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Liverpool - June 30th. 1850 - Sunday -
Adelphi Hotel

Dear Sue, Only think what a disappointment! To meet the Steamer going down just as we were within $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile of our dock in Liverpool harbour, & so too late to send our letters - However I concluded to let the first go as it was finished, & begin the next sheet of the diary to you - And so, methodically, I must continue the account of that delightful Monday afternoon, & of our first interview with "furnicers" - I would only premise with a remark on the comfort of writing on a steady table, with a comfortable chair capable of being moved to a convenient distance closer or farther; & without being obliged to put your arm over a rim two inches wide round the table! - Those Irishmen were strange specimens! - When the Captain wanted to get rid of the second boat load one of the men started for the fore-castle & steerage. The Captain shouted after him, but there was no stopping him, he dived down & presently appeared with a bowl of sugar one of the steerage passengers had given him, ^{the captain ordered him into his boat} but how could he carry the sugar, for he must slide down a rope, & of course must have both hands? He took off his ragged, dirty tarpaulin, emptied the sugar in, doubled up the run & took it between his teeth, & slid down! - He was a miserable looking creature, more animal than human in appearance. The boys in that boat were queer looking things, they were made of bag-skins filled with air, they looked like some of those misshapen animals babies cut their teeth on, only of huge size - Another boat came afterwards with some potatoes & eggs, they were also liberally recompensed with bread, & tea, coffee, sugar, &c. &c. & a good piece of beef - Still they hung round pepping, such inveterate peppers as they are were, there was no satisfying them! They wanted something to drink the ship's health in, & as it was refused, as a specimen of gratitude, no sooner were they loosed from us, than they began to abuse us, & say if they could not make better trades than that they should starve! - But the tall fellow who stood up & shouted after us, grinned & showed his teeth as if he could not help laughing at his own words - That afternoon was lovely! almost a perfect calm, the sea so still & smooth, the air soft & warm, & the picturesque shore! - The next morning I got up early & went on deck - But unfortunately after the calm the wind had come directly against us, & we had by tacking only just come up a little to the East of Cape Clear; it lay behind us, the sea was fresh & blue, & quite a school of little whales were snorting & blowing & swimming on one side - But the wind freshened, & being so directly against us made a raw & uncomfortable motion. Then we had rougher weather &c. instead of making me sea-sick, it seemed to stop all digestion & give me horrid dyspepsia - That day & the next I kept pretty much in my berth, living on very light diet & only peeping occasionally up on deck. I had not even energy to go & see one of the few bright sunsets we have had - We have had a great deal of dull weather, clouds & mist - Very few sunsets, & have lost all the moon-light - Monday Ev. I ~~stayed~~ ^{stayed} in the middle of the night & saw ~~the moon~~ ^{the moon} streaming beautifully through my

