into such mistakes I have been rather averse to giving short or premature accounts of my views.

Again I must have yours. For the present in haste

I am My dear Sir

Your obliged and faithful friend

M. FARADAY.

Schœnbein to Faraday.

MY DEAR SIR

Dr. Brabant whose agreeable and interesting acquaintance I made at Bâle is the kind bearer of these lines. Enclosed you will find a paper containing some hypothetical views on the peculiar condition of iron, which was first intended for the Phil. Magazine, but which I think, after having read it over again altogether unfit for publication on account of its being too much conjectural.[1] Nevertheless I take the liberty of sending the paper to you, hoping you will peruse it with kind indulgence.

You are, no doubt, now aware of the attacks[2] recently made by Mr. Fechner[3] upon your theory of the pile. I have abready tried to answer some of his objections in Poggendorff's Annalen[4] and have also written a paper for the Phil. Magazine[5] which is

[1] Conjectures on the cause of the peculiar condition of iron. Phil. Mag. S. 3. vol. 13. 1838. p. 256.

[2] Poggend. Annal. Bd. 42. 1837. p. 481; for a translation of this paper see Phil. Mag. S. 3. vol. 13. 1838. p. 205: Justification of the contact theory of galvanism, by G. T. Fechner.

[3] Gustav Theodor Fechner was professor of Physics at Leipzig from 1834—1839, subsequently also of Anthropology. He was born in 1801 at Gross-Särchen (Lusatia) and died in 1887 at Leipzig.

[4] Poggend. Annal. Bd. 44. 1838. p. 59: Einige Bemerkungen über Fechners Rechtfertigung der Kontakttheorie des Galvanismus.

[5] Phil. Mag. S. 3. vol. 13. 1838. p. 161: Discussion of Mr. Fechners views of the theory of galvanism, with reference, particularly, to a circuit including two electrolytes and the relations of inactive iron.

in the parcel addressed to Mr. Taylor.[1] I am confident, however, that you yourself will, before long, appreciate the facts which have been brought forward by Mr. F. and declared by him to be irreconcilable to the very first principles of the chemical theory of galvanism[2] and I must not conceal from you, that the scientific public in Switzerland and Germany are rather impatiently waiting for a refutation of Fechner's assertions on your part. Believe me to be

Yours
very truly

Bâle, June 14th 1838. C. F. SCHOENBEIN.

Faraday to Schœnbein.

Royal Institution 30. July 1838.

MY DEAR SIR

You know how I value your letters and may conclude that the last was very pleasant to me; though there is always a feeling of deep regret that the treasures which accompany your communications being in the German language are sealed up to me. I was out of town when your letter arrived and have not had the fortune to see Dr. Brabant but I hope he enjoyed himself in England.

[1] Richard Taylor, owner of a large printing firm, from which he retired in 1803, was born in 1781 at Norwich and died in 1858 in London. He was, nominally, one of the editors of the Phil. Mag.

[2] Through Fechners arguments Poggendorff actually deserted from the chemical theorists. This change of opinion he relates in three letters to Schœnbein dated respectively Jan. 19, April 14 and May 31. 1838. According to the first, after weighing the arguments brought forward by either party, he is almost an the point of being convinced; in the second he confesses himself to have become a follower of Volta's theory and in the last he points out that Schœnbeins arguments in favour of the chemical theory are unavailing. "Ich bin durch sie nicht bekehrt" he writes "und glaube schwerlich dass Fechner es wird".