

To Mr. Moses Gray. - On my return to this city lately after an absence of two weeks, I found this letter from you. You will see that the greater part of it was addressed to a friend of his in London - with a request that he would hand it to me. As this is the latest news I have received from the Doctor I supposed you would be glad to read it. Please return it to me when you have a good private opportunity.

Zurich, 22nd June, Evening. 3P

Yours - J. Torrey.
New York, Aug. 17th 1839

Dear P.

I arrived here some two hours ago, have looked about the town a little, got settled at the new and most comfortable Hotel Bauer, and have set down to write a rapid epistle, which I shall address to you in due form. But let me tell you frankly that I write this more particularly for the sake of my friends at home, who have not heard from me for a long time. I find that the long-expected British Queen is to sail from Portsmouth on the 1st prox. and I trust if I finish this in time for the post-office this evening that you will receive it before that vessel sails, in which case I beg you to direct it anew to Dr. J. Torrey, 30 MacDougal St. and send by that occasion.

I have heard nothing from you since I left Paris, tho' I dare say I shall find letters at Geneva. I left Florence in such haste that I did not enquire there, so I may have missed some. I trust you received my draft in your favor for £150, which I sent in a letter from Paris on the 15th April. I wish to send my journals home to my friends, but that is impossible and will be so for some time. So I must give a very brief account of my movements from the time I left Marseilles for I trust my letters and parcels sent from that port by the ship ~~the~~ *Orozimbo* have reached New York by this time. To you I may merely say that my route was from Paris to Lyons, stayed one day. - thence to Arignon, Vaudouze the next day and on to Nîmes in the night, - saw the fine old Roman Antiquities and on to Montpellier, stayed 4 days, on being Sunday, then thro' Nîmes again to Marseilles, where I stayed one day.

A steam-boat for Italy, had a fine view of Toulon, Nîmes, the Maritime Alps, and the little towns stuck down here and there between their base and the water, arrived off Genoa on the morning of the second day, and enjoyed the fine view, stayed there the afternoon and all the next day (Sunday), sailed in the evening, next morning at Leghorn, took a cab. immediately and rode to Pisa, ascended the Campanile, saw the Duomo, the Baptistery, the University and all the rest, and was back early in the afternoon to Leghorn, - arrived next morning at Civita Vecchia, and the next at Rome, - a week of thrilling interests, returned to Civita Vecchia, despatched letters and parcels by the ship *Sarah & Asilia* (8th May) to sail for New York in 10 days. rode all night, and entered Florence the next morning, here I spent a very short time, but ^{saw} ~~pass~~ all the objects of interest, and visited Prof. Arici & the observatory into the bargain. Hired a chaise, left Florence at sunset, reached the summit

The Appian by sunrise, before sunset (stopped on the way for a storm), and afterwards the next morning when it was all day. The next day I was at Padua in good season, and the church of St. Mark's, the Bot. Garden, Vicenza, took Bologna early the next morning for Venice, which I reached by 10 o'clock, and spent 3 days in this place, full then the strongest, the may go this with your expectations excited as much as possible and all will be more than realized. It is like nothing else on earth, and indeed it is not on earth. But when I see you I will tell you all about it, and that (Der Volat) will be before a very long time. A voyage of a night to Trieste, whence about the 10th of May I dispatched letters and parcels (road plants, prints &c &c) to New York, by the Prin Edward. This is the last opportunity I have had of seeing home. I was retained at Trieste longer than I cared for, but improved the time by ~~visiting~~ visiting Adelsberg (on the road to Vienna) and exploring the most extensive and wonderful grotto in the world at the base of a pile that the peasants had in it, when it is all lighted up and makes a most magnificent appearance. We crossed the subterranean river which flows through a hall higher than Westminster Abbey and much more grand, went on to another hall about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile from the entrance, the Ball-room, where a large party of the society people were dancing waltzes in the bowels of the earth! I went on through a series of halls and passages, supported by stalactical columns and hung with drapery of stone, in all the strangest forms conceivable, to the termination, or at least as far as has yet been explored, nearly 3 miles it is said from the entrance. I think the distance is over-rated, but it is an immense affair, and altogether unique, no other grotto that I know of is to be mentioned in the same way with it.