little port-jelly (!) — John I mean that as far as looks deep reading aloud! — And that is the only moon-light I believe there has been — But partly I suppose it is the very long bump-light — Thursday was much calmer & we triumphantly finished the first volume of *Proconculus* & began the second — My teaching we had gone about 35 miles a day on our course, & Sunday being bore at the entrance of St. George's Channel — that teaching is a most disagreeable operation in the cabin, though rather amusing on deck — First a horrid clapping down of eyes over head, then a rattling of pulleys, then a universal flapping & shaking & bumping, the sailors run over head, the Captain's mate shouts, then come the helpful sailor-cris as they haul at the ropes again — Everything which had got a chant one way in your cabin takes the other direction, the books slide down, the book-binders knock the other ^{side} of the table, the chairs run to the other side, everything moves that can, & you if in bed settle well or wile, to the other side — Friday the wind was rather better, & it was very pleasant sailing — The came often in sight of the Scotch coast, & had it been clear, might have had some nice views of bold shores & bays, which passed occasionally through the mist — Before we went to bed we were in sight of high head-lands — That is, you think of our long days! In fact read aloud to me in the cabin on Friday morning until after 8 o'clock, & it was not clear either — It is not really dark until 10. On this morning Miss Clarke thought "well, what a ^{little} milder of the ^{little} it was so light" — Not much night for my silence, but little more than a show of darkness — Saturday morning people were stirring bright & early — Fishing is so active, & working up a little — It was some curiosity to find that our friends in boats instead of birds & cage-birds — I only put away the cake-biscuits & put on my straw — It is about 15 miles from the mainland, north of the Mersey to Liverpool, though the coast stretches far away on each side — the water however is very shallow & muddy looking, & the channel narrow, marked carefully out with large buoys, floating bells, & a floating light — The soon came in sight of New Brighton, a pretty little watering place with neat cottages surrounded by hedges & trees above a flow sand beach, on which we could see the sea-birds, & the bathing machines — Little cleaners were moving about, & soon we were close to Liverpool & passing ^{about} the docks — At first sight they do not strike you at all, for the quays which enclose them have buildings jumbled upon them & so you cannot see the ships — Only the high stone walls with wharves I should say, on the top of them, & these low buildings for merchandise — But soon you notice the masts rising above them & the streamers fluttering over head — As we sailed up they had been gradually taking down the sails — We saw the main sail rolled up & carried like a great, defiant snake on the shoulders of the sailors down below, & by the time we reached our dock our masts were almost bare — Fortunately it was high tide, & we landed directly from the ship to the wharf, & quitted the *Proconculus* which had cradled us so long, & to my head, little hopes of a quiet dinner — Though very glad to get on shore I think we have had in the whole a very & pleasant & pleasant voyage — (If a voyage may be called pleasant.)

In fact, recollect Mrs. Grounsfield & nurse & children in one cab, & Miss Clark & Mrs. Clark & myself went in the other to the Adelphi — The clerks took a passage with us, & having deposited the ladies in their rooms, the gentlemen went back to get their baggage through the Custom House — And now Schildegar luxuriating in all the comforts of an English Hotel, & very comfortable they are! — Would you like to take a dip into our rooms? Our parlours is in the front, & your first feeling on entering is that it seems so comfortable & home-like, instead of ^{of} ^{surprising} & strange — As you enter, on the opposite side to the door are the windows with heavy warm ^{yellow} ^{dark} green curtains, with a monstrous heavy mottled fringe, but it put an air of comfort, & as we were glad to have a few today, we do not mind the mottled look — Then deep nice seats in the windows also covered with green — Inside the door stands a gilding screen protecting you from cold air & the eyes of passers-by — Between the windows a pier-table & a round mirror over, & candlesticks on the table — One side of the room stands a high large sort of pier-table with marble top & answering for side-board, on the opposite side is the fireplace on the hearth-stove look very differently from our stove — In the corner is a nice sofa sort of bench also covered with green — In another corner a nice writing table with ink stand & post-hole paper etc. — In a small sofa table against the wall, comfortable easy chairs, &c. complete the room — The furniture is not new or showy, but substantial looking & comfortable — But the bed room looked most comfortable after our little bit of a State room — Now I recollect in this too large toilet table standing in the two windows, with their neat white covers, the gigantic washstand, the centre table where we could lay ourselves down, a human, easy chair, &c. is not to be described — But the pride of the room was the bed, with its high posts supporting a snake-skin cornice, I long white dimity curtains running to rods to be drawn close at night, its white covers, all perhaps so exquisitely fresh & nice — There were long white dimity curtains to the windows, abundance of towels, a sort of pore in one corner & hangings on, &c. but ^{especially} is so beautifully neat & clean! Tell Aggie the bed-chamber floor would have charmed her — The floor was of some wood, scrubbed all almost polished, & the carpet was not matted down & did not cover it all, but was in strips so that it could be taken up & shaken, & the floor washed — One broad piece running across the room at the foot of the bed reaching from the bed to the windows & then pieces down each side of the bed reaching to the walls — Aggie has such a fancy for having no carpet on chambered I am sure she would like this fashion — As I lay down commended to order dinner, & we came to the conclusion to present to have a fiddler on coming on shore. — I was very nice & served quite in style — And he wound up with some Schindler & Strauss — They were quite as large as Robert's & fairly flavoured — But queer shaped, for almost all were formed by two or three joined together making them look like enormous & very odd — He was seated on by the music looking young men with pale faces & white cravats & Dickens & Keats, & the parish policeman comparing their profiles with some in Church — But they were not odd!

