

Cumberland Place. Nov —

All along the week beginning June 15. 1837.

Dear Charlie, I have been playing old tricks again for the last two or three days & suffering from tooth-ache - And the consequence is I feel very stupid, & as if my journal were like I bear witness to it - But I am so behind-hand that I cannot afford to wait until I am more brilliant - One has to get acclimated a little on returning to the damp climate of England - But to take up passed matters of Wednesday May 24th - In the morning Miss Kemble came in again, & first the Mr. Ward & myself took a fiacre to the Bathon where Dr. Gray was to meet us - By the way Fiacres are very nice things in Paris - Not stylish but neat & generally clean, & in each one, is obliged to be hung a tariff of prices for day & night, by the hour or course, & beyond the barriers - At convenient distances in certain streets are, ^{permitted} stands for the coaches, or fiacres as they are called, & wherever are these stands is a sort of wooden box, like a wardrobe with windows, where is stationed an inspector who keeps a record of the carriages as they go & come, & to whom you may make complaint of incivility or overcharge, or anything blame-worthy; & on the side is a clock, kept regulated, to refer to for time - On taking a carriage you say whether by the course or the hour - If the hour, the man shows his watch & you yours, or look at the Inspector's clock, & he then takes you wherever you would go & stops as long as you wish, for 75 an hour = 30 cts; you generally give him a sou or two more for a "pour boire" - By the course, he always drives you, to any distance, for the same sum, 25 sous, & the sou or two more is generally given, though more than he can legally demand - If you go beyond the barriers you take the carriage by the hour, unless to a R. R. station which passes as a course, & for a quantity of luggage you give an extra fee - But the number of people 1 or 4 makes no difference - When you get in the driver gives you his number on a bit of paper, (& it is also placé conspicuously inside,) & you keep this so that if you leave anything you can trace it, or have any complaint to make, know your man - So you see one gets a drive much cheaper where there is more than one person than with us, & you can pick up a fiacre in many places - And they are much better than our common street cabs - And better too than the English, which are generally dirty, rough affairs, & where the fare being by mile, leaves one open to all sorts of extortion from the drivers, unless you know London distances well by heart - And such ragged, miserable drivers as they often have - So be sure they are all numbered & have V.R. outside, but the chances to one if

you remember to look at it. — If you wish to be more stylish in Paris, you can later, a "voiture de remise", something like waiting for a carriage from India; only you have a pretty stylish brougham for 2fr. 50 cts an hour, & giving the coachman a larger "pour boire" than, or a "fiacre" — But we were generally humble & took a fiacre, as on the morning it dropped us at the Parthenon — Where, while waiting for Dr. Gray we looked about at the fine & noble interior, whose architecture is more imposing to me than any building in the same style I have seen — And then we watched for awhile the great pedagogue scripping from the centre, ^{then} viewing the Greek orators — The mass was sitting at the day, & I did not see any turning round; he merely held it in his hands until it was quiet, & then let it go — Then we went down with a guide into the crypt & saw the tomb of sundry great men of Napoleon's time, of Bolivar, of J. P. Bonaparte — As most singular device on the sarcophagus of the latter — It represented one dead, as if a door slightly ajar, through which appeared a skeleton hand holding a white torch — If it meant to signify that his name should burn brightly when his body was a skeleton, I think there might have been further ways of expressing it — Fr. R. North Bonaparte's & Bolivar's sarcophagi bore of similar work, but they possess putting them in marble — I am not the only nation of shavens — The crypt is very fine as a specimen of architecture — The whole church is in the style of architecture of St. Paul. Only I must say it struck me as much more imposing made so, though I believe it is not so large — It is not used now as a church, but is I believe still used as a sort of tomb to the great men of France — French Souverains only posterity will decide who shall be put there — After we had looked about some time Dr. Gray appeared, & we took our way to the Basil Church, of which with all its various medicinal treasures, I gave you an account in the winter — It is just one of those things impossible to describe in writing, & if anyone is curious about it I will tell them by word of mouth when I get home — But the Concord, old house looked even more interesting on the exterior, which charmed me as much as the interior, by summer than by winter, now that the marbling is now fresh open, & the quiet little courtyard filled with flowers — I injured three fingers of all the people who had walked there & looked from its windows, such sharp contrast to the great Court, a nursery, a troop of comedians, the little, the wild ^{Remains of} of the first revolution, & saw the curious crowd who came to stare & wonder, to admire & to smile at bygone times — Dr. Gray & I left Mrs. Had & Miss Ockmell there, & went back to no ratings; I do not

