

Not get here until 11 at night, partly
I suppose leaving Dr. Gray as companion,
& partly changing cars so much which
made some variety in the motion -
But I was glad to be quiet Thursday -
It rained both Thursday & Friday, &
I thought I would wait to write
until after the Inauguration - That
came off yesterday, & I mean to write
mother a full account, which I will
ask her to hand to you - If I had not
been very lazy I should have written
today, but I did not feel very well this
morn. & this afternoon Dr. Gray & I went
over to the Hospital, which is just
opposite one of the entrance gates to the
~~Hospital~~ ^{Hospital} here, to see Annie Lowell -
She looks remarkably well, & so sweet,
cheerful & fitted to the place, that it is
a real satisfaction to see her - I hope to get
over there often -

Monday A.M.

Dr. Gray is off this morn., & I suppose will
be at home before this letter reaches you. He
stops this aft. in Philadelphia, goes on at
night to New York, spends tomorrow morn.
there, & part of the day in New Haven &
gets home Wednesday morn. -

I found a letter here from Charles, saying
that if I came to Fortess Monroe he would
meet me, if the wind did not move. I have
written to say I will come if he will fix
the day, & he has to meet me - I don't care
to take the 19 hours sail there & then back
again, with the inevitable sea sickness, for
nothing as I should call it, if I did not
meet him -

Thank Patrick very much for his
letter telling me Co. was 5 Brigades - That
Stoue told me he saw it in the paper, & so
did Mrs. Thurston, but I thought it must
be a mistake - Dr. Gray was quite shocked
that I heard it before he came on -

I was very much disappointed when
Annie told me Pat had been to see her Sat-
urday - It is only 3 minutes walk over here,

from the best. Do me - He looks almost exactly
as he used, & the same quick, short man. Quite
disappointed to hear Dr. Gray was going to Egypt for the
winter, instead of staying to work at Kew.

All the gentlemen seem very glad to see Dr.
Gray, & give him every facility - The Librarian has kindly
given him ^{to the garden, & cutting before public house,} a key, which is a wonderful favour & not
to be talked about as they are in great demand -
I must have a special order to go in to see a Bath
Chair -

I had a half-hope Sunday, some line or so might
come in the Java - It seems so long without news from
you all! At any rate we should have had a notice or
a newspaper, but nothing came - Only a post sheet
from Welch & Bigelow, Cambridge - He had a quiet
day - Dr. Gray went over to the little church, almost
opposite no, I laid quiet - After lunch I tried
a little walk up to look at our old lodgings from
the outside, & then into the gardens - Went into the
Tropical Ferns, & Temperate Ferns - The last especially
lovely - Such dainty forms of maiden-hair, & then
almost a triferns, & the great fronds as delicately
cut as our crickonias! - And the plants so well shaped
& fresh green - I sat & rested awhile on some of the
out-door seats, & looked at the colour beds in front of the
old Museum building - They are not to my taste, but
the back-ground of my two feet high & two feet broad, &
tracing a graceful figure in the grass is beautiful. So
the ivy covering the whole building wall, the windows
cut in it! -

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Sept. 23-69
Dr. Gray says address is - Charlton House, Kew -
near London

My dear Lee,

I begin my journal again
to tell a little more of our doings - Though
most of my doing, I think, has been to lie
stille on the sofa -

Friday the Hales did not get here until
late, so that we did not get into the gardens
until the opening hour, 10 o'clock - I had a Bath
Chair - A very comfortable & easy Chair, but
without a top, & a very chabby boy to draw it -
However I am wisely indifferent to appearances,
& take all advantage of being a foreigner -
We went down the main avenue, first to the large
house for some palms, but especially the most
monstrous & extraordinary forms of Jack-in-the-pulpit,
great massive ones that strangle the trees they
climb round, with huge leaves & grotesque shapes -
The most of the shapes in the house was of pro-
digious leaves - Then to the next big building on
our way - It used to be the old Antiquarian house
when we were here before, now a Museum of birds.
Superst indeed were some of the specimens, for they
had reached the advantage of the great conditions
& specimens sent in production of some of them have
at last been sent to Kew when the show was over -