I amused myself much with looking at the equipages from the windows - I saw very few that seemed private, & I do not think one with two horses - A sort of carriage quite like Grandfather's only drawn by one horse & lighter were used for hacks or for private gentlemen - Then a comical sort of affair I saw used from country farmers to persons driving their masters - It certainly was as ugly as anything I ever saw, being after the idea of a chaise, only entirely without place - ~~The~~ A regular square box with a dasher, resting on springs & two wheels, & when, not unusually, another dasher is affixed behind & a second couple sit thus inelegantly with their feet out, I call it a most ignominious looking vehicle - The donkey carts looked queerly too - Such little creatures not much larger than large dogs drawing large carts with men & women in them - I felt as if they ought to get out & carry the donkeys - But on the whole Liverpool did not look as foreign as I expected - It did not look more strange to me than New York or Philadelphia - There were more women in the streets, odd looking beings, without bonnets some, & such monstrous feet all round! And there were a great many more people standing about doing nothing - The houses generally, except in the warehouses in those parts, are lower than ours; the dwelling houses in blocks much more architectural, & fewer windows, which I think improves them - The streets are beautifully clean, & so hard that they can have scarcely dust or mud I should think, & they drive through them fast, & the carriages travel very easily - The public buildings are handsome & large, & everything looks substantial - The buildings are so well situated too, either on a square where several streets meet, or open spaces round them - But alas! in the lower parts ^{of the town} particularly, how they are smoked & dirtied! - They look as if they had been covered with soot & somebody had tried to wipe it off with a nap, & left it all streaked, making bad worse - The buildings are many of them of a dark rough brick which looks at a little distance like stone, & many of the private buildings are of a very pleasing sort of yellow stone something like the new Athenaeum, & some much yellower - One comfort is you can look at all sides of a building - I took a walk after ^{dinner} ~~tea~~ Saturday Evening -

London - Thursday, July 4th -

Here we are, dear Sue, most comfortably established at Mr. Ward's - I am shockingly behind-hand with my journal, & must make haste to finish up today for the post tomorrow so as not to lose this week's steamer - So to take up for Sunday, & bring things down in due order - Sunday morn'g. We went to Mr. Martineau's chapel - Quite a showy building in Gothic style; a continued little cathedral with nave, aisles, transepts, & choir, & even cloisters - A tall & handsome spire with niches high up with statues in them - The interior struck me strangely, for the ceiling was supported on oak beams, & colored blue - & there was a great deal of bright coloring in escutcheons & emblazons about the church; the front of the organ was blue & an illuminated border - The ~~chandeliers~~ lanterns round the gas down each side of the church were suspended by a blue chain for the centre, & gilt ones around - The lanterns were of blue with text from Scripture on them in gold letters (old English) - But yet the whole effect was not so very gay, for the wood work was all oak, & the pillars ^{supporting} ~~supporting~~ the nave from the piers were black marble - We had a very fine sermon from Mr. Martineau, but his style of delivery was very different from what I had imagined - His appearance is quite impressive

