

All along the week, finished April 11th. '51. New-

My dear Charlie, I am certainly sadly behindhand in my journal, but since we have been again in town, my ordinarily quiet life has been amazingly broken in upon with going hither & thither - But I hasten to take up the story where I left it off, having just reached Cambridge - As soon as Dr. Gray had finished tea, which he also fortified with a chop, he went out to call on Prof. Sedgewick, to whom Sir Wm. had given him a letter, but who was unfortunately away, & on Mr. Thompson - Perhaps you may remember an acquaintance we made on board the boat between Rotterdam & London last autumn - And how I described him as very agreeable, & possessing such universal information - On our then separating he & Dr. Gray exchanged cards, & as it so happened, he was the person on whom we chiefly depended in Cambridge for showing us about, & ^{he} was very kind & attentive. He is a large, handsome man, & very gentlemanly - Exceedingly well informed, especially in matters of literature & art - But yet he is one of those people I do not feel quite at my ease with, for I feel he knows so much on many of these subjects, for example painting, or sculpture, or architecture, that I do not quite dare to make remarks on such things; not that I am ashamed to show my ignorance, for that I am sure he knew, but some how he seemed to expect better of you - In truth I can't describe it exactly, but you can imagine perhaps - And I don't think he talked on any subject he did not understand. In truth I suppose for classical & belles lettres learning, & as a connoisseur in art, he is one of the best informed persons I ever met, but for science he did not profess either knowledge or interest, further than any well-informed & liberal-minded man would - It was not in his department - And yet I do not know that I have quite done him justice - for he was very entertaining, talked easily & pleasantly, & was always polite & attentive - But I am sure I could never rattle on with him as I do with some people - And he is just one of those persons, who if I might stay in the back ground, would be a great delight to listen to - Well Dr. Gray did not see him that evening - And the next morning began with rain, so I settled myself to writing, but about 10 1/2, it having begun to clear off, Mr. Thompson called, & offered to escort ^{us} about - He came in Academic costume, a very handsome silk gown & the square cap, & I assure you they are very becoming, especially to a fine looking man with so much presence - Just making our way through a crowded market-place, we passed a sort of alcove erected

over a conduit which chiefly supplies Cambridge with water. This blessing was conferred upon the town by Wolsey, a common carrier, & on whom Wolsey imposed a whimsical gift. He gave rise to the common saying 'let one's choice'. So he used to let out horses to his students, & as each must in turn, the applicant might choose 'that - or none'. - Then we came on a fine street where King's College came full before us, in a very noble Gothic style of architecture, & a little back, one end towards the street, was King's College Chapel. I cannot describe to you how beautiful this is, & to say that ^{the product} no library is derived from it, is a most inadequate praise upon it. For the library is enlarged here, & diminished there, the corner towers are but a third of the size, the beautiful light open work balustrade surrounding the roof & the little turrets at intervals are quite omitted. - One of the strongest impressions on first looking at King's Chapel is its great height, it smites one's eye of tone & colour, its transept, is that the sides are one unbroken straight line, the walls supported by buttresses. But the stone is softer & lighter looking than granite, which is too heavy & massive for Gothic architecture. I do heartily wish we could have some of the fine buildings at home we see abroad. On going into the Chapel I was still more impressed with its beauty, it was built in the time of Henry the 8th before Gothic architecture had run to such extravagance of ornament. ^{There is a fine specimen of perpendicular style.} The walls are covered with carvings, among which the rose & portcullis, the Tudor arms are conspicuous. The windows, except the great west window, are all painted glass, & some of the finest I ever saw, for though very old, the figures are not so small as they generally are, & not grotesque, but peaceful, & the pictures, of which two generally fill each window, often showing great harmony & skill in their management, particularly the great east window, which represents the Crucifixion. - The roof is very remarkable as a piece of architecture for it is made ^{of stone} of arches spanning the whole width, & no centre support, for a while it was thought a great mystery, but on study we saw the buttresses are so large & so wide at the base that they make it an arch with a prod of span, & not so narrow as on first looking of inside, one transpires. Then between these arches are side arches, which fill it in -  as I cannot send you my pencil I have tried to make some sketches, which should help you to understand, but I fear it is only conjecture. ^{the handsome window} The first is a section of the arch through its width, showing the stone roof, then the wooden roof over, & how the side buttresses make a broad

