

Am. Oct. 10.

Manich 13. Mai 1848.

My beloved friend. I have before me Your two Letters from Febr. 20. and March 16, and I hasten to reply to them, but I must excuse, if I am not so circumstantial as I in other times would be. My good and excellent friend! I am quite broken and in a fit of despondency, because I see my dear fatherland in convulsions, from which I do not know how it may be extricated. The complexity of difficulties is so great, the want of good faith, understanding, courage and true patriotism is so, that the leaders of the two great parties - Monarchists and Republicans are in a warfare, which cannot be compared with any one experienced one in your country. I am afraid, that, nisi Deus per miraculum fecerit a long series of disasters shall come over Germany, and I feel depressed not alone by domestic and familiar afflictions but especially by this state of sickness, I see coming more and more over our commonwealth. It is not possible to me, to explain the matter, and I beg leave to refer You on the newspapers which in all ways may give you a pretty insight in our dangerous position.

That such a disposition of things may deeply affect and afflict science and scientific pursuit I want not to say. But after all, I have to communicate to You particulars, which will drive your hairs and move all fibres of your noble heart. Our Endlicher is not more. He died 28. March 7. p.m. in a fit of Apoplexy or some other sickness, which, as I presume was caused by his old sickness the polypus in the ear, and which deprived him midway of his senses. This would be a affecting news, but I have to add another more painful: Endlicher, this noble, generous friend of his friends and of every kind of literary undertaking died as a totally poor man, overwhelmed by a great debt, and training also others in his ruin. I hear that Fenzl also has lost a great deal of his fortune; but I can by no means understand how it was possible, that E. could find so many borrowers as he had absolutely no property, which could give security

The heritage from his father, which was a great one, consisting only in money and public papers. Therefore there is some mystery, which I now cannot scrutate. In any case I am convinced, that E. was without fault, except, that he did never calculate and that he gave to much confidence to foul friends and so came in the cruel hands of usurers. It seems, that such demonial men had thrown a net upon him, which he was unable to break. I cannot say to you, my noble friend, how much I have suffered! The shadow of this beloved man, whom his father dying had placed in my hands, saying: look here on Martin as your brother and best friend! — this dear shadow stands near me and I cannot suppress my tears! Nobody had any idea of his cruel situation, even his amiable most accomplished lady did know nothing about it; and all his numerous friends lament, that he choosed never to take any one in to his confidence! Alas, if we could anticipate such a secret, all would have united themselves in his aid. Now it is too late, — Endlicher is on a grave, on which exults desperate scorn and contumely!

I have spoken very openly to you, because I know how much you loved him, how much you esteemed his immense talent.

This poor widow with her mother is now here, where I and my family do all in our power for alleviating her cruel situation. As the matter has been beaten through the newspapers I wrote also to you, and I hope, that you, like myself, shall allways conserve a benevolent feeling for the unhappy man, who at least fell a sacrifice of the political destruction, because it is no doubt, that without the Vienna-Catastrophe he would have found means for covering the debts and then his robust constitution would have resisted to attacks of shame and desperation, which now have brought him to the grave. Sic illi terra levitas!

If you see Mr. Tuckermann, I beg you to present my compliments saying I shall soon write and thank to him for his new ferret planty.



Martius, Karl Friedrich Philipp von. 1848. "Martius, Karl F. P. von May 13, 1848." *Asa Gray correspondence. Senders McA-Ma*

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