

For Mrs. T.

Journal Continued Liverpool, December 1, 1838 (Evening)

This short English day has been occupied in good part in getting my luggage ^{from the ship} through the Custom-House. I sailed out a little past 9. in the morning, went first of all to a tailor and ordered a coat (which is to be finished and delivered this evening) then despatched my letters for home by the United States, found our own ship just going into dock (what docks they are! but as we have always plenty of water we do not so much need them in New York), arranged my baggage, and then proceeded all hands to the custom house (a large new building, rather imposing in appearance) where I was detained until past 3 o'clock. I had 15. w^{of} books to pay duty upon (15 shillings) and nothing to complain of as to the manner of the examination. [Let me remind you by the way, that I have made a parcel of the books I took with me to read on the voyage and placed in the hands of our fidels Achates the mate, with written directions to send up to 30 McDougal St. by one of the hands, to whom in case it safely reaches you, I beg you will pay the sum of 50 cents, upon the account of your obedient servant.]. Thence taking a carriage, as it rained awfully, I went to the Bank of Liverpool and presented my bills of Exchange for acceptance, and converted 200 of my bag of Sovereigns into a bill on London - payable 21 days from date, thence to the Tailors to try my unfinished garment, and then back to the Adelphi for dinner and to bid adieu to some of my fellow-passengers who were to leave. After dinner, visited the Market, which on Saturday evening is full & busy. It is about twice the size of all the New York Markets put together, and a sight well worth seeing. I examined every thing scrutinizingly, but will not trouble you with my observations. Then I went to Woolfields (now Promoli); a most extensive & magnificent display of fine things, many of which I coveted; but the prices are very magnificent. One of the clerks took the trouble to show me over the whole establishment, with polite attention. [I looked & enquired for a Card Case, like yours, but none was to be found. I saw many beautiful ones of silver, ivory & pearl; but of high price. I took the trouble to ascertain where every thing that interested me was made; and find that I may be able to

meet with most of them at the Manufacture's. I saw some beautiful models of ^{the most admired} pieces of statuary (small size), which I found very agreeable at ~~the place~~, where if I should reach the place, I may be able to secure a few at a moderate rate. I shall get away from Liverpool as soon as I can, probably on Monday, and try to go to Chester on Monday afternoon (at ~~last~~ Tuesday) and returning, set out for Glasgow.

Sunday Evening, Dec. 2. Went this morning to the Chapel of the School for the Blind. The Chanting and singing was very fine, and the sights are interesting to me. But to me the solemnity of the Church service is by no means increased by being Chanted: - heard a tolerable sermon. In the evening heard Dr. Raffles. His Chapel is a gloomy structure externally, but very neat and comfortable within. Dr. R. preached the first of a series of discourses "On the most remarkable events in the early history of the Israelites, commencing with the bondage in Egypt, which was the subject this evening; - a very good sermon, delivered in an impressive (but, rather pompous) manner. I am very anxious to get to Glasgow. I have been living in society for the last 3 weeks, by no means to my taste, and most of them are still here. It is not very pleasant to spend of Sabbath alone at a hotel; but I suppose I must need become accustomed to it.

I was not fully aware, until yesterday, how much cause we had for thankfulness at our safe arrival. The gales which we encountered off the Irish Coast, have ~~produced~~ caused a great number of shipwrecks, and it is feared that many lives are lost. The England escaped most narrowly.

Feathers Inn Chester, Monday Evening. I have, my dear friend, the singular pleasure of writing for and addressing to you another leaf of my journal from a city which was founded, according to the Dictionary, which lies before me in the year 917 B.C., at which time Sennacherib and Abah governed Israel and Judah: - "the only walled and fortified city in England of which the walls are yet in a state of preservation." The city was rebuilt by Julius Caesar, and was an important Roman station; and there yet remain many vestiges of Roman occupancy; a hy-pocaust is still to be seen under the hotel in which I am now staying. - so it

is said, for I have not yet seen it; having arrived here after

dark. But I expect to be very much interested in this queer old town, for which I owe thanks to Dr. T. since it was his recommendation that induced me to come here. I have scamped about the streets this evening, bought some lithographic views, studied the Directory, and am prepared for a busy day between Chester and Eaton Hall, should I live till tomorrow. But it is time I should tell you briefly how I got here. This morning soon after breakfast I walked out to the Botanic Garden, & delivered a note of introduction to Stephen who received me rather politely, enquired after Dr. L. & showed me through the Green houses. The establishment is just where it was when Dr. L. was here, but was removed further out of town, two or three years ago. The garden occupies 11 acres; the site is well chosen; but being newly planted there is scarce little to see. The hot houses are very well, but not extensive; the collections not particularly interesting, except for some old plants that have belonged to the establishment many years. Returning I looked about at the Leas of Liverpool for an hour or two, & stopped a little (that is looked at this & that but without buying any thing, packed up my luggage and put in under the care of the porter at the Hotel, wrapped a shirt and collar in a piece of paper, took my cloak and umbrella (necessaries articles these) and at 3 P.M. crossed the Mersey in a small uncomfortable black steam boat, about as much inferior to our Hoboken or Brooklyn ferry boats as a Barnegat wood schooner is to a Packet-ship; and at Birkenhead took an outside seat for Chester (16 miles) though it rained or too and blew hard and cold. - had a good view of the country until about 5 miles from Chester when it grew dark & saw little villages, farm houses & cottages, cows &c. all of which is much more interesting to me than the smoky town of Liverpool. I have seen several better things than are new to me. Let us see what I can recollect at the moment. Bridges of Holly - those I am pleased with, particularly when ~~observed~~ & clipped. The prettiest scene is a stone wall overtopped with a close hedge of holly & ivy in profusion, covering great walls, trees &c. - we have nothing to compare with it. - a flock of rooks - very like crows, but larger. - an English Hogs-coach, made of that ~~material~~ - a coach and four with postillions - fine. But I must stop here. My intention is to return to Liverpool early Wednesday morning,

execute a few commissions for you (which I have already been looking after) in case I feel warranted; but they will be few; for the prices of every thing at retail are exorbitant in my opinion, and start in Steamer for Glasgow at 10 o'clock P.M. On my way thither I will write as much as I can, which you will get in due time. The St. Andrew, which sailed from New York on the 16th of Nov. arrived at Liverpool yesterday: 15 days! I have seen the papers of the 14th & 15th - no others. I trust the ship has brought letters for me, sent on to Glasgow. Adieu. Your affectionate & faithful A.G.

Dr John Torrey
30. MacDougal St
New York

P.S. Liverpool again, Tuesday evening. I have accomplished a good day's work to-day. Rose early, made the circuit of the city of Chester on the walls before breakfast, explored all about the town; visited the Cathedral, walked to Ston Hall, 4 miles and back again; and then finding there was no coach in the morning until 9 o'clock took an evening coach and returned here 10 o'clock P.M. much gratified but a little fatigued: so good night. A.G.

Mem. You should have received letters from me (2 sheets) by the ship United States.



Gray, Asa. 1838. "Gray, Asa Dec. 1, 1838 [to Torrey]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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