arch, & the second through the length, attempting to show the side arches & how they spread from the base in breaching arches, covered with beautiful carving, & the key stone in the centre of each is carved alternately with the rose & portcullis. The whole is beautiful beyond description, & I do not know that I have seen any one thing so beautiful since I have been away, that the Basilica at Munich rose in my mind as figured of harmony & repose, which is I think a peculiar effect of the nearest approach to perfection, for so many things one sees leave a bewildering impression of splendour & splendour mingled with confusion & a sense of want. The wood carvings on the stalls is also very beautiful work. The screen is particularly fine, especially ^{the fine} some one panel representing the last judgment. It was given by Anne Boleyn, & the initials A.B. are intertwined, & two lions look often appear. (Corrupted). It is in later style, cinque-cento. But the dark oak harmonises well with the stone. - The west door is a marvellous piece of work, quite upon the roof, where mounting quite a stage we had a fine view of Cambridge, & of many of the colleges which lay below us. - Then descending partly, we came to a little door which let us in to a passage just under the battlements, whence we could get upon the stone roof between it & the upper roof, of oak covered with ^{lead} lead. Here we could see how each stone was laid, & could see the oak beams above us as sound & strong as the day it was finished, some hundreds of years ago. - Drawings all around. When light saw, & a little view management in the latter respect is doubtless owing its admirable preservation. - There is no one thing in Oxford so fine as this Chapel, nor any College equal in extent to Trinity, & more Mr Thompson next took us, & where he is better. - Follow - Trinity College is of various times in its architecture, & surrounds three great courtyards. The one we first entered is the most modern & not so large, but one side is cloistered, and passing through that we came to a fine courtyard, the whole exterior topped, & surrounded on three sides by an open arcade, the student house above on two sides, & the side next the river is the library, built by Brown in his peculiar style, half Italian, but a fine looking building. - An arcade extends quite round entirely under this, & gives a fine view through the great windows of the beautiful porch on each side the Court, both these charming walks & fine trees, & gives as you pass suppose a most admirable walk for wet days. - On the opposite side is the hall, an old Gothic building, but having an addition of more modern days of a wide stone terrace with handsome balustrade & steps upon this Court gate. Mr Thompson took us into the library, it has a fine window, the bookcases

of oak which they always leave its fine natural colour, & which gains such a fine dark hue with age. ~~Attended~~ for arrangement in joining them. The ceiling is at present concealed by a scaffolding; they are now finishing it according to Owen's original design, it having formerly only had a flat ceiling. Mr. Thompson showed us here what I am sure no one to whom English is native tongue could see without emotion, Milton's own handwriting! It seems he wrote his poems in ~~a~~ large blank books, & one of these Trinity College Library owns; it is kept in a glass case, & was opened at the conclusion of Lycidas. You could see his corrections & alterations. And on the opposite page was the rough draft where he first planned writing Paradise Lost as a dramatic poem. There was a cast (also) taken from Newton's face after death; it was very calm & beautiful! And a bust of Newton in life. Here too was Thorwaldsen's famous statue of Byron, it is very beautiful, but a little too much of heaven & too little of earth for him. Mr. Thompson showed us some interesting old Greek manuscripts, some with Porson's notes in the margin, for Porson was of Trinity college, & so was Bentley, another famous Greek scholar. He was Master of the college, & a man of most un governable temper, who ruled students & fellows with a rod of iron; they could not turn him out, but they took away his degrees one by one, until at length he was so stripped of honours, that Master of the college, he went about in an undergraduate gown. His note book is kept still; it came to the college with possession of his library, & in ^{it} among other things Mr. J. read us, such a date, saw — — — fellows, playing bowls Sunday Afternoon from my study window! Shaving post & being kept from chapel. The saw also some old illuminated manuscripts. One must have been very old from the style, it was a grotesque — One ^{picture} evidently of Elisha & the children, the prophet stood on the top of a hill, nearly to his knees in some green grass, & on each side a certain distance. Down were placed apocryphal animals, half bear, half wolf, standing on their hind legs & holding in their mouths by the middle, two children, dressed in strait red garments, with painted hands & toes, looking up with much doubt & solemnity. — There were many interesting busts of distinguished men, graduates of Trinity, in the Library. After leaving that we walked a little through the beautiful grounds. They are in most admirable order laid out with nice walks through this exquisite English turf, & bordered by fine trees, & graceful bridges across the Cam (which in truth is nothing more than a small canal) & which comes close to the college. There were many of the little race-boats upon it. The lightest things you can

