

Paris - April 29 '51 -

Dear Lizzie, I think here I am in Paris, & my journal back in England a fortnight ago! Well before saying anything of the busy present I think it best to take up the past, & so return to a fortnight ago today. - Dr. Gray came home to an early lunch, & we took the omnibus into London to call on Mrs. Lawrence - I in the elegance of my new straw bonnet & white camel's hair - But I can't tell you how I begrudge wearing these things into London; it had been so smoky & the East wind so strong for the few last days as to blow the smoke somewhat even to New, & when you were in London itself it seemed like a dark cloud over everything, & it is painful to one's feelings to see the fresh whiteness disappearing under "little blacks" as they call them - One's face & collar can be washed again to be sure, but one's new ribbons cannot - And I scarcely ever wear my camel's hair into London for that reason - It is quite refreshing to get out to New again where the skies are so much clearer - I think I should be very discontented to live in London - Well we got out at the corner & walked to Mrs. Lawrence's, & the servant said Mrs. Lawrence was 'not at home' but Dr. Gray said I must go in & wait while he went up to see Mr. Lawrence about his letters & passport - So I went into the library - After awhile Mrs. Lawrence came in, wrapped in a shawl, & looking very tired - She said she was taking advantage of the cessation of gaieties for Passions week to have the house put in order, ^{she} ~~looked~~ ^{as if she had been} very tired! I told her I was very sorry she had come down, for I had no intention of seeing her, but as Dr. Gray & I were obliged to come together he must leave me somewhere while attending to business - But I felt very sorry, I must say, for I thought she would think me rude & pushing for having invited on coming in, though she was very kind - ~~The~~ ^{the} ~~two~~ ^{two} English people have told us Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence were very much liked - They are always cordial & good-natured, they entertain, which none of our ministers have done before, that is so much & on so large a scale - And Mrs. Lawrence always has a ready word on public occasions, & Mrs. Lawrence would not be thought so singular here as at home - And I am sure their country men ought to be satisfied, they are so heartily cordial & good-natured - I should think from all accounts, in their personal attentions & kindness to Americans, they were a great contrast to Mr. & Mrs. Morris here, who are said to be exceedingly stiff & formal - And exclusive too - Well from Mrs. Lawrence's we went to the Vernon gallery to pass the time until we met Mrs. Thompson at the new palace of Westminster, to which ^{Mr. Barry is the architect} Francis Palgrave had kindly given us one of Mr. Barry's tickets - We walked from the Vernon gallery across St. James Park, which is a pretty enclosure half as large as the Common I should think, & rejoicing in a sheet of water over which you can be ferried if you please, but I preferred walking round - The day was so cold & chilly that there was not much satisfaction in being out - We found Mrs. Thompson waiting for us at Port's Corner of Westminster Abbey, & we crossed over to Westminster Hall just

Wednesday I felt somewhat tired & would have been glad to stay at home, but Lady Brooker sent for us to dine at 6 1/2 - Mr. Thompson & themselves were all, & we had a very pleasant Ep. - My letters came Wednesday which I acknowledged that week - Thursday I was busy preparing things to go to Paris - And in the afternoon Uncle Charles suddenly arrived - He staid & dined with us, & told us about his Italian journey. He certainly saw a most wonderful number of places in so short a time, & stored his mind with pleasant memories, which I am sure will repay him for the then fatigue - He seemed to enjoy very much telling them over to us - He looked tired & sleepy from the journey (the night before ^{but happy man, had not been at all sea-sick,} And proposed to be off for Edinburgh next morning but we wanted him to play & go sight-seeing a little with us if he thought it worthwhile - Dr. Gray went into town with him, meaning to take him to the Royal Society, but found on getting to Dr. Booth's there was none that evening, & Dr. Booth advised Uncle Charles so strongly to go at once to Edinburgh, that he decided to go off the next morning - I walked over to the station with them, & it was a lovely Ep. Soft & warm, & more spring like than anything we had had - I found a new walk coming back, by the river side, quite charming!

