

Pascal to Fermat

Tuesday, October 27, 1654

SIR,

Your last letter satisfied me completely. I admire your method for determining the proper shares [of gamblers] so much the more in understanding it now; it is entirely yours, and has nothing in common with mine, and achieves the same goal easily. There you have our friendship re-established.¹

But, Sir, if I have agreed with you in this matter, search elsewhere for that which follows in your numerical inventions, which you have done me the honor of sending me the statements. For myself, I confess that they go over my head; I am only capable of admiring them, and ask you humbly to take your first opportunity to complete them. All the gentlemen here passed them around last Saturday and esteemed them with all their hearts: it is not easy to have to wait for such beautiful and desirable things. Therefore, please think about it, and be assured that I am, etc.

PASCAL.

Paris, October 27th, 1654

¹*notre intelligence rétablie*