

it not been for several difficulties. In the first instance Mr. Bnesson the french Minister, and Mr. de Ribeaupierre have long lived on very bad terms, and ever since there has been very little intercourse between the french embassy, and the Russians that are living in this place, including me. Besides the Duke himself has been obliged by a very illjudged opposition to withdraw from the administration. — I really wish therefore that some other means may offer, of having the books conveyed to Paris.

But enough — too much perhaps of that. I dare not enquire about your own occupations, for fear whatever you could say about them would be thrown away on a profane being. India, it's literature and history, are things which I not only know very little about, but the study of which I have always been rather afraid of entering into at all, because I knew it to be very enticing, and almost immeasurably extensive.

I see by your letter that a widowed niece is living with you; this Lady I suppose to be Mme. de Buttar, to whom I had the honour of being introduced at your house. Should I be right in this guess of mine, I beg you will kindly remember me to her. — Mr. Lassen I used to know well at Heidelberg; I once had the misfortune of wounding him at the salle d'armes — though he was by far the better swordsman of the two — but I hope he has forgiven and forgot it.