Friday was a lovely day again - But having some cold & no particular inducement I kept quiet & passed the morning writing, & it was quite an amusement to see the crowds pass the window - Being on upon the Richmond road I had the full advantage - The omnibuses were crowded, & double the usual number I should think - Then vehicles of every sort of grade from smart carriages down to donkey-carts, crammed full of men & women children & babies all going & pleasuring - The gardens were filled with crowds walking about - Sir William told me afterwards there were 2,000! I came to the conclusion that day in England was much the same as that-day with us, & should be spelt with an E - Saturday Lady Brooker sent for us to come & dine with Mr. Brown & Dr. Wallich who were to be there - Dr. Gray had work over at the garden, & I went over about 1/2 to persuade him to take a stroll with me, it was so pleasant a day - Just as we were leaving we heard a voice calling us, & saw Sir Wm. in a little lookout on the fence ~~which~~ ^{which} separated off the garden of the former direction - We found our way to him through a gate in the wall, & then through such a queer little yard, & such a sort of wilderness or labyrinth! Mr. Brown & Dr. Wallich were with Sir Wm. & he led us through the yard to the house where in one room are placed for the present such as have been sent home of Dr. Brooker's collections, such heaps & heaps! Sir Wm. said it was only about 1/3! - Dr. Gray left us when we came out, but I went with the other gentlemen to see a drawing made by a lady of some plant in the Palm house - The ^{gentlemen} ~~ladies~~ ^{went to West Bank} to dine by 6 o'clock, & had a very pleasant dinner - Mr. Brown has been in poor health this winter & I thought & looked much older than when I saw him in Leyden last summer - But he brightened up occasionally & said dry, quiet things in his peculiar way - He certainly is very deficient in manly beauty! Dr. Wallich is a very amusing person - His English

has a great deal of foreign accent, & the forcible & rather unusual use of words which a foreigner so often has - And his accounts of things are very extravagant & do not his account of his likences for which he has lately been sitting, & his wife's opinion of it, were very amusing - "Oh!" said he, "I am obliged to hide ~~them~~ under my books - Or my wife would burn all the copies I have!" - When I was sitting & she saw that drawing, she said, Mr. Maguire, Dr. Dallick cries! Oh, said he, I can alter that; but the more he uttered, the more I cried! & when it came home & my wife saw it, she cried, & said she was sure something was the matter with me & I was unhappy! - "Oh!" said Mr. Brown "when you saw it I thought you were sneezing!" -

Easter Sunday we had written to the Wards saying we would come over & dine with them & go to church - I therefore did not go to New Church, preferring the afternoon service on Easter Sunday - Dr. Gray went alone & then we took our way to the Station, getting to Clapham about 2 1/2 - But somehow we did not seem to be in time for service - Mrs. Ward had been ill again, & scarcely seemed fit to come out & see us - Mrs. Ward took us into the little garden to show us some cases he is preparing to send to the Exhibition, among others he sends the glass bottle which first suggested the idea to him, & in which the ferns have now been growing 17 years! & nothing done for them all that time! - He had a very pleasant meeting with them all, Stephen & his wife & that Ward were there too - It poured with rain after dinner, so we could not go out - And we had foolishly come without umbrellas; we sent for a fly, as we thought in good time for the 8.30 train, but the boy was forever, & we could only hope to reach the 9.30 - When we were about half way to the station, Dr. Gray discovered that he had put on the wrong coat, & in the pocket of his own were our return tickets! For, for a few days of the holidays, the same ticket lets you go & return for a day - So new tickets must be bought, & when we got in the train to Barnes we found that the 8.30 was the last train which went to Kew, & this one went to Richmond! However it turned out better in the end, for we found a fly there which took us directly to our door - Monday we were up & off very early in the morning, for I had invited Miss Chollet (sister to Miss G. at Cambridge & niece of M. Guizot, & niece to Madame Grandville in Paris) to come & pass a day of the Easter holidays with me; her school-mistress was to send her with a servant to the Station, & I was to meet her there & accompany her to Kew - Where we were back again at 10 o'clock - Having merely gone in & out again, & left Dr. Gray to accomplish sundry business in town - She is a pleasing young person, & I think enjoyed the day, for she scarcely knows a person out of her school connexions - She talks nothing but French, very few words of English, so I had a day's practice in the French language, & I think you could scarcely have heard anything more amusing than my attempts to explain things, when showing her round the gardens & houses - We had a lovely morning when I went into London, & it was very pleasant when we first went into the garden, but clouds began to gather & as we came back to our lodgings about 1 o'clock to get some lunch, it began to rain; I looked at