awhile, for we were to dine again with Mrs. Had — We met there quite a different set of people from the same before — Mrs. Had's brother, a Captain in the English navy, was there staying with him, & a nice just married, who had come with her husband to Paris as a wedding gift, Mrs. & Mrs. Clutterbuck — She a pretty, fresh young English woman, & he a pretty, young Englishman — Then to minute we met, at sort of somewhat distant, yet had a very agreeable pleasant acquaintance, & very kind & us — Dr. Gray had seen them at the garden before, & he brought us to the Quillemes & Hotel de Ville — The same young gambler, from the Canary Isles, a Portuguese, first hand, Dr. Gray & myself, & Mrs. Had made up our party — Mrs. Had took Portuguese with me, Spanish with another, French with some & English with the rest — I took me to the river this time, & I had an opportunity to go to the river & had a very pleasant dinner — And Mrs. Had's dinner are famous — I think I must give you some dinner in French & in German style when I get home — Thursday morning early morning arrived — Sadon with books & which he gave Dr. Gray, & full of enthusiasm & respect, a new edition of the work on good taste — He kindly wrote an autograph for me, & Dr. Gray took him in going away to have his baggage, & Sadon to take home with us — He is an interesting old man — Did I tell you the story about his marriage? — In the day I went to do some little shopping under Madame's coat, & was tempted to buy one of the new fashionable bagges, (though I was very afterwards I did not get one with pointed flounces which is made up with three deep flounces & double, & trimmed with a kind of ribbon which matches well with the ^{white} ground covered with sprays of flowers of all colors — The girls are now fond of them as they call them, gay flowers spreading over the ^{white} ground — Some white or colored ground, & as many colors as possible — I have been out to little in England I did not know as I should want it, but of this recreation should be far I may find it useful — I had seen with Madame & her mother a few days before to get a bonnet, & I am sure the ladies could have been charmed at was such a truly French scene! — She was a pretty little, ladylike woman, & on my wants being known she was great consultation — She wanted me to have white, "to want to look with Madame's complexion!" But I had had enough of white & wanted pink, & at last she consented to have color, then the form, & how she has should be dressed with it, & something to conceal its imperfections — Deficiency which was to be a Capeline, & not as of any thing worn with a purpose, then the area inside, white or pink, they should be pink & harmonize with the bonnet, but could Madame bear so much pink? & the way she & Madame. Pleased & decided, & I tried on a helmet, the consultation over but imperfections deficiencies in hair, & recommended stin for its benefit — The next day I arrived with a letter that she was to recommend me penmanship, is it not uncalled for? & promises that they

lunch should be something "delicious!" Made the whole I am sure, such
a scene as could be only in France &c. Friday I had a very interesting
day - Madame had kindly procured us tickets for the Assemblée Nationale,
& ^{there} being only two, Dr. Gray professed that the garden had greater attractions
for him, & left them to Mr Ward & I - The meeting opened at two & we
went at 1 1/2 to get seats on the galleries, where these tickets admitted us;
even then it was crowded, but we got pretty good places, & chanced to
be next a lady who turned out a country woman - Mrs. Wheeland of Kansas
She was a Baltimore girl, but I have forgotten the name - Her niece was the
Wassama young ladies who have staid so much with Mrs J. K. Mills - She
kindly made me take her seat, as she said she had been many times before,
& I could then see better, & pointed out to me many distinguished men -
Edillon Bassot, a rather stout looking man but very French in appearance,
with a bald head - Gen. ^{Chavagnac} ~~Chavagnac~~ with his fierce moustache; he was very quiet
all the time - Gen. Lamoriciere, very dark, very black hair & moustache, & abundance
of both - He was constantly changing his place - M. Mathias St. Hilaire, an intel-
lectual face & head, but not a student-like expression - His friend Victor Lefranc,
a handsome man with something of a Spanish face, & who spoke very eloquently -
Emile Girardin a bad, bad face, & his hair dressed in a point right down
the centre of his forehead - Unfortunately I did not see Thiers or Lamartine,
I believe they were not there, nor Victor Hugo - The meeting began with present-
ing some petitions on the amendment of the constitution, & one speaker could
not be brought to order - I never saw anyone apparently in a greater rage than
the President of the Assembly, he raised his fist at the man & shouted him-
self hoarse, (they said afterwards it was all put on,) but it seemed without
effect, & the Assembly & rulers talked to him in vain - At length he was
silenced, but I do not think it speaks well for a political assembly
where the members will not obey their own laws - Then one of the
ministers, M. Leon Faucher, was attacked for improper use it was said
of the Electric Telegraph during the elections - The speakers all spoke with
great animation & vehemence, too much on the impulse of the mo-
ment I should judge - The minister defended himself, then Emile
Girardin spoke & turned the debate into most violent personal attacks
on his opponents, then such a scene of contest & confusion, answers & retorts,
crimination & recrimination! There sat the minister white with rage, & so
most pinking from his seat at times, & wiping the perspiration from
his brow. ^{It was really painful.} I am sure it is much wiser to have the ministers off the
stage as with us, for how can a man be calmly & wisely conducting
affairs, & defending himself & his measures on the warmest debates &
against most violent attacks? Perhaps when one is more used to their

