

Kew, March. 12th. '57 -

Happy, happy little I today! How well my last week's abstinence is repaid! - Yesterday brought me the Budget for Feb. 24th's steamer, & today the letters by the Washington of the week before - Today's were from Sue & Father - Oh, how I rejoiced over a letter from father! - Only I was very sorry that he was suffering from bronchitis & influenza - But take comfort, ye poor sufferers! Yankee influenzas are not so bad as English or French - An English influenza is quite equal to a little fever - I hope the farm may go on bravely under its new influences; and to help it, I am going to send you, dear papa, some cabbage seeds, &c. For the cabbages I have eaten here are not at all like the coarse thing we call cabbage at home, but in truth a delicate green - However I don't know how our climate will agree with them - We certainly cannot plant them to have them fresh all winter, as they do - Certainly the hens do wonderfully - And if the Alderney cow should do as well in our climate as here she would be a very valuable animal - But I see now a reason why a good breed in England should not do so well with us - At Portliss, where the winter is much more severe than here, & I believe Wiltshire is generally considered a cold part of England, the cows are in the barn only two months of the year; the rest of the time they are grazing <sup>at Kew,</sup> here, they graze out all the year round, & are not obliged to be stable fed at all, except an occasional little once from at milking - The damp climate & moderate winters keep the grass constantly growing & fresh, so that they find food again as fast as they eat it - It is so very different with us, where they are either stall fed altogether, or ~~must~~ be for 6 months, that it must needs make a great difference, to say nothing of climate - And I can easily believe it would take a generation or two to get acclimated. The climate is so entirely different that our English horticultural or agricultural rules would do for us - French or German would suit us much better - By the way I wish I could get the seeds of the delicious little Turnips they had in Paris! There must be something in the climate, they are so very much better.

What a just the fugitive slave affair seems to have made! The traveller  
we got this morn'g was quite full of it - though I regret the violation  
of the law, I cannot but be glad the job's fellow got off - I hope  
for all truth for the cause is over - Many thanks for the Memorial  
which came with the Cotton yesterday - A nice bundle again, from  
Unc, Charles, Brother, Sue Maria, & Aunt Lizzie Putnam - Many thanks  
for another, for your charming letter most & precious - The piece  
of poetry in colds in the head comes most appropriately just now,  
dear Sue, for there are great abundance of such things here, I shall  
take it up & copy Miss Broder with tomorrow - How Dr Gray mourned  
over the breaking of the flower vase in the basket from Rotterdam!  
I tell him it's a just punishment for selfishness, for as he w<sup>as</sup>  
sited on buying it for his own particular use & advantage, I told him  
he must pay for it with his own money, & so he packed it & sent  
it home for himself - See now the results of selfishness! If he had  
sent it as a present, it would probably have gone safely - He wisely  
says he will buy another when he can - Is you have a fancy  
bill & the Opera! That gay people you are! People here seem to  
think that going twice to the Opera in the season is a great dissipation!  
And all such amusements seem much more out of the common  
reach than with us - How differently little that will look when I  
see him again, leaving his poor Mother! It is one of the first great changes  
in appearance, & makes a step well marked in life - I am exceed-  
ingly pained at the poor health of Aunt Sally's little ones - It must  
be very trying for her -

This letter should rightly be addressed to you, dear Charlie, but as far, it has gone on in a rambling sort of way addressed to each in turn - And the journal record of this last week is rather uninteresting - Friday was not a very pleasant day & so Miss Beveler decided to wait for a more agreeable one for the London Express train - So I wrote a letter to Mrs. Jewell while waiting to see if she would come, then deciding not to lose the day, I determined to venture forth alone, to go over to Clapham to see the day - I, after dressing, took my way to the 12 o'clock train. I reached Clapham safely without any adventures, & took a cab for which I dispatched a small woman (having been with a penny, I had two more, which I drove up full speed, to discharge the honour of taking me) from Loughdale

