

Finished July, 3rd. '57 at Ipswich

My dear Sue,

I should think the last part of my letters would sometimes be very stupid, for I get so tired writing often that at least I cannot spell, so it seems as if the ideas must be equally obscure — I imagine you all at Beverly now, & as we have been having some quite warm weather, I fancy of course it is warm there, & you must be all enjoying the delicious sea-breezes & the luxury of sea-bathing — I quite long for a plunge — May tell me if Patrick ever received the pamphlet on cotton? As for journal — The Sunday after Versailles Dr. Gray & I took our way to the other Protestant church across the river to hear Mr. Monod, said by some to be a better preacher than Coquerel. Madame went with us, having ^{never} been before in a Protestant church — We were disappointed in not hearing Monod, a stranger, a Swiss, preaching instead; it was a fair sermon, but I did not hear this time in Paris any preacher I liked so well as Martin, whom I heard in the winter — Madame had asked me so many times to go with her to the Champs Elysées that as she proposed going with her mother to take her a drive as she was not quite well, I agreed to go with her — But first I had to go back & take my poor feet out of torture, for Dr. Gray & the woman who brought them home finished, both insisted the boots were large enough & fitted me admirably, but my feet scorn a 'fit' & ask more room, & that morning's delay in new boots & the warm weather since & walking so much have reduced them to pretty much the last extremity — Madame's exclamation when she saw my feet was, "Ah! que vous êtes coquette!" Though she told me one day she thought I liked always to be well dressed but I was not "coquette!" — Well having relieved my feet, Madame & I started again, & taking a fiacre by the hour headed our way to the Faubourg St. Germain "on se trouve Madame" — Where going into a handsome hotel & mounting sundry flights of stairs, we found ourselves in the little suite of rooms inhabited by Madame. Pettingault — a fine looking old woman who looked as if she might have had a very aristocratic air in her younger days — The rooms were prettily furnished, chiefly with the work of her own hands, couches & chairs covered with handsome embroideries — Madame says they lost a great deal of fortune in the revolution of '90 — that her father was a very wealthy man — We took a turn through the Champ Elysées, but it was too early for many yet to be out, though we saw some handsome equipages & women — Dr. Gray & I both think the French women handsomer than the English — You see occasionally a handsome woman in

England, & you see a great many really pretty ones - In France you
see many more pretty ones, & such pigmented faces! And the
old women such as one meets in the omnibuses are numerous beyond
comparison! On returning to leave Madame P. we made a short call
again, & then Madame & I walked back, coming through the gardens
of the Tuilleries, where was quite a crowd - Madame invited on to
Jury & I dining with her, & when she sat her heart on a point I gave
her a little push, it being hopeless to contend against her French wife
ability - Madame J. had spent the afternoon in the church
of St. Denis - In the Egl. he went to call on M. de Noé who had sent an
apology for failing in an appointment from being unwell, & I sent to
visit Anna - Monday eve went shopping, spending pretty much
all day in that uninteresting occupation, though I came back in time
to go back to Jury & call on his friends - He had, M. de Noé having
left her card on one of his visits, & you know it is the foreign custom
for changes to make the first call though I must say I think it very
absurd for Americans to take up that fashion because they reside in this
& wait to visit their countrymen until they have been to make the
first visit. The consequence is I made very few calls in Paris - Tuesday
afternoon Dr. Jay came for me early to go & leave some cards, & on our way
to make a farewell visit to M. de Noé we went on to the convent of the
church of St. Etienne du Mont, which is truly remarkable for a French
dividing of the choir, of light open-work in stone, & ascended to on
each side by singular windmill stair cases, most light & unsubstantial
looking - Wednesday we went to dine with M. de Noé - The French
fashion of treating for dinner is so much more sensible than the
English! It was one dinner at home in high back & short sleeves & we took
a fiacre to drive to Passy, which is about 3 miles from Paris, & is a
little suburban village, the narrow streets flanked as usual by high
houses & walls - We drove up before a large gate & passing up the horse
pen & hall pen before us & flights of handsome wide stairs leading down,
we descended, a great mirror facing you so that one could see well
to full advantage descending as it were on a slight oblique - Down the
flights & at the bottom an antechamber where waited footmen in
livery who ushered us into a salon adjoining where we found Madame
Delcourt & sundry gentlemen - Madame Delcourt is a charming looking
person somewhat the same kind expression & manner of M. de Noé, friend
of whom she put me much on guard - Very ladylike & sweet -

