



Hamburg August: 20. 1646

Have of my constant being

I never imagined (what I now find) that my defect in other
 Tongues could prove an advantage to me; for if your own expressions
 in a language less familiar to you so exceed the common stature
 of those who pretend to perfection, that I am apt to believe
 my self ^{as a good mathematician} for being able to take their just dimension; I am well
 assured my skill would never have reacht to the measuring of
 you more byant than in any other phrase. It is a great
 kindness in you thus to humble your self, were it but to raise
 my thoughts. It is a pleasure to the faultless to behold
 the lofty hawk making a faire stoop, & he finds it
 no abatement, if she mount againe, ~~and~~ that he wants
 wings to accompany her. That you are at all concern'd in
 my indisposition, is a favor, though not so great as to
 let me know so much. Whatsoever proceeds from me
 to youward I beseech you to looke upon as an effect of
 that forcible cause you will finde in your self, & you cannot
 set a greater value on it than by iudging it a pain.
 It will not be impertinent to let you know I am much
 recoverd by the help of the waters in the Bishoprick of
 Halberstat, the benefit whereof appears the more, because
 it hath releas't me from the pynne of so tedious an
 absence, & enabled me wth strength to undertake a
 journey into these parts, w^{ch} I shall the more readily
 do in hopes it may prove as suitable wth my respects
 to his Highnes as I am sure it will be agreeable to my
 desires of serving you. I daily put my self to the exercise
 of her hand, & throat, & its partly for my recreation, but
 chiefly that she may be able to justifie your desire ^{against} ~~of~~
 Monst. Dewart at her returne to y^e Hague, w^{ch} I shall also
 persuade her to, were it for no other reason, than that
 in this I shall comply wth your desires, & therein wth mine own
 satisfaction, chiefly depending on the assurance I professe you

I am most humble, & faithful
servant.

W. B.

Aug. 31.

[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is largely illegible due to fading and bleed-through.]

[Vertical handwritten notes on the right margin, including a large '9' and other illegible characters.]

Amsterdam 1700

1700

Handwritten notes in the center of the page, including the word "Amsterdam" and other illegible cursive text.

A. Mouton
Monsieur de Zuylen
A. l'Armée.