the ship hoping we might have fair weather, but it came more desperately down, & at 2 o'clock we went under our umbrellas & look at the Museum; we dined at 5, & then Dr Gray visited Middle. into town in the omnibus & again to St Johnwood, & at 8, having then to get back himself did not reach home until 9 1/2. - Tuesday I was packing all day, & this is the last of things to leave, for of course we cannot possibly take more, though we have kept one down stairs to store away things in. Wednesday I went up to lunch with the Wicks & did them post-box. They were very kind & cordial. And on leaving there Dr Gray & I walked down to take the omnibus to Loughborough Green to call on Mrs. Lushington, & her daughter who had left cards upon us the week before. Dr. Alexander came in while we were there at the Wicks & went with us to Loughborough Green in his way to his own house. He is one of those who stick not up in Cambridge during the meeting of the Scientific Association, & it is the first time I have seen him in England. Before I went to the Wicks my letter arrived, which I acknowledged last night. Some letters from Susan & from Alice. A delightful packet. The rest of the day & I was devoted to packing & clearing away. And Thursday in forenoon we took our way to the train, the luggage having been sent over before. In the bus not at home when we lunched at the Wicks, so Dr Gray went up in the Cab & bid him post-box, & take my advice, but he said one word he should certainly come down in the morning in time to see me. - As we walked to the station we saw him coming down the lane. He joined us, & kindly walked with us round over to the train. A gentleman came up joining in the same direction, whom Mr. Wicks introduced as Capt. Ballal, & who joined us & took seats with us in the same carriage, he is brother to Miss Ballal of whom I have spoken. He is a naval Captain, & a true sailor, & frank & good-natured & merry. He has promised when we come back to take us to some of the clubs in London. - From the Waterloo Station we took a cab with our luggage which had received some considerable addition in the shape of a large chest of plants Dr Gray was taking over to Paris to study, to the London Bridge Station, where we took our tickets for Paris & our places in the cab for Abbeville. - The train was very full & crowded. The day was lovely & everything looked so green & lovely about London, the trees in Woodstock all fresh, that I quite regretted leaving England. - It was not so green as we have nearer to the North-east, but much more springy flowers were out. As we walked to the cab occasional people with each charming lanes & of such banks of bare hills. - We had nearly two hours to wait for the sailing of the steamer from Abbeville, & so stopped & got some soup for lunch & walked about the town, & then went on board. The boat, where we had some amusement in watching the embarkation of some boxes. The tide was a good deal out so the boat lay quite low; on the pier was a large crane working with iron chains. Each box was

backed with a sort of box strongly bound with iron, even bars acting over the horse's back, & then it was placed in front. The top was open to the horse but his head not so you could see his back; his head was secured by his tail fastened on the sides - to these boxes were fastened by iron rings, strong chains which again were locked into the chain of the crane, & then the box being swung up, the horse was gently lowered on deck. - It was quite amusing to see the different behavior of the horses, some so staid, others taking it quite as a matter of course, & others looking so curiously about them. When suspended in mid-air. But generally they were very quiet. - I sent them afterwards & found there were 10 - each of all a great travelling barouche with trunk, boxes, carpet bags, &c. being about & packed in a cab with innumerable servants, some jumping down, looking as Dr Gray said, when in mid-air like some most unnatural criminal. - Then were a great many people watching the day was so fine, but I felt almost dead. I should be glad, for I had not felt quite well the last day or two. However I had prepared myself with the new postcard remedy, & felt stuffed till bound and wait, & the sea was beautifully calm, & all our anticipations were more than equally disappointed. - The coast of England is very picturesque, the white chalk being a very striking & the cliffs very bold & high, we could see Dover's Shakespeare cliff, as it is called. - The coast of France is also much more bold than I had imagined. - In truth we had a very pleasant voyage, & I have nothing more serious to record than that sitting under the shelter I got very sunburnt. - We reached Boulogne about 5 P.M., & having passed through the examination room, & our passports looked at, & our chests checked over, & my travelling bag searched, we appeared to the Bureau by the luggage platform, for Paris for our ascent to 10 am at once. - We fell at once into the tender mercies of a Commissaire, who advised Dr Gray to put me into the omnibus for the Chemin de fer, & wait while they looked into the luggage; & then I mounted a little car, assuming myself with watching the looks of the passengers, & the pleasant women in their white caps & heavy wooden shoes which their short petticoats seemed to bring up, the workmen in their breeches, the ~~travellers~~ with bright red caps, & packs of soldiers in their perfectly stiff uniforms. - After awhile the luggage was duly prepared & dispatched by the railways, & then Dr Gray & another passenger having taken their places in the omnibus, we made slow progress in the same direction. - We did not find a restaurant as we expected at the Station, but only a Cafe. - We walked back into the town & went in to dine at one of the hotels, ordering a dish or two in the waiter. - At 9 we were established in the cars for our night ride to Paris. - I took off my bonnet & wrapped my head in a mantle & placed a large shawl about me, Dr Gray took another, & as the French carriage we left allowing 2 persons in a side & divided by an arm in the middle, we taking one seat & appropriated the one opposite (had a