Darwin would have been amused by specimens
of how the works of animals are carried, & the
wooden toy - It says is turned, the outline of which
when cut in sections are a sheep, elephant, horse, &c.
& then finished by hand.  I imagine the smooth
the inside the circle, then the grooving the upper
sides; do you see, by sawing like the middle you want,
you get the rough outline of an elephant? —

After this house comes the broad walk leading
down to the great Palm House - Each side here the
patches of combined colours, such a favorite way of
decorating now - Circles, diamonds, an oblong with trans-
verse bands, of coles & white leaved plants, geraniums
scarlet, pink, a purple violet, & yellow calceolarias, &c.
&c. - I confess I was disappointed in the effect - Too
flaring & forced in contrast - Either the English want
of an eye for colour comes in, or else the contrasts
must always lack in harmony - But sometimes I
will get there I can look from above down, perhaps
the effect will be better - But the palm house is
superb! The great palms & tree ferns a lovely
vista, & all growing so freely & luxuriantly - I could
not but think how Charles would enjoy it - He must come
in time to make a stay here & study effects -

From the Palm House we went to the Victoria House.
I saw some buds ready to open next day, & great leaves - *Ros-
purnus nelumbinus*, &c. - Then I was dropped back to
our lodgings, & Dr. Gray & the girls were enticed off & did
not get back for some time - He had a lunch of cold

^{of beer!}
meat & baked potatoes, which served for our dinner,
& then they must have been the large Museum of
replable productions -

My head still troubled me so much, I thought
as my digestion seemed affected, I would try taking
medicine on Saturday & see if it relieved it - I
can't say it did any good, & since then I have
been taking tonics - But still part of the day it
troubles me very much - It irritates so, I feel dazed
& stupid - Am not sure I can speak right, or
know I make mistakes in words - Part of the
day I am free, & then feel such a relief! -
The evening it is almost always better, but then we
have only two candles, & Dr. Gray & I are not so young
as 10 years ago, & find two candles the most miserable
light & do anything by! - As soon as I feel bright
enough, I mean to go up to Richmond, & see if I can
find something in shape of a lamp - The fact,
Dr. Hooker says, is or was that it injures books &
furniture, & they introduce it but little into
houses -

Saturday morn of the 17th Mrs. Charlotte & Maria
came over to see me - Charlotte is very little changed
in these many years - They were very kind & kind.
Ann, the eldest, whom I know best, is away, but
I have had a note from her at Norwich -
Mrs. Glover came too - Prof. Glover is lecturer of
the Serapian, & lectures at one of the London
Colleges - Mr. Bentham came over in the morning.

Then we went to the Sanitary Home for
discharged soldiers or those returning to their
regiments, looking very nice & comfortable.
Then to the Sanitary store-rooms, brick building
with no great supply on hand now - that
more crutches than I expected to see in one
day. In a back shed a young woman busy
pressing apples, stuffing dried cherries, & cooking
over jelly & preserves fermented, & pickles,
pickles. Then I called on Miss Carter, a
nice, pretty, pleasant, dark-eyed girl. She
trunk did not reach her until Saturday
Aft. - Left a card on Miss Day & so barely home
in time for dinner - I worked in the P. M. on
some material I had brought when out for
a white refugee, whom Mrs. Henry reported
in the most destitute conditions - Her husband
working in the Gov. stable, but not getting paid,
& ration only half they should be; cheating
doctors & commissaries -

Tuesday, Mrs. Chase had had an invitation
from a Mrs. Potter, wife of Major Potter, paymaster,
to take a drive around the forts, & she Henry
wanted me to go instead of one of the girls -
I could not refuse the chance, though I was

