Pray transmit leisurely the volume laid by to Mr. Grove, who I think now and then sees you in the Royal Institution.

In asking you the favor to present my best compliments to Mrs. Faraday I am

My dear Faraday

Your's

most truly

Bâle July 11. 1853. C. F. SCHOENBEIN.

Faraday to Schœnbein.

Royal Institution 25 July 1853

MY DEAR SCHOENBEIN

I believe it is a good while since I had your last letter i. e. the one previous to that I received by the hands of Mr. Drew. — But consider my age and weariness and the rapid manner in which I am becoming more and more inert — and forgive me. Even when I set about writing I am restrained by the consciousness that I have nothing worth communication. To be sure many letters are written having the same character; but then there is something in the manner which makes up the value: and which when I receive a letter from a kind friend, such as you, often raises it in my estimation far above what a mere reader would estimate it at. So you are going down the Danube, one point on which I once saw, and are about enjoying a holiday in the presence of pure nature. May it be a happy and a health giving one and may you return to your home loving it the better for the absence and finding there all the happiness which a man, sound both in mind and body, has a right to expect on this earth.

I have not been at work except in turning the tables upon table turners — nor should I have done that but that so many

enquiries poured in upon me that I thought it better to stop the inpouring flood by letting all know at once what my views and thoughts were.[1] What a weak, credulous, incredulous, unbelieving, superstitious, bold, frightened, what a ridiculous world ours is, as far as concerns the mind of man. How full of inconsistencies, contradictions and absurdities it is. I declare that taking the average of many minds that have recently come before me (and apart from that spirit which God has placed in each) and accepting for a moment that average as a standard, I should far prefer the obedience, affections and instinct of a dog before it. Do not whisper this however to others. There is One above who worketh in all things and who governs even in the midst of that misrule to which the tendencies and powers of man are so easily perverted.[2]

The Ozone question appears indeed to have been considerably illuminated by the researches in Bunsen's laboratory. — But why do you think it wonderful that Oxygen should assume an allotropic condition? We are only beginning to enter upon the understanding of the philosophy of molecules and I think, by what you say in former letters, that you are feeling it to be so. Oxygen is of all bodies to me the most wonderful, as it is to you. And truly, the views and expectations of the philosopher in relation to it would be as wild as those of any table turner etc. etc. etc. were it not that the philosopher has respect to the *laws* under which the wonderful things that he acknowledges come to pass, and to the never failing recurrence of the *effect* when the *cause* of it is present. — At the close of our Friday Evenings I gave a little account

[1] Faraday after opening the question, which had taken so strong a hold of the public mind, in a letter to the "Times", in June, so Bence Jones tells us, wrote a long letter to the Athenæum for Juli 2 1853, of which he was a little ashamed for "I think it ought not to have been required". He does not hope to convince all who refer this purely physical subject to electricity, or to some unrecognised physical force, or even to some supernatural agency.

[2] This passage is given in Thompsons Life and Work of Faraday. p. 252.

to our members of Fremy and Becquerels[1] expts. in producing Ozone by Electricity — and I confess myself glad that, whilst, at Heidelberg, they have shewn an HO^3, they have also proved the existence of a trace of $\overset{o}{O}$.

My dear Schœnbein, I really do not know what I have been writing above and I doubt whether I shall reread this scrawl, least I should be tempted to destroy it altogether. So it shall go as a letter carrying with it our kindest remembrances to Madam Schœnbein and the sincerest affection and esteem of

Yours Ever Truly

M. FARADAY.

Schœnbein to Faraday.

MY DEAR FARADAY

Some weeks ago I returned from the journey I have undertaken to Bavaria, Austria etc. during our mid-summer-holidays; and I can assure you that it was a very plesant one. The first stay I made at Munich, where I remained no less than ten days, finding that town highly pleasing and interesting both for the men and the things, I chanced to meet and see there. I think you would relish it as much as I did and if you should have any mind to cross the water once more, I strongly recommend you taking a trip to the Capital of Bavaria. The number of exquisite objects of painting, sculpture, architecture etc. accumulated there, is very great indeed and placed so closely together that you may see and enjoy them with perfect ease and comfort. Of course I met Liebig[2] at Munich,

[1] Frémy et Becquerel, Recherches électrochimiques sur les propriétés des corps électrisés, Paris Comptes rendus. T. 34. 1852. p. 399.

[2] Justus von Liebig Ph. D. M. D. started life as an apothecary's assistant. Later he became professor of chemistry at Giessen and at Munich (from 1852). He was born at Darmstadt in 1803 and died at Munich in 1873.