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He looks something like Trip Martinian, with very heavy, dark hair hanging over his forehead, & much better looking for a man than she was for a woman - His manner was impressive, but not quite so calm as I had imagined; at first I could scarcely follow him his pronunciation sounded almost foreign - still he was not oratorical - But I liked the sermon exceedingly - Coming home we walked round St. James cemetery - A burying-ground made in an old quarry so that you look down from the street on this pretty spot ~~interspersed~~ with trees & shrubs green lawns & walks & monuments, & some of the tombstones ~~crossed~~ with cut into the stone sides - We dined at 5 & after dinner rode to a church quite out of town in Princess Park - An Episcopal church & one of the most popular preachers - The church was very handsome of red free-stone & the roof inside beautiful - You could see quite up to the ridge-pole & it was supported on beams of very dark oak crossing & recrossing & making arches & where they joined, dropping ornaments of carved oak - I did not think much of the sermon - It was an extemporaneous Charity Sermon - Monday morning at 10 o'clock having lunched on some soup we took the Cars for Coventry passing through Birmingham - I was very much disappointed in the elegance of the first class cars - I do not think the fittings up nearly as handsome as ours, though they have Brussels carpets on the floor - They are all divided like carriages (three making one car & each holding six sitting opposite - The cushioned divisions of the seat are exceedingly comfortable to lean one's head against - That is very much wanted in our cars - The rail-road is allowed to cross on a level with a road so that one meets abundance of bridges over which or under which to pass & it quite strikes one from our country that all are brick or stone, generally brick ^{cased} with stone - I believe I have seen but one wooden bridge - The banks too are almost all high or low beautifully passed which gives a very neat look, & they were making hay along the line so that we had the most delicious fragrance - At the stations there were no standers about - I believe no persons but on business are allowed within the enclosure, & the guards station masters all dressed alike in a sort of livery - dark blue with pewter buttons, single-breasted coats, & the number of the man & initials of his station, & they cultivate the little patches around the houses most prettily - It gave a most charming look along the road for the stations came every few miles & the roses were in blossom - They do not seem to be troubled with insects as we are; the foliage all looked green & fresh - But how beautiful the country was! - Every field cultivated so perfectly & so green - I liked hedge very much better than I thought I should, they were not so very trim & formal looking, but looked like green stone walls, & many trees are left in them, & often scattered over the fields, & as the fields are much smaller than ours it gives the appearance of a great deal of foliage - The trees were not very large that I saw -

Then the houses - I do not wonder that English travellers think everything looks so new with us - All were of this rough dingy brick making them look so quiet & sober many thatched & thatched slated or tiled the roofs very steep - Then almost all had casement windows & trees or shrubs close round them as picturesque as any of the pictures one sees. He reached Birmingham, having passed through many large towns, about 5 - Some of the stations were very handsome, & everything is so neat & tidy - The station at Birmingham, I mean the building into which the cars run, is ~~improved~~ ^{covered} with a roof supported by light iron arches & bars running in all directions & at the top round along the whole length for at least 5 feet in width flared out like a greenhouse making it of course very light - We were to change cars at Birmingham, & there was a good deal of confusion, several trains all from one platform, & they do not, I think, manage those things so well as with us; there did not seem to be anyone to point out & began to move & I found were going back on the same route on which we had come - I there alone with a young man! I wanted to get out but he would not let me assuring me I should trust myself - So I had quietly to make up my mind to go back to the next station & trust to the next train to get back to Birmingham - I thought, Aggie, at once of the unprotected female, & so determined to behave quietly & take it easily, & could not help laughing a little though I felt somewhat distressed at Dr. Gray's dismay when he should turn round & see the car moving off with me - I got out at the first stopping place & the guard promised I should go back in the next train in about an hour - Was very civil & kind, said it was a mistake often made as the cars all left in the same direction, took me up into his office & gave me a seat - I admired his little garden which looked quite charmingly, he told me the distinguished places in the neighbourhood, asked me the names of some of the flowers, & gradually finding where I came from we had quite a long talk - He asked a great many questions about America & was very pleasant & intelligent - Presented me with a beautiful rose just before I left & put me into the train introducing me to an old gentleman as a lady from America & asking him to see me safe - So I got nicely back to Birmingham, where on getting out & informing the guard what a trip I had taken, he said my husband was waiting for me - Going round to the platform I soon found him - And so I had a nice little excursion by myself & the advantage of seeing some really luxurious cars for they were much better than our train & getting a beautiful rose too - With best love & many thanks for your letter I must most hastily close for the post -



Gray, Jane Loring. 1850. "Gray, Jane June 30, 1850 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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