

Steingäß grüßen schönstens, Sie erhalten einen Brief durch Herrn Mannskopf von ihnen. Groß und klein bittet Ihnen empfohlen zu werden. Ich empfehle mich Ihrem Herrn Vicarius Lembke freundlichst, und wenn Frau de Ron sich meiner erinnern sollte, so bitte ich Sie mich ihr zu empfehlen. Herzliche Grüße Freund Friedrich Schlosser, so wie 5 Ihnen meine Theure Sophie.

Dorothea Schlegel.

583. *Felix Theodor Bernhardi an August Wilhelm Schlegel*

Sir

It is a long time that I have not directly addressed you either by 10 word or writ; many years have passed over our heads since I last saw you, and considering the many important events, the total change in the political system of Europe that have taken place within that period, these years appear doubly long; history will reckon them an age. — However I have not lived all this time altogether without hearing of 15 you at least, if not from you, and though my name has perhaps never once been mentioned to you, friends who had seen you, have frequently told me, that neither the vigour of your health, nor the lively, spirited interest you are wont to take in every progress of art and science, have at all abated. — But now that my uncle has communicated to me the 20 very kind letter you had lately written him and wherein you mention my first literary essay with such indulgence, it would be worse than ingratitude in me, not to renew an intercourse which I ever found so advantageous as well as honourable to me.

Having once had occasion to speak of that esquisse of mine, I must 25 beg leave to tell you at once all I have to say on that score. It was certainly very flattering to me to see the work approved of by you; so much the more as I really stood in need of some consolation. I have been already violently attacked on account of that very book, and in such terms too, with such arms, as a gentleman would hardly think pro- 30 per to employ. Now I must expect that a great-many Criticks will treat my poor essay and it's unfortunate author in a merciless manner, and it is but natural that I should wish to be supported by those who are known both as competent judges and as men of honour. It would have been quite the contrary of discretion to request you publicly to 35 express your opinion of the work before I knew whether that opinion was really favourable — but now I really wish the interest you have ever been kind enough to take in my fate, may prove sufficiently powerful to counterbalance the claims which science has upon your time,