very comfortable lounge & some good maps - There were only two ladies besides ourselves
 in our carriage, until stopping at one place about 3 o'clock, & then were put in,
 & after that one of them had out so much room, & I did not sleep much -
 But as we drew near Paris I was interested in seeing the face of the country,
 it looked so very differently from England! It has not that air of perfect cul-
 tivation & trim order - But the spring was even farther advanced, for the
 trees were more out - We reached Paris about 5 & had a most civil examination
 at the custom house, they merely looked into the trunk, did not even open
 the bags & valise, & asking Dr. Gray if his chest contained anything but dried
 plants, locked them up again & let us go - He decided to go to M^rewick's while the
 Lowells should be in Paris, & take our lodgings later; so we got there by 6 or soon
 after, & passing the concierge, were ushered up 5 flights of stairs, where we found
 a pretty enough salon & bedchamber adjoining; & the first thing I did was to
 undress & go to bed for a couple of hours; we were up ^{ready} to breakfast, had an
 omelette & a roll, some time about 10, & then called out to see Aunt Lizzie, whom
 we found in the midst of packing - There Dr. Gray left me while he went
 over to the Jardin des Plantes - And I passed the time until he came back
 helping her & talking over the many things passed - They all seemed very well
 & bright - We went back to our Hotel about 3, for I was tired enough to be glad
 to rest; we dined at Table d'Hôte about 5 1/2 & then ordered some fire for it was
 very chilly - In hotels in Paris they bring you up wood & water so much, & you
 burn that up as you please, & then order more - Thus paying by the stick as
 it were - Saturday Lizzie was so kind as to go with me to choose a dress &
 a mantilla - I got a mantilla which changes brown & black, there is not
 much silk in it, but it has a fringe, about 1/4 of a yard deep on the lower portion,
 of sewing-silk a little crimped, & it is soon quite off on the shoulders,
 showing the high-necked dress above; then! isn't that as good as a fashion-
 plate? - It is very painful & stylish looking, & I mean to have an under-jacket
 made to match for colder weather. I looked at foulards for an every-day dress,
 but the fashion is too gay for my taste, such bright glaring bunches of
 flowers on high colored grounds; so I asked for something more quiet, & we
 were shown some handsome plaids of two colors, & some cheaper stamped
 ones in small calico patterns; economy prevailed for the moment over taste,
 & I chose the cheaper - We dined with Aunt Lizzie & met Mr. Lawrence with
 his two boys whom he was to carry back with him to America, they having been
 at boarding-school there in Paris - The evening passed so pleasantly that I had
 no idea it was so late before we went - Almost 11 - Sunday Morn^g we proposed
 to be all ready to go to church & breakfast on our way out at the foot of our 5 flights;
 but on getting down we could see nothing of coffee-room, the house was at work in
 the salle à manger, & there was no one to point the way, so we decided to
 try a Café - It was a chilly day, threatening rain, & looking into several windows
 did not quite please us, we found our way to the Palais National, & were tempted