imagine - Some 12 or 15 feet long tapering each end to a sharp point, & joining in
 the middle where they were about a foot wide, a seat for one row.
 Mr. Thompson then took us up to his rooms, looking out most pleasantly on
 these lovely grounds on one side & the courtyard on the other. There was one
 large room surrounded by book-cases, & a smaller one opening into it.
 There were couches & writing-table & tables covered with handsome books
 & a large stand holding a great portfolio of engravings. There were some
 beautiful pictures on the walls, & one quite interesting one of Anne Keble
 over the fire-place, which certainly did not give her much beauty. There
 is good reason to believe however, that it is an authentic portrait - Mr. T. showed
 me a facsimile lithographed from another page of that book of Milton's,
 where his hand-writing leaves off in the middle of the page & that of an
 amanuensis begins. - Presently we were summoned to lunch, & went
 down stairs to a handsome dining-room, where there was a stylish lunch laid
 out of cold chicken, salad, sandwiches, & a sort of great marvellous covered with
 red. There was a fine bust of Byron here, which Mr. Thompson said was
 executed by one of Thorwaldsen's pupils in Italy, & is probably the head for
 which Byron sat, & from which Thorwaldsen took the features & likeness
 for the fine statue in the College Library - This I should think was more true,
 for it has the haughtiness in the brow & the sensuality & temper in the lips.
 We then went out again & through the arcade entered into the doorway
 leading to the Hall - It is a very fine room, much like Christ Church hall
 at Oxford, Dr. Gray says, but that the proportions of that are finer. There
 is a lantern in the centre of the roof & underneath was an enormous
 brazier filled with charcoal all in a flow, but the fumes pass off so entirely
 through this lantern that you do not perceive them at all. There were
 some fine portraits over the dais, one of Newton in a morning-gown which
 looked almost feminine the features were so delicate, & a beautiful picture
 by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of the late Duke of Gloucester when a boy. This hall
 had not two tables running down the side & one on the dais, but there
 were two on the dais, & the whole body ^{as most are equal to it} covered with tables, I think there
 were 6 or 8 running the whole length of the room. The students are obliged
 to dine in hall, & not allowed to be absent more than two days in the week
 without an excuse. Sundry grateful sons of Trinity have decorated the
 windows with their coats of arms in stained glass. There is a handsome
 carved oak screen running across the foot of the room, which was given
 by Mary of Wood's memory, who was oddly enough a great patroness of
 this college. We went into the Battery & saw two enormous tin chests

full of beer; they are quite famous for their brewing. And then went up into the Combination room, as they call what is called 'Common room' in Oxford. It was a pleasant room with a large round table in front of the fire place, arranged with places ^{for dinner} ^{was in fact the Council of the University} near. There was a fine miniature here of some other. Then having by a door opposite to the one by which we entered the building, we came into a fine large room with a covered architectural set of ancient or fountain in the centre; on S. side were old towers, I can't remember how old, but I believe the most modern one was built. The Master's lodge formed the rest of that side where the hall was. And he always found to entertain great persons who came into Cambridge. The Queen staid there when she came - just by the side we passed through a gate leading to a little walled yard or garden, filling the corner made by the angle where two sides met, the broadest, smoothest turf, like a velvet carpet, in the centre, this was where the trial plays were worked by the Master; but Mrs Thompson said, they have stopped up that window now - on the farther side of the town, in the centre of the side at right angles with the large hall, is the chapel, where we went to see the stone statues it is in the ante-chapel, & is certainly very fine. There is also a bust of Queen by the same sculptor, Kneller. (There was another statue which interested me much by Channing of Lord Bacon. On improved copy as it were of the one which stands upon his tomb, in which he is represented as sitting in his arm-chair in the position most natural to him, & dressed in the costume of the time, Rich. III., so, which the artist has well managed in giving faithfully, but without pretence of the chapel itself is simple, but neatly filled up with oak. We then left the college under one of the towers opposite the hall, bidding Mrs Thompson adieu, who had kindly asked Dr. Jones to dine with him in Hall next day, (he said the Queen & some other great lady were the only ladies who had ever dined in Hall) & I was to join them afterwards & go to evening prayers, & asked us to take coffee with him in the Caf. As we walked away we concluded he could not expect us so early, & directly after prayers - joyful conclusion! as the sequel will show. We went through the quadrangles of St. John's college, there were three of brick, each differing from the other in architecture, & quite old, crossing a bridge over the Cam, which was covered with open lattice windows at the sides, we came upon a path built a few years ago in modern Gothic.

