

Vöcklabruck, May 3, 1887.



My dear friend,

Ere this I should already have addressed a few lines to you, but I wished first to study my new home and such circumstances as are connected with it. First of all, my health is neither better nor worse than in Vienna, upon the whole I am however pretty well. I am taking an hour's walk a day in our beautiful environs both in the forenoon and afternoon, the rest of my time is taken up with reading Latin, Greek, English or French, once or twice a week we spend the evening at a tavern with some of our acquaintances, by way of variation, though I am not exactly much edified by their small talk about topics either unknown or uninteresting to me. But one must make a virtue of necessity.

Six weeks' experience in our reduced house-keeping and doing away with some other things

not precisely indispensable to a man on half-pay, we have learned to get on with my income, though not without the help of those few hundreds derived from my savings. Lucky for me it is to be of an age, when the future is out of question, and when each new day of life is a gift of Fortune. I am content enough with living the life of an oyster within the shells of my books, and had I but sometimes a sight of your lovely face and a few hours' intellectual intercourse with you, I should not miss anything that I might reasonably regret.

I have already set about translating Sheridan's "The Rivals", and "The School for Scandal." As to the former, I have finished it, but am doubtful about having succeeded, it does not please me at all in German. Maybe that a good representation will set off the comic parts, but there is a peculiarly English humour, interspersed with ridicule, in the original, which cannot

be fully appreciated by a German auditory. Moreover I found the entire play too long for the patience of your public, and the dialogue not always lively enough for those who are fond of French vivacity and sparkling jeux d'esprit. Therefore I have tried to omit a good deal, and to shorten many dialogues. I thought it likewise proper either to mitigate or omit many harsh and blunt, here and there even rude, epithets. In short, I considered it advisable to produce a rather very free translation. I suppose that out of five there might be made only four acts. Anclaus's Uuinnaspal = Liblivofak has a translation by Knuff now Wolzoyan, which does not satisfy me either. In order to adapt this comedy to the exigencies of the Court Playhouse, you had best compare the before-mentioned translation and mine with the original and see what may suit you in either, ~~what~~ to add to mine and what to rescind from Wolzoyen's, finally what ought to be styled otherwise.

As to the School for Scandal; translated by

Schröder (Kochum's Uluin. Bibl.), I consider the  
said translation much better, but I shall nevertheless  
remodel it. Next month I hope to have finished  
the whole. The original text is to be had in the Tauchnitz  
edition. — My daughter Mina will come to pay us  
a visit a Whitsuntide, when I shall give her  
my translation of the Rivals to be forwarded to you,  
perhaps also the School for Scandal. — I have a  
mind to acquire some routine in such a drudgery,  
which may in time fetch me a few Kränzgen.  
You see, having been all my life pound foolish,  
I am now, rather late than never, penny wise.

Farewell, my love, God bless you and grant  
me to you again. Pray, give my duty to your  
dear lady, children, your mother and sister-in-law,  
my better half begs also to be kindly remembered  
to you, and with the assurance of my unvarying  
friendship I remain for ever and a day



Yours truly  
J. N. Hoezel