by the Café Berg. I confess to feeling rather awkward on first entering this great room, filled with little tables & seeing myself on every side reflected by mirrors; the attention of the waiters was at first overpowering, but one soon gets quite used & takes everything as a matter of course. We had each a cup of nice Café au lait, one of these delicious, delicate French rolls almost half a yard long & about as large as a man's wrist, & the sweet butter. When we had finished we took our way to the Oratoire where we were in very good time for service. Mr. Grand Pierre preached, but I could not follow him so well as when I heard French preaching in the winter. It takes a little time to get up one's habits of following. After church it rained hard & we hurried back in the wet. After dinner we went in to Aunt Lizzie's & spent the Ev. with them. Monday morning Dr. Gray & I set off early to go look for apartments, & having taken some addresses from a broker, set off first for the other side of the river, for if we could get a good situation near the Jardin des Plantes & also where I could walk alone it would be more convenient. We went exploring wherever notices to let were hung out, if the house looked nice, we mounted once on Quatrième, & were shown blank rooms, as in my question then I had forgotten to add "meuble." We found two pleasant rooms looking out charmingly upon the gardens of the Luxembourg, but alas! they would not be vacant until the 15th. of May, & that would be too late; they were filled with the books &c. of some students, one "un Anglais" who I thought might be amused could they know how we had been exploring in their private domains — so finding nothing that seemed to be right we decided to come back & try one on this side the river which was recommended as being near the Boulevards the Tuilleries & the Champs Elysées where I could amuse myself when Dr. Gray was away. So we found our way to No. 9 Rue Nicépaise, the Concierge directing us, "dernière porte à gauche, au second!" we ascended a ramp, & were ushered into a pretty enough French saloon. After waiting a moment or two Madame issued from one of the great doors, evidently just out of bed in a dressing-gown & slippers & bade us to come again in half an hour, as the room "n'est pas fait!" & she could not show it, especially to Monsieur disarranged! — So we retraced our steps. Meantime the landlord had been sent some & Dr. Gray's judgment on it was, "that it was pretty when closely examined, but at a little distance looked like a Bd. Calico!" My own opinion of it did not improve, so we carried it in for Aunt Lizzie's judgment, & as she said the same thing & thought it never would look like anything, taste got the victory over economy & I decided to change it if possible for the blue plaid, so Dr. Gray went with me & they were very obliging & changed it at once. And the new one ^{was} met with universal approbation. Then I went with Dr. Gray to

his tailor's, & then we took our way again to Numero 9. Madame was quite ready to receive us & showed us the rooms of which we were to take our choice; "Voilà!" the ante-chamber, which taking the long divan from the Salon & putting it in place of the buffet & with some rearranging of furniture would make the Salon, & the Salon could receive a bed & a wash-stand, & "voilà tout complet!" ~~On~~ the chamber where Madame was sitting, furnished French style as a chamber with a little closet for a dressing-room, & leading by a long dark passage to another dark little room which could be used as a Salon; we preferred the Salon chamber, which we were to take for 100 francs a month paid in advance, & 12 francs more for the Concierge & the bonne who takes care of the rooms. Then we pleased, we were to have our breakfast at the price of the rectorator, & Madame to furnish lights & fire. For dinner we were to dine at the Café. So all was settled & we were to come the next Evening. After dinner we went in to pass the Evening with Aunt Lizzie who was to be off for Nantes early the next morning. They meant to be back Saturday Evening to see the great fête Sunday, & to take the final departure for London the next week. Sophie & Henrietta were left in charge, & the rest of the Establishment dismissed. Tuesday I spent waiting for the dress-maker to alter my dress before dinner, for I should have said on Saturday we expected Mr. Webb, a friend of Dr. Gray, ^{an English} resident in Paris, to call. And when we waited until the last moment, thinking we should be late for dinner & he could not be coming, as we opened the door to go out he stood before it. He accompanied us a few steps, & invited us to dine there Tuesday at 6 1/2. So I wanted my dress which set badly, changed before then. But the woman never came until 12, so that was hopeless. I wrote & packed & made ready for our removal, for we meant to take our things & leave them at Adna Lacoste's as we went to dine, & go there to sleep. Dr. Gray made a visit round there in the afternoon & reported all things ready. But for the dinner a first experience of French cooking I must wait until the next letter.

I am finishing my letter Tuesday, May 6th. to sail by the Franklin tomorrow. The Lowells leave early tomorrow morning for London where they stay a fortnight, & then return ^{to the continent} for their summer's travel through Germany, Switzerland, to Greece, Syria & Egypt & back to Rome for the winter, though their plans are not entirely decided. I must thank Sue, Charlie & John for letters last week. And with fondest love to all I am ever
Most affectionately, Jane —



Gray, Jane Loring. 1851. "Gray, Jane Apr. 29, 1851 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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