Cassel, Aug. 18, 1842.

My dearest friend!

I have seldom sat down to write with a more heavy heart, nor had to discharge a more unwelcome duty, than now is come upon me. I should tell you what we feel about the destruction of our delightful plan to come again to the glorious Festival at Böblingen, but I am not able to expound in a foreign language the inward part of all I think and could say over this sad event. I need not detail to you the circumstances of it, how our prince did refuse one request after the other for Spohr's coming to England, all this you will have heard certainly by your own father. But knowing that you are sympathizing in our sorrow, I cannot help addressing you three or four words. Mr. Taylor, who writes very often to my husband, is greatly annoyed and disappointed by the conduct of our prince; he would scarcely believe that he should choose thus to insult the members of the royal family of England. His last letter drew tears of mine eyes; it contained a lively description of several rehearsals of Spohr's Orestes and spoke most warmly of the enthusiasm and ardent which the whole band and the singers had shown, and how deeply they complained Spohr's staying away from the Festival. And I can assure you, that I grieve more for my dear husband than for myself, he wished most ardently...
to have the first performance of the Fall of Babylon, and was hoping for this pleasure since at least three years. When he composed that music he had in view the means and arrangements of young English Festivals, with which he became acquainted at his last visit there, and he thinks to have adapted it as well as possible to them. He has finished this great work almost two years ago, and you can think it was a sacrifice not to publish it so long a time according his contract with the Norwich Committee, but willingly he consented to all, hoping to be rewarded by the pleasure of hearing there an accomplished and glorious performance. But alas! his hopes were unavailing; his dreams of a happy fortnight in England are gone! And it was not only his own interest, of which he promised himself so great pleasure, one, he knows no greater enjoyment than that hearing and admiring the immortal works of the ancient masters as Handel and others, which nowhere are performed in a more worthy manner than in England. Spohr has begged Sir J. Taylor, to present to you dear father the best regards and warmest thanks for his kind invitation, and to tell him, how very happy we would have been to enjoy a second time the honour of being guests in his charming and hospitable house, and how earnestly we seemed to be prevented of this privilege. Spohr, Waldsperg is not less afflicted than we; for she was earnestly reconciling to accompany us again in that delightful tour. She did spend some summer months in an agreeable country life, and is now somewhat better in health than formerly. She is now two weeks we returned home after a long absence, having spent almost two months at Calais, Dinard and other little places, where we fully enjoyed the pleasures of nature, art, and friendship.

It is the only time of the year—June and July—in which Spohr is allowed to set out without a special permission of the prince, and he never fails availing himself of this advantage. The journey and the long uncertainty respecting our going to England were the chief reasons of my long delaying the answer to your dear and charming letter. May excuse kindly my silence, and do not attribute it to a want of affection or friendship, but believe me sincere in the assurance that my feelings for you will never alter; if ever sometimes circumstances should give me the appearance of a bad and ungrateful correspondent. Alice, dear Mary, Alice! if we were here to meet in England, I will yet cherish the hope of welcoming you once in Germany in our own home. May repeat our sincerest thanks and compliments to your honoured father, and remember kindly during the delights of the sea.