sorry afterwards, as I think I was an interloper.
We started soon after 9, in a four horse am-
bulance, (like a country stage-wagon) & took
the ferry boat for Alexandria - Drove through Alex-
looky more gloriously & alive than I expected,
came at length to a stockade, a high fence of
high rough posts, driven in closely side by side, &
blitz cut for musketry - I should think there
was more than a mile of it, round present
stores, I believe - Then passed pleasant, white-
washed buildings, green turf & banks around, high
picket fence, "The Soldier's rest," taking the place
of the old Convalescent Camp - Then more green
country & came to a block house - A house of
posts, only the roof out of ground, & great troops
peeped out - The country beyond grew more
desolate, forts crowned the high hills, & all
around them the woods had been felled, &
stumps only left - We rode close under some
forts, & the abatis ~~+~~ fished for midgots - Small
trees, only the strong, tough branches left, lying
close side by side, making a rough looking hedge.
A scramble over - After some long drive & retracing
our steps, we came to Fairfax Seminary, an old

for I should like to have seen him again - Then
 Mrs. Davis, who lives next the garden gate - Dr.
 Hooker's house is close by, but Mrs. H. Heard, had just
 returned from London - Crossing the fence again, & passing the
 corner of the churchyard, we came on a white stone
 & Dr. Gray touched me to stop - It was Sarah Cook, died
 in June 47, aged 88 - her good, kind, old landlady! -

The Rivers is one of the old houses round the green, or
 to quaint & queer inside: built much as a child's addition
 to a building with blocks, apparently just where the
 fancy dictates, or one thinks they want a room - So it
 is hard to tell where a room faces, or arrange it sym-
 metrically in one's head - But it looks very pleasant
 & quite modernized inside -

I sauntered through ^{and to the} the gardens, letting myself
 out on the Richmond road back to our lodgings, for
 I am trying to walk a little, & sit in the air & sun -
 There are seats through the gardens, & I intend going
 this morn'g. but some time -

Dr. Gray dined at Dr. Hooker's yesterday, & goes to Lon-
 don again today on sundry errands, & to dine at the
 British Museum with Mr. J. C. Gray -

My head is feeling better - The dizziness wearing off -

Yesterday came a Semi-weekly of the 9th. Sept. And
 pleasant anything American looked -

Friday - I took Mrs. Hooker's Camp - Stool & sat an hour in
 the sun yesterday - Dr. Gray had a very nice visit & found
 & saw many nice people at Mrs. Gray's -
 Over so much more to pen all from your aff. pen.

Monday morn'g. Came Mrs. Dabney & see me &
 pass a good long morn'g. - Oh, how pleasant it was
 to see a face from home, & wasn't we glad to
 see each other, & exchange opinions & tell ex-
 periences - She is so amused at English Con-
 ventionalities, for she is in the midst of them -
 And we both are so struck with the English
 dresses - I gaze in wonder & awe at the costumes
 that people walk in - such shapes, such colours,
 such combinations! And would you believe, al-
 most everyone wears long trailing dresses, & then
 they hold them up & obligingly - A good many
 without hoops, & much more violent caricatures
 do not surpass the reality - Such heads, chignons
 bigger than the heads! And such wonderful con-
 trivances for bonnets - They have followed the fashion
 in the eye, but so queer & grotesque many of
 them, & so ill suited to face & climate - It seems
 as if the liberty of style now, & the tendency to pro-
 teague in fashion, had set the Englishwomen
 wild, & developed all their oddity & lack of eye
 for colour & horrible want of taste - I have only
 seen 4 short dresses, (except Americans) & 2 more
 without hoops, most heavily trimmed, & dark,
 heavy material, waist tight fitting, & as plain as they
 could be got! They were English - I saw
 on Sunday in the gardens one going through first in a
 dress they wear much such as we wear, & Mrs. Thompson

son, who is in mourning, had on a short dress, & is pretty & has some air - She & Dr. Thompson called on Monday - Dr. Gray went up to London to change or have altered some shoes he got there. Saturday, for poor man! they have blistered his heel - He came back soon after Mrs. Watney & I had lunch - And soon after came Dr. & Mrs. Hooker, just back from Scotland, & with them dear Mrs. Bentham - She is sweet & lovely as ever, grown older if come; I long for the chance to sit down & have a good talk with her - Dr. Hooker is changed a good deal, I do not know whether I should have known him again - Thin, great whiskers & eyebrows, sitting must be somewhat gray, for the colour of hair & whiskers looks lighter than formerly - Some features new & a smattering of manner, his smile made me think of dear Sir William, but the same lively, quick, eager ray as ever - Mrs. Hooker is stouter, - a prettier, more delicate complexion than Miss Benson; but she does not look young, as they say old Englishwomen do at 40 - She must, I think, be that now - They are very kind in offering us anything we wish, - And to do anything for us -