All the windows on the sides of the Colleges in the lower stories are paved or barred; for a register is kept of the time each student comes in at night after a certain hour, & of course they must be admitted by the porter through the great gate. And those students who are permitted to lodge out, their lodging-house-keeper must keep also a record of the hours they keep. We had a tremendous shower on our way back, & good shelter in a doorway for a while. And after we were safely housed there was a severe hail storm. As it grew dark I was quite amused by watching the pass of a group of people who were gathered under our windows by a band of musicians, who played for some time in the arch way of our hotel. Many faces were so different, & others so like what one sees at home, that I was surprised to see people so pent up as some of them looked, namely curiously to listen with the rest of the crowd. He came out very early the next morning, & soon after breakfast went out to look about. He walked some distance in one direction, & saw the ancient old round church of the time in England, Barnstable, &c. &c. By looking about & returning once or twice we at last got in; the straight channel must have been added much later, but the round part must be very very old. It is low, & the walls of enormous thickness. It is now used as the vestible, & has been recently done up with a new tiled floor & new stained glass in the very narrow windows. We wandered about the streets & found we were too late for some services for early for others, & at last decided to return to our hotel & wait until the afternoon service at St. John's, Mary's, the University Church - it at two we repaired there. There is nothing very striking in the interior of the church. It is arranged as at Oxford, the body for the parishes & dignitaries, only there are two galleries on each side for the students, & then a gallery over the choir where the Master of College & such great people sit. I was quite struck with the unintellectual, homely faces of the young men in the gallery opposite us. But a lot of the fine looking Englishmen. After church as we were walking in St. James's Park, a young man after passing us, came running back & saying to my friend said he believed he met us travelling last summer, & on my not looking quite sure, said at the little inn at Whitchurch, where the Frenchman was. He then remembered him perfectly, having travelled the same route several days; & this last day after crossing the Channel, we all arrived at this little mountain inn, delayed with wet, & eager to get something to eat. That the old Frenchman meant who kept it would give us - but Dr.

Gray looked very cross at this young man, because he by mistake took our dinner, which was brought before him - And this old Frenchman, a most jolly, amusing man, kept us all in peals of laughter with his attempts to talk German & English, & his comment, which he meant as highest praise on Queen Victoria, as "this respectable". He always called Dr. Gray "Monsieur le professeur de Botanique". Well - this travelling acquaintance introduced himself as Mackenzie by name, said he belonged to Cairns (pronounced Key's) College, & after offering to show us round, invited Dr. Gray to dine with him in Hall the next day - Now wasn't it odd that travelling acquaintances turned out so polite & agreeable? And this one particularly, such a mere chance one that we had scarcely spoken to, & certainly never expected to meet again? - He returned to the hotel, Dr. Gray to dress to dine with Mr. Thompson, which he enjoyed very much, & said was truly quite an imposing sight, & one he enjoyed highly seeing that great hall filled with students. - The monks are returned after dinner (a custom at all English tables) by two of the students coming to the head of the room & reciting a Latin Grace. Meantime I took my solitary dinner, & prepared to be ready when the fly should come to carry me to Chapel. I had on my black silk one of those English, thick silks, which the rain at Oxford had made to crinkle & cockle, so that its beauty had certainly departed, & when dressing in the morning I reflected I should be out all day, & so it was not worth while to put on a nice collar to be trampled & soiled under my knit jacket & sack, so I chose one rather plain - Then I had had on a fresh pair of sleeves, but they were an unlucky sort that would tumble up & look dirty, & as it had been very chilly, I thought, to be out in the Eng., I would draw my wrists over them. Of course I did not rearrange my hair or provide a cap, as I laid out everything, my watered silk &c. &c. to make a more elegant toilette on re- turning to appear at Mr. Thompson's in the Eng., And of course I wore my great clumping boots, for I never venture ^{out} in England abroad without my feet well protected - So at six I had my bonnet on, which never was a beauty & certainly has not gained with age & wear, & so to Chapel, & the fly drove up to the great tower gate as youths in white surplices were hastening in - As soon as it stopped Mr. Thompson appeared to escort me, looking immense & very handsome in the fair whiteness of fresh & nicely starched surplices; Mr. Babington peeping out sneekily from behind him in his black gown, for he belongs to St. John's - As we walked across the court we met Dr. Gray with another gentleman, & joining went into Chapel - Mr. T. put me in a stall between him & another white robe, but Dr. Gray went further on - Gradually the whole chapel filled - There were two ranks of seats in the stalls, & below them benches ran down the body of the church, leaving only a narrow pathway in the