Thence to Vienna by way of Trieste, a long ride through Styria, a great variety of scenery, beautiful or picturesque, the no where grand. On the morning of the 24th May, at daylight, we came in sight of Vienna, which seen from a distance is the most beautiful sight you can imagine. Within it appears very magnificent at first, but you exhaust it in a few days. A week at Vienna is quite enough for an industrious traveller, who has no special object to occupy his attention. I staid about 13 days, but much of my time was taken up with scientific matters. I was musing about the shops for botanical books, and had our own flora opened me. I found that several copies had been disposed of here, that Endlicher's influence, which I suppose must have passed through your hands, I visited all the Cabinet here, which are very rich, the Library, Botanical Garden and de Jacquin (both in their storage), Schoenbrunn, and the Barber and not houses (Schott), ~~Baron~~ Baron Sigol, and the immense collection of living plants he has bought

from Australia - worked with Endlicher much, arranged correspondence. 14. 4. - Came up the Danube to Linz (2 days), went on the third to Brunnau, on the Brunnauer or Trauersee, the first scenery in the world. I never expect to see any thing more picturesque - crossed the lake the next morning to Ebensee, went on to Ischl in the heart of the Salz-kammer-gart, and after dinner climbed a mountain (the Dietrich) of 5000 feet, and had a superb view of lakes (5 at once), mountains, glaciers, and ice pinacles, sat on the snow banks and collected alpine plants in full flower, came down faster than I went up, sliding on the snow for part of the way. Found the next morning that I could scarcely move my legs, but as it was Sunday there was not much occasion to fret. Monday at Salzburg exceedingly picturesque; journeyed to Munich the next day, which I reached late eleven in the night, on route a magnificent view of the Salzberg and at length the Tyrolean Alps. Arrived at Munich on the evening of the 11th June. - Left on the morning of the 20th. - Saw all that is interesting here, and that is very much, but spent most of my time with Martens, who this his hands are more than full of business make me very welcome. He has a very pleasant family, and I grew quite attached to Madame Martens and the little girls. I joined also in the celebration of the birth-day of Linz, name, - a botanical excursion up the Isar about six miles, Martens, Succarini (whom I like much) and the students. We had a most dinner in true German style, several other professors and their wives and children having joined the party. I wish I had room and time to give you the particulars which was very amusing. My original plan was to go from Munich to Innsbruck and thence through the first part of Tyrol and Upper Lombardy to Switzerland, but I want the time for other matters, so I came from Munich to Lindau on the Lake of Constance (24 hours) where I took the steamboat yesterday afternoon for Konstanz, looked about the town, saw the building in which the famous Council was held, and the Convent where John Huss and Jerome of Prague were confined previous to their martyrdom, and came on to Bay to Reuzick. I shall write you presently about some books I wrote over from Paris &c. but I will wait until I reach Geneva. I am quite well and hearty, and am growing quite fat. If you write me quite soon on the receipt of this, your letters will reach me at Geneva. The next post should be Frankfurt, and the next Leipzig, I have rearranged my route a little. As to arrival time, Monday in September I hope to drop in upon you in the Row. Adieu, Yours very truly, A. Gray

Dear Doctor, I take the only method left me of communicating with you by the British Queen, as I know you will expect to hear from me by that vessel. You will see by this where I have been and where I am, from which you may well imagine what I have been about. I will send my detailed journals as soon as I can. Cuddeh is to send most interesting things to Hamburg for me. I have arranged excellent correspondence and exchanges with Martins and Ruccarini, - the latter has offered me the Alma of Lapsan, excellent and rather costly, which will be of use to us. Some time ago ~~there~~ two sent a parcel to us by a private hand, which you will have received I trust. They are very anxious for N. Amer. things, in which they are poorly supplied. I am yet uncertain if DeCandolle be returned to Geneva, but hope he will be there by the time I arrive.

Write me by the return of this and the other steam-ships, to Mr. Putnam's care who will know how to forward all that arrive in time. I have heard nothing from you since I left Paris, indeed since my first arrival there. You may imagine how anxiously I am looking for them. I hope

Please show this letter to
Mr. Davis of Legation

James Gray

23 JUN 1833

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Mr. Moses Gray

Sauguot

Onida Co. New York

A.B.B.

Will Dr. Probridge please forward this
to Dr. J. J. of New York

Mc Gray

for account of science, I get only now and then some gleamings of news from home in the French newspapers. Kind regards to Mrs. J. and all the little ones. Tell them I am on my way home. I have been in Switzerland about 24 hours, in a lone country, with some great views of the Alps. The evening walk will be better to the mountains, and I expect great things. But you will see I have little time. Adieu. Your affectionate, Alphonse



Gray, Asa. 1839. "Gray, Asa June 22, 1839 [to Torrey]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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