Dr. Gray went over there to pass the day, & goes to dine today - I don't feel up to going out to dinner yet, & have declined the party at the British Museum tomorrow - Dr. Gray is going -

I got a letter from Mother on Thursday from York, asking me to write to Glasgow - But she did not

tell me her plans -

Tuesday I went again to the garden in a Bath Chair - Went as far as the Temperate House, which is in what were the Pleasure grounds, when we were here before, now all gone - A very large structure, with Aurucarias planted in the earth, a great bank of Rhododendrons in one place, passion-flowers wreathed round the pillars, & vines creeping up long columns that support the roof - Your winter garden in existence, Charles - Then I came back down a path we used to frequent in old times, & saw sundry Elm oaks I remembered - Oaks with leaves more like willows - Stopped a little while at the new museum, & saw Cases with specimens of cork in all stages, beech wood, maple, ash, &c. &c. Hemp & lace bark, &c. &c. - Dr. Gray escorted me, which I thought all the more good of him when I saw his poor heel at night - Then before he came back to dinner he had a long walk with Dr. Bates. Sept. 24th - Wednesday, as you see, I had a good hot bedtime about 10 o'clock - Just as Dr. Gray came for lunch, came Mrs. Garrison's mother & sister - They had to get news of her & to hear about the baby - They carried off the large bundle she sent them - After lunch we went to call on Mrs. Thompson, who lives just across the green, in sight from our window. They had just come to London - I had only

to be that I was spared the grief of those poor
soldier's families - Their loved ones safe thru
the perils of war, to be killed by a W.P. accident
on their way home!

I wrote to mother that mornf. to keep me
quiet - And afterwards went over to see Anna
Lowell & found her out - Came back; in
the Ev. we read Hannah Thordstrom -

Yesterday mornf. after writing more letters,
went by appointment to meet Miss Carter at
the Contraband Hospital - Went alone by car
& got on nicely - A sad sight on the whole, &
so much misery & suffering - Not so neat as
soldier's hospital, but that I suppose is impos-
sible - Well-aired & ventilated, matron & nar-
row colored people -

In the Ev. to dine at Cousin Edward's
Tos. Anthony & Commodore Dupont there -
Pleasant & agreeable - Many hard things said
of Andy Johnson, who has disappeared, I
could not join in the laugh - I feel too dispirited
& too badly for him -

This mornf. with your dear letters, one
from Charles - I have written today to say
I will go down to Fortnes Monroe tomorrow,
to study with Mrs. Chase who goes with the Pitters

only away 2 months of that time - The only
lady, I believe woman, about the Hospital.
She said she had her room down at the
Parsonage with the Chaplain's wife, & "that you
knew", spoken so cheerfully, "made it so much
pleasanter for me." Dear, blessed, little creature -
I claimed acquaintance with her sisters, & we
had some pleasant words -

Then we drove a long way, through rough
land, no fences, sometimes young trees & sprouts where
former growth had been cut down, sometimes
bare for long way round, desolate look on the
whole, fine mostly. The high hills, I scarcely
ever lost sight of one - I had no idea they
were so far off from Washington - The cars rattle
side by side after Pope's Bull was fight -
We eat our lunch, & came at last to the Con-
traband Camp - I scarcely need now, but such
acres & acres of long white barracks, rows & rows
of streets, it will accommodate 5,000 men -
Then through rough roads & dirt mud, almost
with one foot, we came to the Freedmen's village.
Only drove by, seeing wh. cottages pleasantly placed,
with trees about - Miss Carter says however, it has
not been well managed, & the blacks are un-
willing to go there -

I have written to mother & Martha & I shall not write again until I come back - I shall all drive out Monday & Tuesday



Gray, Jane Loring. 1865. "Gray, Jane Mar. 10, 1865 [to A. Gray]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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