centre; & seated as closely on these as they could sit, were the students, & as it was Sunday they were all in white surplices - It was an interesting sight & worth seeing when all were standing in service; & contrary to my experience in Church in the afternoon, there were many very handsome & interesting faces, & I was surprised to see them generally so youthful in an English college - I noticed soon after service began, a man quietly walking down the centre with a great paper roll in his hand, evidently marking off each man's name - You must remember these were the students of Trinity College only, I think Mr. Thompson said there were 270 odd students - The service was choral & the music was very beautiful, & had an immensely fine & solemn effect from the number of good bass voices; & it is an impressive sound when a great chorus of men's voices respond to the prayers - ^{The organ} ~~The organ~~ ^{chained to be the same as at St. Patrick's, Dublin. A very beautiful one, the St. Patrick} The little choristers who sing at the College Chapels are generally, I believe, boys who are chosen & receive their education, free from expense, from a master appointed for that purpose, in a school attached to the College; & the nine or ten scholars, they have a chance to be chosen among the students on the foundation. When service was through I looked for Dr. Gray to escort me home to change my attire, but I missed him; & when we got to the door we found Mr. Thompson's servant with an umbrella, for lo! it poured with rain! I told Mr. T. I had thought he would not expect us so early, & had made no toilette; but I could do nothing but go with him to his room - When Dr. Gray joined us there I was quite bewildered; Mr. T. said it poured with rain, & that they were backless & knew nothing about dresses, & only one lady was coming, & I saw he expected us there, & my going & coming back again would not be agreeable - So after awhile, I told him I must stay in my bonnet then all the time, & he & Dr. Gray going up stairs, with the assistance of his woman-servant I smoothed myself down as well as I could. But I must confess I was sadly mortified; Francis's solemn exhortation, "Remember, Jane, the reputation of the American ladies is to be supported by you, & dress well!" ^{was before me} I thought, if she, or Lizzy, or Susan, or father, could see me, what would they say! And a man evidently so particular & elegant! Well there was nothing left to be done but to carry it off as well as I could, so I went up stairs, & tried to be very agreeable, particularly to Mrs. Challis, when she came with her daughter, a quiet young lady of 17 or 18 - Prof. Challis is distinguished as an astronomer, he is a quiet looking man, short, with a great, round head & high forehead from which the hair stands off like a frame; Mrs. Challis is a domestic looking personage, whose great concern seemed to be Prof. Challis' enormous amount of labour - The other personages were, Mr. Trayer, vice-master of Trinity, next whom Dr. Gray sat at dinner, & a country clergyman, an old fellow in years fine type, who had not been in Cambridge for some time, & was full of quaint stories, (as Dr. J. said), and a queer looking man who looked as if he had had a great deal of time over learned tomes, & felt awkward & out of place if he raised it to look into the world - I cannot think of his name, but he has lately edited a new edition of Newton's works - We had a pleasant Evf.; Mr. Thompson was very agreeable, & his mouth & teeth are particu-

early good, especially when he smiles. Not for all that it is not a very pleasing im-
probable looking smile - a little too much sacrosanct looks in it - A little of the
impudence of Thomas à Kempis to play like him much, & says he has such a demand, well -
informed, liberal mind - And he fills a very responsible place. He is no longer
young, & is one of the 20-40 teachers who have everything to manage. He did
not stay very long. - (Monday) Evening we met first at the City of William Museum,
a fine Woodstock building, built from a fund bequeathed with certain relations
to the University, by a transient City William. - The exterior is very handsome. The
interior is unimpaired, except in certain rooms, but handsomely planned in
every respect. There are some good paintings here - One of Titian's I did not take
home, but some of the British school, the Rembrandts, & some Italian ones. I did
find my eye improving for the Italian school. - There is a collection of sta-
tuaries casts from famous antiquities, & a good library where we saw some in-
teresting things of Rembrandt's. - Thence Mr. C. accompanied us to the University
Library, looking in our way into one or two lecture rooms, which are not nearly
so comfortable or so well arranged as ours are, the students having only narrow
benches without backs to sit upon, & quite crowded together. - At the library he left
us in charge of the Librarian, Mrs. Conell or Misses the gentleman when before
was walking with us, & when entering the chapel the evening before. - Well,
indeed, in good ~~company~~ cannot even get to regret that I was not more cordial &
grateful, for I did not think at the moment that that one should see him a
man - And he certainly had been most kind & attentive, without our having
any claim upon him. - The Librarian was also very kind to us. - He showed
us in the various Latin manuscripts, little it might be said, with a few
pious binders & curiously illuminated, a little book oflections, with two or
three signatures of Edward VI. - The first book ever printed in English, a treatise
on chess, & the old Greek manuscript of the papels owned by Bona, & which
is one of the great authorities. - There were some fine interesting books,
& for arrangement or saving room for shelves a jolting light, I think,
it is the best ^{Library} I have seen. - After looking about awhile, the gentleman in-
vited us to see Mr. Carpenter's Geological fossil, &c. Museum,
which is a fine collection. - And then he took us into the Hall, a little chapel
consisting of only one quadrangle, where he is fellow. - There was a neat chapel
with a circular ante-chapel. - And the Combination room opened from
a gallery running across the end of the hall opposite the door. It was
a fine room, with a great curious antique old grate & carved oak
fire-place, & a quiet library opened from that, looking very old. - They
all opened one into the other, on a pretty scale. - Then he took us into
Christy Hall, another small college. - Here he ^{had been} student, that we might
see it pretty well set around. And in the Combination Room, where
was again a semi-circular table surrounding the fire-place, ^{then} was a set