lively manner they may not seem so impetuous & unrestrained - But it gave one the impression of too little of a deliberative assembly; & I am sure nothing could be worse than turning it, as they did, into mere personal attacks, the day we were there. But they say Cuvier Girardin, who is spoken of as one of the wisest men in France, generally does that, & he has great gift certainly in solubility. But I lose all confidence at once in a speaker who speaks with passion & loses himself. But it gave one a most turbulent impression looking down as we did into the great amphitheatre, for we were in galleries high up opening out as it were from the walls, & to see this universal excitement. If men did not like what was said they hopped about in their seats, if a speaker said anything unpopular his speech was drowned in shouts & cries, one side would applaud the other condemn, & the presidents bell which is the signal to call to order, sounded sharp & snappish almost all the time - I found it very difficult to follow the French, especially as we were somewhat behind the speakers, & had to judge more by a phrase here & there, the gesture, movements, expression of faces, &c. Miss Wheeland helped me often, for she came to Paris so young she speaks French better than English, & she would sometimes translate for me - It was though a very interesting & curious sight, & I should like to have had time to go again. - But I was very tired: - In the Ev. we went to call on Mrs. Thorncliffe, who told us we might expect Aunt Anna the next afternoon. - Saturday was a most busy day - Miss McKerrall came in again in the morn. & Indine agreed to go too, & first we set off to use Dr. de Bro's ticket for the Palace of the Tuilleries - I described that to you in the winter, but it was very interesting visiting it again, & we got many little new particulars - They have removed still further the traces of the revolution, covered the Throne room with old tapestry, though I had rather see its bare walls, &c. &c. From there we went to the Hotel des Invalides. An immense building surrounding great quadrangles. Looked into the room where the soldiers eat, & again the officers - They have two meals a day; meat, bread & vegetables and vin ordinaire at 9 in the morn. & the same with the addition of potage at 4 in the afternoon - We were shown into the Council chamber, hung with portraits of French officers, by an old Invalid who had a horrible scar on his face from a Sabre cut at Bayram - He had known most of Napoleon's officers, & could tell us were they good likenesses - When we went into the chapel there was a funeral of an old soldier - Our guide told us they were every day, some

benis two or three - I should like to have seen the priest look more im-
pressed with the ceremony - The Chapel was hung with the standards
taken by Napoleon, as thick as they could hang down each side of the way,
some be iron & flattened - They were burnt when the Allies came to Paris.
The famed dome is still invisible to visitors Napoleon's tomb being still
unopened, then once fear, our guide said - Then we went into the
kitchen, where more ~~delicious~~ ^{cheap} enormous copper cauldrons simmered
over furnaces & filled with sacat &c. &c. - It looked neat though, the
floor was nicely caulked, & the smell rather saving - But my appetite
was spoiled by seeing them lifting off a huge cauldron on to a truck
with men, which to move it to another room - By a piece some of the
legion ran over, & one or two pieces fell out, which were picked up & slipped
in again - I think that portion may be filthy! - The cross as usual
had nice white aprons & caps & were all men - From the Invalides
we took our way in an omnibus to St Sulpice - A curious church,
with two singular square towers - Indeed, I acted while the street
went round examining the exterior, & its modern decorations in
fresco - The lady chapel has a singular roof, a larger hem, too an
opening smaller, so you see now groups in the paintings which com-
it, as you change your position - The figure of the Madonna child
is placed in an alone opening back & lighted by an unseen window,
& she is represented as standing in the clouds, but the clouds were
pale massive plaster, that I thought at first she was represented
as standing on a snowy mountain - We adjourned from there to
a patisserie to lunch, & then to the Jardin des Plantes, where we had
a ticket first to see the reptile, all sorts of horned snakes in glass eye-
Ducer ligards, chameleons, &c. But chameleons are all the same colour here,
violet grey - Some of the snakes had little dark hoods in miniature or
spoon about, & one was falling his head out of the forest mouth like
a bachelor gentleman who lived in solitude & spied his neighbours
from a safe distance - Then we went to the green houses, they
are not as magnificent as Paris, but there are some very good water-
ing men, & on one the prettiest water tank for aquatic plants I
have seen - They are curiously built against the side of a hill, so
that the floor of one comes near the roof of the other - Hence we
took a cab to one of the cheap restaurants in the Palais Royal, where
we had a merry dinner - On our way back we separated, & Madame

