in connection to my future mission and also to make a journey to the remarkable Scottish Highlands and to visit the honest good Highland Scots who go without trousers in winter as well as summer. A good people! Actually the Scots are much more polite to a foreigner than the proud Englishmen with whom I have to squabble about every day because they are not well disposed to things Russian but are envious of us.

I love your zeal which you displayed in sending off the people to Riga. But I cannot find that already 140 Mennonite families and 356 persons of other religions should have arrived there in the lists which have been sent to me from Riga. My dear fellow, you know how to write very dutifully, but I also hope that you are as sincere in your heart also. In Russia, even at the Prince's [Note 2] they have attempted to bring you under suspicion, that you might not be as sincerely disposed as Hoepfner because you remain behind so long. I have always taken your side, defended you and maintained that you are at heart good and mean to be honest with Russia. I just do not comprehend why you have not, as you reported to me you had sent your family on ahead to Riga. I am quite astounded that you now write to me for the second time that you did not, unlike Hoepfner, receive your money, since Messrs. Barstow and Elliot reported to me already long ago that they advanced you 800 Rubel. If you want the generosity of the Crown to be useful to you then do make for Riga with your family soon and go further to Dubrovna.

H[errn] Sokolowsky has received over 27,000 Rubel in cash, with which he was well able to expedite all the people, now, according to His Serene Highness, the Prince's order, no more people shall be accepted until God gives us peace again. However, if more Mennonites want to go to Riga at their own expense, they should do so and will receive everything in accordance with the Privilegia. Just adherents of other religions must stay back until peace is re-established. As it is it is costing the Crown a shocking amount of money.

I am surprised not to find the Swedish-Pomeranian farmgirl in the Riga lists. I still want to believe that such will still be supported there. [If not] that would be too much! Although it is human nature to commit appropriate foolishness and weakness but these must not be of long duration for reasonable people. Take note of what I ask you! [Note 3]

I willingly believe that disreputable low donkeys in Danzig insult me in an asinine way and laugh at that. But the rascals are not doing right with that, for with God's help I will come back to Danzig another time in my life with more authority than before and who knows, if I don't then cause some difficulties for many a donkey.

I am also surprised that you don't report a single word to me about what impression the pastoral letters of the Amsterdam Mennonite clergy made on the minds, and the hope is that we, I as well, heartily wish that the course ones and the fine ones can be united.

I commend you to God's protection, send greetings to you and your valiant wife, also to venerable Herrn Peter Epp my dear valued friend heartily, and to all who remember me in love and friendship. I ask that you write to me soon in care of Messrs. Barstow and Elliott. I expect to be in London again in 4 weeks and remain very sincerely

Your Loyal

G. Trappe.

Note 1 – no notes are included.