Station to Ben Ward - I found Mrs. Ward, & looking much better, & Maria with her - And presently Mrs. Ward came in from church, for it is Lent now, & there is service there three times a week - I had a very pleasant day, & Dr. Gray came over at 7 to carry me home in the 9<sup>th</sup> train - By the way you don't know how they laugh at that expression "carry" which they use only in its proper meaning of to bear - There has been quite an intense change of commitment all around lately, Dr. Wendell is very fond of them, so I wrote Dr. Harvey for some American ones about fresh water: here is a good one that Ward gave me, when at the table talking upon themselves the office of the tongue? - When they chatter! And another, Why is a chicken walking across the road like Janey's plot? - Because it is a foul foul proceeding!! - The 1st safely home by 10<sup>15</sup> - Saturday & Sunday were quiet days - I was dull Sunday, & Dr. Gray & I walked alone, but we had a walk in the park & Regent's in the afternoon - Tuesday we meant to go to London, but it rained hopelessly, so I settled myself to some little necessary things, such as new lining my portfolio, so for I have been very industrious & given up my writing desk - Yesterday however, the sun shone clear & bright, so we put the long meditated plan into execution - Miss Wendell came down here, & as Dr. Gray had Sunday letter & cards to do, he accompanied us, & we took the omnibus to town - First Miss Wendell & I went to St. Benjamin's Boadicee, for the fell care; & I saw that distinguished surgeon, & was not overcome by the sight either, for I cannot say anything of him which is remarkable in any way - Then we went to Swan & Edgar's great establishment, where I got nothing more remarkable than stockings, tapes, &c. & so round & about, here & there, we went, making a call on Mrs. Gray (whom we haven't seen some weeks ago) & a visit to the Duke Regent, where we lunched, & so on - We came back by the 4<sup>th</sup> train - I hastily tried to scissored & confessed, as I always am on coming from London - And I must say there are many things more easily got at home - For instance, a tooth put into a shell comb without a root is a difficult thing to have done in London, we should soon such a piece of old fashion as a snick - Then French Engravings of course one does not find so easily,

for they import very little; manufacturing such things; & the English ladies love flounces so dearly that I believe all their trimmings are suited to flounces — On the whole I shall be vastly more contented with things at home; we get what we want, I truly believe, more easily, though we have not so great a choice — And I am surprised to find so little difference in price —

To my great delight I found my letters on getting back; & today, another rainy day, I have been quietly busy, & was cheered by the other package at noon — I had a letter yesterday from Aunt E. Lowell, & she said they had just heard from Uncle Charles from Rome — She says they had a gay carnival in Paris, though she thought it a very poor spectacle — All well she said —

Friday morn. Yesterday I dined with the Woshers & staid the evening, as Miss Benson goes tomorrow — <sup>when</sup> Dr. Gray & I propose going in to see the Tower, & so far escorting her on her way — Lady Wosher came down stairs for a few minutes — Miss Wosher seemed much better & was much amused, she, at the piece on a cold in the head — Oh I should have said the notes arrived all safely last week — Many thanks, dear Will! — And they seem to be highly approved, particularly the peccans, by those we have been initiating into their mysteries — But we looked in vain in London for nut picks! — I suppose you would like to know what we mean to do this spring & summer, & so should I — I think Dr. Gray too busy to spare time for Italy, & urge him to give it up — He says "no," but I think some day he will say "Yes!" At any rate we go to Paris for awhile; & with that expectation, please after the 2nd. week in April write on thin paper & without envelopes, or rather put two thin <sup>directed Dr. Gray,</sup> letters in one envelope, addressed <sup>only</sup> to Brown, Shipley & Co, Liverpool & pay to them; that is as far as you can pay, they will forward to us — We mean to go to Oxford & Cambridge before Easter — And if we go to Paris shall return there to work until the middle of August — And if anyone has come missions please send them — I will ask Mrs. Olive, who is now in London, if I see her the price of a poney — She is the best person I know to ask, dear papa — With most affectionate love to all,  
I am always lovingly, Jane —



Gray, Jane Loring. 1851. "Gray, Jane Mar. 12, 1851 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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