

8 1/2 -

Heidelberg - Sunday - Sep. 15th - 1850 -

Dear Papa,

I had a very pleasant letter from Aunt Anna, at Munich, brought by Mr. Kumber, our fellow traveller. I was very glad to hear again - I gave him a note to Aunt Anna - & he said them all in silence - He said Mary looked very well -

I must address my letter to you to tell you how glad I was to receive at Zurich your letter, & to see your dear handwriting once more - I am afraid you are all beginning to cold at home that the steamers come without letters from us; & it certainly seems very impractical when they are so good in writing to me - But of late we have been so on the go, arriving late in the eve, & early in the morning, & the few days we were in Munich, oh, how much there is to see there! every moment was occupied, that I have quite let all journal drop; & write now a few lines today, to tell you briefly where we have been & where we go - And must wait until quietly settled at Genoa, to write up my journal; when I will send home the sheets. I am sorry, for I know the interest is much deadened when things are long passed - But once get badly behind in travelling, & it is almost a hopeless case - I last wrote from Zurich - from there we went to Corsica, made an excursion to the Via Mala & Baths of St. Effers, & then Mr. Gray & I made up our minds, most reluctantly, that, as it was getting so late, we must not only give up the Italian Lakes but the Tyrol too & hasten to Munich, & thence to Holland & England - So we bade good bye to the Clarks, they going through the Tyrol to Venice, & we turning our faces towards Bavaria - When we reached Lindau on the Lake of Constance, we found instead

of reaching Munich Saturday Ev. as we had hoped, we
must ride in the diligence all night, take the railroad
at 5 in the morning, & reach Munich at 10 - There
was no help for it then, so we set off - And I bore this
night travelling wonderfully well - Suffering only from
the cold - I have come to the conclusion that our climate
is much better than we fancy - To all the time in
Munich I was obliged to wear a large shawl, & some of
the time ^{thru} quite cold & shivering - Indeed all summer there
has been for me but one exceptionally hot day, & that was the
day we left London - There were some warm days in June,
but most of the time cool - good weather for travelling
generally, but often too cold for my comfort - I am very
sorry I have not a cloak, though I got in London an immen-
sely large thick shawl which has been a great comfort
at Munich we were very busy seeing the Cabinets, Galleries of paintings
& statuary, Churches, Palace, &c. - And only sorry that we had
not 4 weeks there instead of 4 days - It is a most interesting
place - And the specimens there of modern art in sculpture
+ architecture, as ^{not} ~~sculpture~~ is to be compared
+ Prof. Martin, Dr. Fay's friend, was with our family staying
at a village in the Tyrol, where they pass their vacation,
& they had made all ready to receive us there - He was
very sorry not to go - But when Prof. Dr. heard that we
were obliged to join up the spot, he came all the way
to Munich to see us there - It is a pity we could not
have seen the meeting between him & Dr. Fay. 'He would
have been satisfied by seeing me live - Such a blessing!' he
was most kind & attentive to us - He left Munich at
Hofloch on Friday reached Wordingen at 3 1/2 - At 4 1/4 he took

the diligence, & riding all night again, reached Heilbronn
at 7 1/2 - There at 8 we took the ^{new} steamboat down the
Neckar, & after a lovely sail, ^{of 7 1/2 hours} reached here at 3 1/2 o'clock
yesterday afternoon - Here I am in a comfortable room,
commanding a fine view of the magnificent ruins of
Heidelberg castle - This old castle, which towers over the
town, is quite my ideal of a princely residence - Such a
superb view from it! Such splendid suites of rooms as it must
have contained! & the high terraces, & picturesque walks,
& contrast of the old gloomy parts with the more modern
glorious halls - Ruins of these old castles, though very
picturesque ruins, must have been most ruin like
habitations - They seem all walls, & a square tower for a house,
with deep holes for windows - And where they are still habit-
able, & maintained somewhat, the new but windows look out
of place; & there is still an idea of confinement; up so high,
& not very large, & such a trouble to get out even for a
little stroll - But Heidelberg contains palace & stronghold
finely -

Tomorrow we go to Mannheim, thence down the Rhine
in steamboat to Bonn - ~~At~~ Bonn & Cologne we take a
day, & then down to Holland, where we divide the rest of
the week; we mean to sail for London from Rotterdam
a week from tomorrow, & be in London early Sunday
morning - We stay there to fit up a little, for I study much
it, & mean to be at Porticus House by the 1st of October -
The Fords have kindly invited us there again, but as John
Lowell said that his mother would be in London on the
25th. of September & we shall have so few days to see them in,
I am anxious to be in the city & near them, if we can find
reasonable accommodations -

You say, dear papa, that you are afraid we see things too rapidly - Munich I plead guilty to - But generally things sound shorter on paper than in action; & being limited as to time, we make, as Mrs. Harvey advises, "a judicious selection" - But when you receive my journal sheets you will think, I fancy, that I remember things - Dr. Gray thinks I am most meanly minute - But I write for my own pleasure in future years, & if you find them tedious, only those need read that please - And as for our being unfitted for home & some people there is little danger - To be sure where Dr. Gray has friends or introductions we have been very kindly received - But scientific men are generally very simple in manners & habits, & very rarely in fashionable society - As for the nobles & palaces & entertainments &c. we only stare at the outside with the beggars - And I think nothing makes me feel of so little importance as travelling - You come & go with such a crowd that not even the waiters seem conscious of your individual existence - Perhaps I have ordered tea for breakfast, & no. 57 rings the bell - And when the chambermaid looks in & sees the luggage gone, she knows she can clear up for the next comer - You meet sometimes a curious stare from some traveller, or a supercilious glance from another, but generally each goes on his own way - if English or American studying his Murray, & looking at what that tells him, ^{to stare} & letting everything else go - If by chance you should go wrong, a soldier or police officer stops up, & after a tirade of incomprehensible German, points to your right place - which you meekly take - I think the luggage often receives vastly more consideration than the individual for they weigh that before it was a place, but you have only to buy a ticket - I am glad to think of you as at Koenigsberg, dear papa, for I cannot well imagine you in any other place - Now often I sit & think & try to fancy you all - With most affectionate love to mother I must finish - Try that is full all too soon - Ever your most loving Annie -



Gray, Jane Loring. 1850. "Gray, Jane Sept. 15, 1850 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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