Stockholm, 11 December 1898
Arrhenius

My dear friend Bredig,

Today, I decided to arrange day of penance to give a sign of life to all my dear friends, whose letters I haven’t yet answered. I plan to start with acknowledging my arrears of correspondence.

It is quite odd, and not logically established in this life, that the more one works, the more unfinished work one has. In a way, it’s not worth working because other people constantly direct new work your way. At least that’s what happened to me. I was recently re-elected as rector, and during my rectorship all possible and impossible questions should be examined.

(Left margin)

P.S. What are the statutes of the Jablonowski Foundation, which awards large prizes? If you can obtain them for me, I would be very grateful. I collect everything that can serve as a model for the Nobel Institute. Finkelstein returned the day for yesterday. He is a good person and sends his regards.
Of course, the task of addressing these questions fell to me. My colleagues only must criticize things and ask me politely to do a better job. These critics then implement improvements and the whole situation is resolved, and then forgotten. Never in my life have I had so little time. I am never free. I have never been in a position where I am required to socialize so much. It never occurs to me to go for a walk. This past autumn, I don’t know how I would’ve found the time because I’ve never seen such filthy streets! Moreover, if I would have free time, I would only be bored. I admit that I play the piano sometimes, which is relaxing for me. However, I have long forgotten what it is like to read novels or literature.

I even notice that I sometimes miss out on scientific literature. It’s really challenging. I’m a representative of physics and must read about it. I’ve also dealt with cosmic physics, but my preference for physical chemistry always prevails. It will never be anything reasonable. Speaking of science, you asked if the paper mentioning the separation of ions from each other might make the deviation from Ostwald’s law plausible. I hope you have spoken with Dr. Euler by now. He knows my views on this deviation issue that has puzzled me for years. An ion in one of the liquids will not drift in either direction if equilibrium isn’t the case. Thus, if you remove the other electronically displaced ions, an experiment wouldn’t be completed as far as I can see. Lastly, the deviation is not dependent on the ion concentration. Compare phosphoric acid, which is minimally dissociated with dichloroacetic and trichloroacetic acid, but dissociated considerably when following the law of dilution. I am now dealing with semi-physiological questions, which many electrochemists (e.g. Nernst) do not like. However, it is not possible to be absolutely correct. In Leipzig, you have the Jablonowski Foundation that awards prizes. I would be very grateful if you could obtain the statutes for me. I use these for the Nobel Foundation, which is considering nominations. Hello to all dear friends at the institute.

Warm regards,
Svante