He introduced me to her daughter Madame Delcourt, a bright lively
looking woman, & whom I was quite surprised to find was the
mother of a pretty creature of 11 perhaps, whom Madame Delcourt
introduced as her grand-daughter, & who is one of the prettiest
creatures I have seen this long while, with true Italian colored
hair - The gentleman I was introduced to by degrees in the course
of the visit, but you may know their names, as Jussieu, Decaen, &
Rogniet & Thierce, Françoise Valenciennes & naturalist Salgues
the librarian, M. de Noé, M. Delcourt, & the husband of the young
st daughter, a stylish looking person in one colored silk, flannel
a jacket buttoned to the throat & cut up in the little shirt with
buckles as is now the fashion, & the hair dressed into rose colored
knots, - ~~the hair~~ a very pretty becoming dress to the dark eyed young
Baronne - The ladies dressed were all very tasteful & pretty, their
most distinguishing feature being simplicity from want of ideas
throughout & a little ornament to build on - You could take in
the whole dress with one look, & think it marvellously pretty too -
Madame Delcourt proposed very soon that I should walk out to
see the grounds for Passy in their country seat - The house stands
as I have said along the street, & from the rooms we had descended
to you walk out to the terrace, from whence the grounds slope down
to the river beautifully laid out with walks among pen trees & fine
trees & plants & flowers, all in admirable cultivation - In one part is a
pretty Swiss cottage, but as the wind was rather chilly Madame Delcourt
pressed but I should take cold & proposed our returning - Some other ladies
came in, but I did not make out their names - but perhaps there were
one or two more gentlemen - Not that I was introduced to all I have men-
tioned, but by indirect & Dr. Jay's aid I made out their names - M.
Delcourt introduced me in to dinner which was in a room opening from the
other side of the ante-chamber & common line from its large windows
the same fine view of the grounds & the country - In the other side
of the room - It was a very handsome dining room, entirely in French style,
& the cooking very delicious - The centre of this table was decorated with
a great bouquet of flowers made flat but arranged very tastefully - I
sat between M. Delcourt & M. Jussieu, whose ~~look~~ ^{face} was a singular looking
man with I think the narrowest face I ever saw & with a quite
pleasant manner - After dinner, which ladies & gentlemen were together
we moved upon into the salon - If it had been sooner we should
have fine sat upon the terrace for tea - The salon opened into another

anteroom, & beyond formed a billiard room - Altogether making a fine
suite of rooms - They were simply furnished as for summer, waxy floors
of course, & the walls were hung with a flowered chintz instead of
paper, on curtains to the windows, & the furniture white & covered
with the same chintz - I talked somewhat with Mr. Proprietor &
Mr. Richard, & Mr. de Proc, & the ladies, &c. And later in the Ev. more
ladies, mothers with pretty daughters, & a few gentlemen came in -
Altogether we had a charming time - Thursday morn. Dr. Gray went
with Mr. Jussieu to make a recopiation in diphtherotypes, & at 12 we
met Aunt Anna & Mary & drove to the R. R. Station to make an excursion
to Chartres to see its venerable old cathedral - Part of the R. R. ride
was very interesting, for we had a good view of the Palace of Versailles
& swept down long green avenues as we skirted the boundaries
of the great Park - At St. Ger we had a glimpse at the exterior of the
famous academy, & at Maintenon a good view of the remains of the
great aqueduct Louis XIV only just began - Chartres is a curious interesting
old town, & the Cathedral is very fine - The exterior is very impressive
from its ancient air, & such pretty blue flowers as were growing from the
niches high up in air - The interior has some very curious carvings
around the choir, & when we went in the organ was pealing through
the aisles - The view from the end of the nave down the church was
very fine! The choir ending in a semi-circle, lighted by 5 narrow windows
of stained glass, of course of unequal heights to the clustered pillars be-
tween one arching into the roof, having a very unique effect - And
the columns in the nave were of enormous size! The Church is filled
with superb stained glass, 130 windows! Dr. Gray climbed the towers as
there was a fine view, but the ladies did not attempt it, & Aunt Anna
& Mary being tired went back to the hotel to rest - I afterwards went
up to the Infirmary gallery, near enough to a great window to see how it
was all joined out in huge mosaic, & how rude & rough it looked when
the effect below was so good - I also got a better idea of the size & height -
One chapel at the side is dedicated to a black virgin, whose black face
shines out conspicuous from the usual tinsel drapery, aloft on a column -
We returned to the hotel in time for the table d'hôte giving Mary her first
introduction, & got back to Paris about 9 1/2 heartily tired but having much
enjoyed our excursion -

Dr. Gray has been kindly aiding me with my journal, taking it up
since we have again in England - And I will try before next week to have
it all made up to the proper date - Many thanks, dear Luc, for this
week's letter, & I hope Mother & sis may do you all good -

With fondest love from us both, I am ever affely,
Jane -



Gray, Jane Loring. 1851. "Gray, Jane July 3, 1851 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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