

Dublin - Thursday, Dec. 12th. 1850 -

Dear father & mother,

My poor journal! My poor journal! I believe the fates have conspired against it - That with sewing & travelling & nursing & visiting &c. &c. I find it extremely hard to find time to write - But I suppose you will be anxious to hear how Dr. Gray comes on - He has improved most wonderfully, goes down stairs, & to-day rode up to the College & spent 2 hours with Dr. Harney there! - I can scarcely believe it is only 13 days since his frightful fall - The agent of the boat Men says it must be 10 feet! - And yet he is now able to be about! - To be sure he moves very slowly, & any exertion, such as a sneeze, is very painful. - But he goes down stairs after he is up & dressed in the morning, say about 12, & then generally comes up to lie down again before dinner, which is at 4 - He goes down to dinner, & stays down all the evening - He still stoops very much, & his side is supported by being bandaged - But he does not look as ill as you would expect - He has got him a nice dressing gown, & with an old staff which belonged to Mrs. Lathams' grandfather, he marches round & plays the interesting invalid - He has been very patient with the rain - which happily has not been much since the first four or five days, except on some sudden effort. - What horrid idea do you think came into his mind as he felt? That he was falling among the machinery! - X

But to take up journal style a little, & tell you how matters have gone on since I closed my letters last Friday - Dr. Duncan the surgeon at Holyhead came to tell us about 8 o'clock, that there would be no one to receive us on board before 11, & that the tide would then be higher & Dr. Gray could get on board more easily - So we quietly settled ourselves until about 9 o'clock, & amusing myself with letter writing - Then after finishing packing, began the arduous work of dressing Dr. Gray - I should have said the stewardess called soon after Dr. Duncan left to say that a gentleman, who had crossed the night before, said Dr. Gray would cross probably tonight, & we might come whenever we chose - And presently came from the boat a great bundle containing poncho cloak & rail-road wrapper from Dr. Harney to keep him warm, & also by post a note from Dr. Harney enclosing a post-office order to supply us with funds, & telling us what a fine passage he had had, & how he more, &c. &c. & finally referring to his notes generally are -

that it was necessary to pay - & after some polite excuses he was excused
in Dr. Harvey's letter packet & driving home, kindly left, & we got on a hair &
pendulum & into - but all went the evening, & we were quite ready when the
Dr. came at 11. Dr. Gray preferred another room, & gave himself as he said
it best that some of them try to help him, & he got some better than
I expected. A kind chair, viz. an invalid's chair, a sort of arm chair
nicely stuffed on three wheels, & drawn by a man, was provided for him,
& carried him very easily to the boat - Dr. Duncan & I, walking by, accom-
panying him - he walked in board the boat & down into the cabin, where he was in
in bed in a comfortable state-room, & less fatigued than I had feared - The
state-rooms had both a large sofa, & a small bed was made in the sofa,
where he had a really comfortable night - The cabin was very elegantly
fitted up, & indeed it was one of the handsomest steamers I was ever in.
Dr. Gray is a very good patient - in many ways, & particularly that he
always takes anything so easily - One I was up & forgetting when the
boat got to Georgetown at 5 1/2 from sea, & I was in the night crossing, but
all should not be ready, but he said he could be dressed while the evening
was getting ready, & laid quietly to an hour or so - About 7 1/2, I heard Dr.
Harvey welcome him in the cabin above, & he appeared to help me - He
had an easy carriage, which had been made ready with a mattress to
set Dr. Gray recline, & he preferred sitting up, & shuffled up from the cabin
on to the wharf, & by which we were in our way to Dublin - It is a rather
long, but he took it admirably well, & by 9 we were at Mrs. Toddhunter's
dwelling, which I found to be a comfortable establishment - It was left head-
quartering in - The house is not in at all a fashionable part of the town,
nor, where once were favorite dwelling-houses - Mrs. Toddhunter's father built
the house when the gray when it stands was a favorite place - But now
they are left alone, one of all respectable neighbors, & needs but a unlaid
down the door, & a well-known ^{from 1840} surrounded them - I can't tell the house
to advantage, & Mrs. Toddhunter having always lived there is very much
attached to it, & besides being handsome & comfortable they can live for style
& fashion - The house is pleasant when made, for the rooms are large
& high, the staircases wide & light, & every thing is so thoroughly neat
& very comfortable - There is no style about anything, all is very simple,
but all the wants for comfort is unmerciful - And nothing could be more
heartily liked than an Mrs. & Mrs. Toddhunter, & it extends through the
family to the servants, for the maid down, & as especially after Dr. Gray
every day as if she had known him for years - I cannot feel grateful

enough that we were near so kind, good friends - And they make me
feel so quite at home at once - And as for Dr. Harvey, how can I say how
dearly I feel all his kindness & devotion to us - To what a comfort his presence
& able have been - I feel as if words were very poor in telling all he has
done -