& I went to try on the new bonnet I have at hand & arranged for the
face, & see whether it was becoming - judgement was pronounced in
its favor, & it was to be sent home the next morning - The outside
is of simple brown pink silk, & the inside has a blonde cap & two
pink roses - We did not get back until 8 o'clock in the Ev. having
left at 11 in the morning! - I found a note from Mary Smith, & told
Mary & I instantly hastened round - We found they had arrived
early in the morning - And you may be sure they were glad enough to
see us & we to see them! - Mary looked better than I expected -
The next morning we went to hear Coquerel the great French
preacher - (He is also member of the Assembly) He seemed to have great
effect on his audience, but I thought him eloquent rather than deep.
He chose a singular subject, "the nature of the joy of the angels in heaven."
I thought the last part, where he spoke of our preparing ourselves
to sympathize & share in their joy by admiring, ate that was good.
Here, being above all differences, whether of sect, nation, or opinion, we
were very good - I spent all the afternoon with Aunt Anna having to pay &
Mr Ward & I run about together - Monday after ascending a party to
p to the Hotel de Ville, & then finding I had finished a time I showed
only, people had engagements later. I went shopping with Aunt Anna
to give her the advantage of my French - I & Mary went in the afternoon
with Mr Ward to a meeting of the Institute, & had a distinguished
seat among the savants - He has had an honor of which I think I
am more proud than he is - He was just put up as candidate for a
member of the Institute with de Candolle, Sir Wm. Hooker, & some others -
But of course his name does not come yet - Tuesday I was to meet Mr
Ward at Parc la Chapelle at 12 o'clock, & was in time down Paris & Mary
would go, but they feared getting tired, as they were at the theatre
the night before - I took my way alone in the omnibus - I was dis-
appointed in Parc la Chapelle, & do not think it so beautiful as in its
good order as Parc d'Arenberg - Some of the enclosures were well
cared for & filled with beautiful flowers, but many were very much
neglected - Most were covered with swarms of insects white, & black
moths on them, & yellow & black - Some all blue - Some blue with them instead
of white artificial flowers - Often a little rose was placed in a vase in
which the moths were kept in a row - Little shelter figures were placed
on many of the lake, some quite new from time & weather - Many of
the greater monuments were arranged, so far have heard, as little shops,

into which you could generally peep through the upper part of the door, though some-
times curtains were drawn within - There was the altar, the crucifix, the row
of artificial flowers, the praying chairs, &c. Sometimes quite full of tawdry orna-
ments, again quite simple with the bouquet of fresh lilies of the valley
discreetly placed that morning - The flowers were always white, except some-
times the Immortelles & the pansies - The prettiest monument I saw was
a small enclosure, around which the ivy was growing thick & green &
trained into the form of a cradle, trees bent down over the head, within
which was a white marble slab to a little child 2 or three years old -
We came round the outer edge of the hill to see the magnificent view
of Paris which lay stretched out before us, and so came into the neigh-
bourhood of the poorer graves - They were generally very small enclosures,
about as large as one grave, & the ground laid out as a flower bed, & a
cross dividing it into 4 unequal parts laid out as a little path bordered
with box, the wooden cross at the top - This cross ^{on the ground} was often quite covered
with little plaster figures of angels kneeling & praying, & madonnas, &c.
& often the motto "pray for us." - One had beautiful China roses just blooming,
& the top of the ^{wooden} cross ^{at the head} was as it were a little show box with a glass
front, filled with little tinzel figures of the Madonna & saints, & white
artificial flowers, the favorite round picture of a bunch of pansies,
(you know they are in French pensées - thoughts) & the inscription "à notre
chère petite fille." A funeral overtook us in the grounds, & we met
one as we left, a young girl, I suppose, for the coffin, covered with white,
lay on an open hearse, & a wreath of white flowers upon it, & four
young girls in white with white veils, walked on each side, holding
long white sash ribbons attached to the cover. - Coming back Mrs. Ward
& I drove through the Place des Vosges - A curious old place formerly quite
a court square but now left to decayed gentility - Something like the Palais
Royal with its clipped trees & fountains, only smaller & the houses of
red brick faced with stone. Some with the extraordinary high French roofs
pierced with windows as seem to suit the fancy of the different inhabitants
of the attics, some Lutheran, some scuttles, some round holes, just as each lodger wanted
light & here there up & down every where.

This week brought me a letter from Sue, & a postscript from Patrick for which
many thanks - I was sorry to hear little Pat was not well & Sue so poorly - I hope
Beulah may set her up a little - And I was very much pained at the poor accounts
of Lizzie Bancroft - I had a nice letter too from Mary Whipple - He find the Boston
steamer sails August 23, & think therefore of waiting for that, as it would be tantalizing,
tedious & expensive to land at New York - That would bring us home about the 6th of
September - You must not send any letters after the first week in August - A great deal
of love to all & kisses to the children. From your ever loving Jeannie -
and heart not when the Calais brought news of a fire in Cambridge! - The fourth ache is much better



Gray, Jane Loring. 1851. "Gray, Jane June 15, 1851 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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