

ja allen meinen Freunden entsagt, und schreibe keinem, also mögen Sie diese Zeilen für etwas halten! Ich grüße und umarme Sie.

Henriette

408. Minna (van Nuys-) Bertheau an August Wilhelm Schlegel

H[am]b[ur]g Jan 21 — [18]11 5

Wie eine himmlische Erscheinung aus einer bessern Welt begrüßt mich in diesem Augenblick der Edelste Freund — Sonderbar ist [wie] die lebendige Erinnerung sich begegnet ich hatte grade die herrliche Erscheinung der Fortsetzung des Shakespear erfahren und in demselben Mom[ent] sie von Perthes begehren lassen als mir grade die 10 Fortsetzung der unschätzbaren Vorlesung eingehändigt wird, die mich so schön der Erinnerung überzeuget die meinem Herzen Bedürfnis ist — *Yes my Friend be sure, the place you occupies there, never can be filled by any other object on this earth I got thousand reasons to be satisfied with my situation and yet I can absolutely not help regretting as many times 15 that liberty which permitted to live near you and — which I gave up. My friend Matt in Vienna desires me to meet her next Summer in Carlsbad. Lady Vieth at Merseburg (at present) wishes also to go there. If I was sure to meet my only S[chlegel] I should find a way to get there — but if there was more probability of meeting half way the delig[h]tsfull country where 20 I suppose you do be at present — the only S[witzerland] — I desire to see — I should find means to load there my steps. Let me know for gods sake with as much certainty as you can give — where you intend spend the next Summer it is long ago best S[chlegel] you flattered my hopes coming this way — the papers then did send you to America — the way I get now 25 convinced of your occupations — surely are worth many Letters but yet now and then a word of y[ou]r projects would make me more happy than I can — than I need tell. Last night in my dream I saw a serpent of the most beautiful colours surrounding me awaking, the first question was what can it be that offers the emblem of eternity — and when your name — yes let me 30 say — you self appeared so soon after — I felt — it was friendship — so as I allways thought it existed — and will exist for ever between us!*

*I yet was occupied with my friend in an other way exactly in those days having proposed to some acquaintances to read y[ou]r translation — they desired of me to begin with Juliet (of Romeo) on the 24 it is a Thursday — 35 every Thursday we 'ill read of you Dearest only beloved Soul will you think of it? Oh why cant you read Romeo? — who 'ill read here to inspire my mind? — perhaps you hardly can imagine that nothing here is able to gain my interest.*