Mrs. Toddhunter is very gentle & sweet looking - Older than Dr. Harvey
& with an anxious expression in her delicate, thin features - She is very
gentle & sweet in manners, & I am quite fascinated with her gentle
tones & the thin & thin - she does not show strength as the young ladies,
but the does is very simple in form, & at present black & straight - For
she lost a dear little infant, about 18 months old, last summer - And
Toddhunter is a good, stout, good-natured, looking Irishman, with a for-
feal of the tongue in his way of speaking, & a heartily cordial manner -

Saturday after Dr. Gray was established in bed in one cheerful room -
I took a little drive with Mrs. Toddhunter in the "car," which is nothing
more than a cab with the door and quite open, giving a nice view out -
He went round Merion Sp., where Daniel O'Connell lived, & by St. Stephen's
green, & through fine long streets - Dublin looks quite handsome, I
think to drive through, there are such nice, wide streets & the houses
in handsome ranges, & they are neat too - We saw though more num-
erable people here & there than I have seen any where else, & especially
clothed in rags - And so many charitable - When we came back the
children had come home from school - The two eldest are boys, John &
Patrick, from 10 & 8 years old I believe, little Joe has beautiful eyes, & a much
louder accent, which he brings out in such a sweet voice, & so much
long tones that I delight to hear him talk - Patrick is 5 1/2 - a pretty
little girl, with light, good complexion - And I suppose people separate
in taste would call the hair red, but I think it beautiful in color &
in curl - They are nice children - And I enjoy being with children more
now -

Sunday, I went with Dr. Harvey & a cousin of his Dr. Fisher to the
College Avenue gardens - If you could see Laureston full of flowers
in the open air here in the 10th of December, Pittsburg, surrounded
by, carnations, &c. & the turf peen & fresh as in spring - And such
pretty, pretty trees! - There were some beautiful peaches (P) in the orchard
out of whose budding can it nest - From the garden we went to St.
Patrick's Cathedral, & after waiting with due patience were favored by
one of the dignitaries whom Dr. Harvey knew with order of admission into
the private seats - The cathedral is sadly out of repair, & only the ^{main} ~~main~~
& the choir where mass & transept quiet, fitted up for service, & of service the

accommodation for seats is but little & it is excessively crowded - For they have the reputation of very fine music which draws great crowds - The nave where we waited is quite out of repair, but hung with the banners of the old knights of St. Patrick, & has some interesting monuments - Dean Swift's was near where we stood, & Stella's close by - And just opposite was one to Wolfe of Sir John Moore's burial memory - And behind a most extraordinary & grotesque specimen of the taste of 1852 of figures painted in costume, in niches of blk. marble adorned with gilding! - The ^{choir} ~~chancel~~ is hung round with the banners of the living knights - Lord Jough (pronounced Joff) was there - In cathedrals the service is chanted, & before I have not liked it; but here the voices were so good & so beautifully harmonized that it was very fine - One little boy certainly had a cherub's voice, so sweet, so clear, so true, so powerful! I could scarcely believe at first it was not a woman's - But the solemn effect of a church service was injured by the audience seeming somewhat as at a concert; I do not like carelessness & inattention in a church. - The anthems were very fine particularly the Virgin Mary's song, & the 40th. Psalm - The sermon was very poor -

Dr. Gray dined down stairs - And the widow of one of Dr. Harrey's brothers with her son dined with us - I wish you could have heard her tell me the story of her care of a poor little pinner she took pity on & its gratitude; with her warm, eloquent expression, Irish accent & thence & thence, it was worth hearing -

Monday morning after my patient was up & dressed, I escorted him to go & visit the colleges - The Colleges are a fine mass of buildings surrounding open quadrangles, & giving rooms to the collegians & many professors & fellows - Dr. Harrey has an exceedingly nice set of rooms, his study, chamber & parlour all communicating with the herbarium - He received us in his robe of state, ^{the costume of Dr. of Medicine} a scarlet cloth robe lined & turned up with crimson silk, & a blk. velvet flat college cap with monstrous heavy tassels, & multum hands round his throat - After going through his rooms where I saw sundry things to remember, & a wicked likeness of him, he escorted us (not in costume) to the library, where we had the privilege of being introduced into the manuscript room, & saw sundry curious & interesting old manuscripts beautifully illuminated, the text very perfect - A missal a poor man in the valley of phosphat must have spent her life upon, a curiously illustrated book of Revelations, & the book of Kib - An old Irish manuscript ⁱⁿ which we saw Victoria's name written when she visited Ireland - &c. &c.



Gray, Jane Loring. 1850. "Gray, Jane Dec. 12, 1850 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/225927>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/262606>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.