of railroad connecting the two ends of the horse-shoe - To pass the decanter across - We then bade adieu, & by, but came running after us before we were across the street, & took us into the Senate Room, their Education Hall here - The students were undergoing examinations, & the hall was filled with tables running the length, at which were seated the young men, writing answers to a printed form of Questions from Bacon. But that there might be no assistance from neighbors, there were two desks, 1 & 2, so that each man had not the same as his neighbor, & gave tutors or others were walking about - It was a fine room, filled up with oak - There is much more variety in the undergraduates than in Oxford, each college having something to distinguish it - And the public men & commoners & noblemen staying from highly decorated with robes here at some of them - And the students must appear with from a Cap on Chapel, in hall, at examinations, lectures, &c. &c. After taking a little lunch at our hotel, we went to see Jesus College, which lies some distance off - It is on the foundations of an old monastery, & the chapel, which had got very much out of repair, they are now restoring, & a little too much through of elaboration & gay coloring for my taste, for I do not share their gay feelings or so much ornament - There was a fine battle here - It is clearer than Cambridge offers from Oxford. We cannot quite tell when it fell, perhaps, because some of the buildings are brick, they have not that very ancient, quiet, monastic air, but yet some of the Cambridge College ^{are} very old, but Cambridge looks more classical - I stand on the whole my heart seems to prefer - On our return we got some prints, & then tried to see a glorious picture of Cornwall at Redruth, Success College, but could not find them, as the room was occupied, & we had not time to return - Dr. Fay went back to make himself ready to dine at Louis - He enjoyed the dinner much, & said there were many gentlemen men, mostly young, & after adjoining to the Combination Room, he went with them to Chapel, & then to Mr. Mackenzie's room, & he was not back until quite late, when he came off again to call on Mr. Stephens, whom to our great regret he did not find at home - Delistine after packing, I had my never failing occupation of writing. I ought not to smother our walk on Sunday after church, through the quadrangles of St. John's, over that bridge, which looks I think as better much the finest & most interesting College buildings rising from the water on each side, & then out from the cloister into the beautiful grounds, and I cannot tell you how lovely a bank was on the river side of a sort of ditch, quite

circled with primroses, & blue hyacinths &c. &c. such pretty, graceful, yellow tufts! Then over another bridge we returned through the Quadrangles of Trinity - It is a great privilege to have such lovely walks - And at both Oxford & Cambridge the students have these beautiful grounds attached to the University as it were, the charming private gardens where only members of the College have admission, & the quiet courtyards & cloisters - Certainly the outside life seems very fascinating - X

We were up early ~~off~~ ^{Sunday} morning for we wanted to see Ely Cathedral on our way to London, so we left our luggage in the Station, took the 8 o'clock train - Ely was called the Isle of Ely from the low marshes round it in former times, & it was the only elevation for miles, it was a sort of refuge for some monks when England was overrun by the Danes, & its old history is quite curious, & how in later times it stood out against Wm. the Conqueror - The Cathedral is built on the foundations of a church, & monastery, I think, of some Saxon princess, & certain carvings of scenes taken from her life still surrounding the Capitals of some high columns, & commemorate her - It presents some curious contrasts ^{in style} ~~as preserved by the~~ first having been built in Saxon style, with round arches, but a tower in the centre fell & crushed & arches in the Choir, & the centre was rebuilt by the most famous architect, a century or two later, when Gothic had come in, with an octagon in the centre rising to a lantern, & extending pointed arches to supply the three thrown down - You will find plates of it in Father's 'Stories of English Cathedral churches', & they are worth examining, for the interior is very beautiful - The choir is finished with columns of black purbeck marble, which sometimes singly, some times clustered, are charmingly set off against the lighter stone, & certainly the choir is wonderfully beautiful - And the whole interior is very fine - It is now undergoing repairs; they are scraping off the barbarous whitewash from the columns, cleaning the roof, refecting the richly carved stalls, & attempting to restore the beautiful little Chapel in the South Aisle, which was filled with figures & statues, ^{the} whole in most elaborate & graceful Gothic, but in Cromwellian times the figures were knocked down, & if they could not do that they knocked the heads off! - There are two of these chapels of later date than the Cathedral, & different also themselves, but very elaborate & beautiful in architec- ture - Adjoining is what was formerly the Lady's Chapel, but is now used as a parish church - The proportions, the elaborate finish inside & out, its Gothic niches with their graceful canopies quite living the interior, make it the study of architects! - There are traces of the interior having been formerly all in bright colour, the back of each recess red, thus throwing out the openwork carving,

& I suppose they will restore it so - But I do not think I should like it -
 The found a civil, pleasant young woman, who evidently makes it an occupation
 to show strangers about, & has the keys to the Chapel - The Tower at the entrance
 is quite remarkable for its massive size - And the great round arches
 at its base are very high - He had not a great while however, & hastened
 back to the Station, where we ^{took} the rail for London; stopping long enough in
 Cambridge to pick up our luggage - He reached London at two, & as I
 wished to stop in Bishopsgate St. to order some boots, we sent our luggage to
 the Waterloo station by Parcel Express, who promised to have it there for
 the 3 1/2 train, & we walked to the shoe-makers, & thence to the Bank
 where we took an omnibus down the Strand - But on getting to the station
 a few minutes before the train was to be off, imagine our dismay at finding
 our luggage had not come - After a brief consultation, we decided that I
 must return alone, & Dr. Gray wait its arrival - So I did not make a very
 grand entrance into Kew, with shawl on arm, basket in hand, boots & umbrella,
 & trudging, dusty & weary, from the station - I found a huge heap of letters,
 the two weeks from home I acknowledged last week, & sundry others which
 refreshed one body & mind, & then I had my solitary dinner - Quite
 late Dr. Gray arrived, & flinging himself meanly on the sofa declared, "he
 never would be economical again!" - It seems the luggage came in time
 for the next train, but weary with his early rising & days excursion he fell
 asleep in the Car, & was carried to Leiceworth, two stations beyond Kew! & he
 got out, supposing the luggage had been taken out at Kew; walking back the
 weary miles he found that the luggage had been carried on, nobody knew
 whether, & leaving directions with the station master to send for it, he
 came home - It was rather important, as all his best clothes, which he
 must have for Mrs. Lawrence's, were in it - And as after waiting & sending
 back & forth it had not come at 10 1/2, he did not know but he must
 devote the next day to looking it up - However it came about 3 1/2 the
 next morning - But with the whole transaction we thought economy a
 bad speculation; & that next time we would take a Cab, even though
 it entailed two or three double fares - Wednesday I employed in unpacking
 & preparing our dress for the evening - The ladies will want to know what I
 wore - My wedding-silk, which with my black velvet head-dress & blk. velvet
 on my throat & arms, made very pretty demi-devil, & I threw my lace
 scarf over my shoulders - We had our carriage at 6, & reached Piccadilly
 at 7 - We unlocked in a little anteroom to the Library, where we had seen
 Mrs. Lawrence before, & where against the wall had been placed a frames
 studded with books, each one numbered - Mrs. Lawrence received us in the
 Library, & was very kind & cordial - She was dressed very handsomely in half-
 mourning, only I did not quite fancy her much pearl head-dress - But then

people near three things here - We found Mr. Bentley & Henry Biglow - And
presently Mr. Kimball, son to the American minister, & his sister arrived,
& then Mr. Samuel Furness & his wife, whose daughter Mary Kimball
married, & then two of the Furness clan, got the dinner party was for
them, and it is an immense conviction, ~~but I don't think~~ - Mrs
Lawrence kindly introduced me to the Misses Kimball, who were pleasant
girls, & then old Mrs. Furness came up to me & introduced. Kindly, asked
me what my name was & my connection with Mrs. Lawrence. As I intro-
duced myself, Dr. Jay took stand by. He really has one of the most deli-
cate faces I ever saw & the three & then surrounded. So pleasantly again. Mrs
Kimball handed me in to dinner, & sat between Miss & Biglow & Lau-
rence, & they were both very pleasant. (The dining room is a very handsome
room, some large pictures on the walls & some & ~~large~~ painted in oil upon
cane. ~~There is~~ I think at dinner - The table was very handsomely set in the French
fashion, that is with the descent upon it, plates in handsome dishes arranged
with green leaves, but how tastefully displayed, fancy cakes, &c. &c. & two
splendid candlesticks, ~~in the center~~ in the center a large silver with
peaceful figures, some three feet high, on each side a handsome metal-
lically high of artificial flowers ^{on the} ~~the~~ dishes were put on the table, but
what off to be carved, & each handed to every person, so that you might have
what you choose, & I don't think at each one I know, when the first
course for the gentlemen to carve, & where modest people are often staid
when they must ask for what they want - It was a very handsome dinner.
But Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence were exactly the same as in Park St. You have only
to fancy the party in London instead of Boston - But I should think
the English would like our manners, they are so much easier than
theirs - Talk of Frenchness as formal compared to Englishness, we are
hard fellow-well met compared to English manners, especially when more
acquainted - I had more chance of seeing in the evening the party manners
of high life, & though you see some very high bred, an insupportable dis-
pence & compromise, I would not change for it our greater ease & uncon-
sciousness, our mildness to sinners & be amused, & implicitly & abandon-
I believe the English like it in us, especially the gentlemen, when it is not
carried so far, as you sometimes see it when a person wishes
to be at ease - I had rather see elegance & reserve at a distance than come
in contact with it - Well - When the ladies left the room we went up
stairs into the drawing room, & they were beautiful women - Two French
girls each other & were quite surrounded by swarms of little half-jest - The

ceiling was beautifully painted, & these handsome tables inlaid with
painted porcelain, &c. &c. - Bases, Couches, & in the back room a pair of
band of music - A pretty border with gold & red damask furniture
& hung with pictures placed from the back room, and another room
hung with pictures, some very pretty, from the front - It was a very
pleasant suite of rooms as far as I could see, for I was so much taken
up with people I did not look much at the furniture - I soon saw
it was a reception night, & wanted to stay & see the fun, so I stayed
to delay when Dr. Jay came to say it was 10 o'clock, when we had ordered our
carriage - I got a station near the door to see people come in, but
Mrs. Lawrence, as soon as she saw me, kindly began to introduce people -
A young man, Mr. Drummond, grandson of the Duke of Rutland, & son
of Lady Porting, of interesting memory, & another known whose name I can
not remember, who has been in Boston, but who was very interesting &
told me the names of several interesting people - Lord Broughton, who
was Sir John Carr's brother, Biglow's friend, & a shortish man with a
fine large head covered with light hair, a good face & striking features.
Very Lord Beaver. With a fine silver sword, his neck, & the dagger
with a superb emerald necklace - And Joseph, with another woman
star on his coat, & trying to look fierce in a coat of say, emerald stars,
tall & stiff, & Lady Joseph with a cap of blue net & pearls, & pearls hanging
round neck & jewelry when she moved. Mrs. Selous, brother of the
speaker, a fine looking man; Lady Morgan, a little dot of a woman in
black velvet to her throat with fur trimmings & feather hair, & a long
veil - mantle on her head, which was probably fastened to some one
a yard behind - She has a sharp nose, & thin lips & looks wide awake
shill & well ~~to~~ to write fast letters, but I should think she would
have been like one had only to stand in one place & all the while
come by, & I got a position near Mrs. Kimball, whom we met at Mrs.
Gray's, & then gentlemen's & her comments were irresistible - If they did
not know always people's names, she knew they were three dozen last
year, & how Mrs. Noyan had become Mrs. Montgomery, &c. &c. Occasionally
Mrs. & Mrs. Lawrence would say a little of Dr. Jay & I's dog was out
to be introduced to some one - Dr. Jay had the full honor of his title

And I should not wonder if I were known as the lady "with extensive connections of each high order in Boston." But they were certainly very kind & attentive - The introduction was to Dr. & Mrs. Whewell of Cambridge - He is Master of Trinity, & he expressed great regret at not having seen us there, heard of it & was coming, but we had left - He has a great head & a strong face, but I don't like the expression, stern, hard, fixed, & I could never trust it. Between you & ^{me}, the noblemen are not generally to be known by their looks - Such a little piece as walked about as Marquis of Shaftesbury, with an enormous white cravat; he tried to look over the crowd, but he was short & could not - There were some very handsome women, & some very ugly; some very handsomely dressed, & others as if they were trying to get the most pitiful combinations & forms; one short lady had two flowers back half a yard deep, & a point down her back which quite met them - Another had a wreath of grapes, purple & white, natural size, as wide as your hand; but she was certainly no Bacchante in face, being stout & matter of fact - Just as Dr. Gray was persuading me to go, the Duke of Wellington came in - He is shorter than I had supposed, he never could have been a tall man, though he is now much bent with age - And the face is not quite so noble as I had fancied - Still the pictures are very like him - He stood talking some time with a very pretty girl, & with her mother & sister, she is quite a pet of his, Miss Norton - Then was another very handsome woman he spoke to, Mrs. Pascholy I think is the name - At last Dr. Gray said "Go!" so as we went & bid Mrs. Lawrence good evening she stopped us to introduce Mr. Eliot Warburton, an unimpressive looking man with sandy hair & an intelligent face & I am so sorry it is too late to write more today, & I must say good-bye! Many thanks to Lizzie & Sue for letters this week - I was very much pained to hear about Mary Perkins - How long the time seems until I can hear again! - I was very glad to see Lizzie's hand writing again, for it was some weeks since I had heard from her - I have never rec'd any account from her of her dinner party - With ever, ever so much love to all Most affectionately, Jane



Gray, Jane Loring. 1851. "Gray, Jane Apr. 11, 1851 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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