

Finished July 18. '51 - New -

Dear Charlie,

Dr. Jay's two sheets ended I think with his business trip to town Saturday, June 20th - Sunday we were off early & took an omnibus to town & attended service in Whitehall Chapel - This was formerly the banqueting room, & is all that is left of the old Whitehall palace - When the rest was pulled down this was turned into a chapel, but the ceiling still is covered with the paintings by Rembrandt of some sort of glorification of James I. - From one window here was raised the platform whence King Charles stepped out to his execution, which was in a sort of court behind, a quiet sequestered place with a fine statue of the King in the Centre; we then after inspecting this walked down to take a view of Westminster Abbey, on the outside, & then coming up Parliament St. again, stopped in the Strand to get some lunch, & then took a bus to St. Paul's, for Dr. Jay was very anxious to attend afternoon service in the nave there, a new experiment of the last few Sundays - We found ourselves much too early, & so walked about, paying a visit to Christ Church School, the Blue Coat boys, where Samuel among others ^{names of note} was educated - There are many buildings with cloisters surrounding court-yards, nice places for the boys in dry weather & the cloisters in wet - And some of the boys were about, dressed in their queer costume - a pair of blue small-clothes & long yellow stockings & leather shoes, a frock coat buttoning tight in the throat with pewter buttons, & a standing collar, & the skirt scant & descending to the ankles, a narrow red leather strap round the waist & a pair of white ^{when in full dress} muslin bands, a pommer, completes the ^{costume}, but I believe there is a tradition that a ^{cap} ~~hat~~ about as large as ^{now} or did I ever meet anyone that had, & I have met them all over London from December to July in all seasons & weathers, they are invariably bare-headed & their hair is cut quite short - One would judge from their looks that they are quite a superior set of boys - Then we went to look at Smithfield (the great cattle market), & also famous as where the Martyrs were burnt in Queen Mary's time - It is an open irregularly shaped place ~~parted~~ ^{filled} all over & surrounded by buildings, & one part covered with strong rails like a wooden fence where the cattle were tied, the other part was divided into more pen-like arrangements for sheep & pigs, I suppose - It all looked neat & freshly swept, but one imagined ever get the poor things there through the horribly crowded streets of London as more than I can imagine - We got back to St. Paul's as the doors were opened & the crowd which had been gathered on the steps poured in - Though we followed them the nave was quite filled to the aisles, & we could only get seats on the very outskirts, & so we could barely follow the service & hear nothing of the sermon - We left soon after that began, & got down to Dr. Borth's to dine with them, as they had kindly asked us, shortly before 5 - We had a very pleasant dinner - Dr. Borth is a delightful person, & always so kind & cordial; & they are all very kind & agreeable -

They have a dear little child with them now, the eldest daughter, who has fine back
to sym for the rest of the summer & left the child here - I saw it is interested
talking much to both that he forget the time, & found suddenly we were to late
for the last train at 8.15, & Sunday by there was more late, so we had to take
the 9 to Richmond, & then found the days transpired with the long walk home -
to give you some idea of the enormous number of trains, we are that
by in the short distance between London & Richmond, I trained first into
London, & heard another as we left the station & another as we were
Sunday is a great day for excursions. People who cannot get out of London
any other day, & generally after morning services, to Richmond, & Hampton
Court & such places to have the afternoon walk in the pleasure grounds &
jacks - Tomorrow morning we went up to town again to get some things wanted
for Seavick, & I made a short visit to the British Museum, which is an
immense collection of objects of historical, literary, sculpture, books, antiquities
etc. etc. - Dr. Play has some botanical works in the herbarium there, but we
did not do anything that day, for we spent the time talking with Ben Dean
who was quite a chatty chod - He is a singular looking old man, with
a very heavy lower lip, & generally carries his head down, but it is curious
to watch him, & see how he knuckles up & what a singular trouble come in
the corner of his eyes when he tells some story, for he has a good deal of satire.
He told some story of Mr. Rector the designer of the Crystal Palace, who had
jumps quite turned by the splendour he had received, & who seems to have
jumped suddenly with all knowledge of logical, botanical etc. and where remarks
therefore afford a great deal of amusement to such men as Ben Dean, who is a
keen quick person, & with a vigorous manner. He called also on Mrs. Lawrence,
meaning if we saw her to see if it were possible to get admission to the great hall
at Whitehall, for I thought I should like to see the show, & it would be a good
chance to see the Queen - But they were out, & that idea was abandoned. Mrs.
Cotton Appleton was also out on whom we called - Sunday I saw Mrs. Jane
Davis for Seavick - We had written for lodgings there, & were satisfied a
Mrs. Alexander would receive us as guests, & the great attraction to me was
that Miss Albert would be there, & I thought it a fine chance to see her -
I took a good deal of pains on having my letters in nice order, & told Dr. Play he
proposed I was to carry as much baggage as I wished for I meant to take care
to be with the two trunks with other baggage, & we went to leave
Sunday with Ben Dean, but I saw Ben Dean, & said, I had no more of my
own time for London, & then drove to the Russell station to take the train for Seavick.
There were two passengers in the carriage front, & the other person took a box, &
my seat he was very kind in taking baggage as much as I was nationally, but the
other was a French fellow - The train was not late, & we were much de-
tained in getting our baggage - But at last drove up to Mrs. Alexander's, Bath House,
& were deposited in a good looking mansion close on the street - The maid

who came to the door said we were right, & as I waited at the luggage was
coming in, a quiet looking man (father or brother) appeared, & warmly welcomed
us, & showed us up stairs into a large pleasant parlour simply but comfortably
furnished, where we found another gentleman who was introduced as
Thomas Brown - Presently the maid showed me to my room, & while she
was arranging the trunks, & a womanly looking Quakeress came in, & gave
me welcome, showed me what drawers were at my service, opened
a door where was a 'dressing' room for my husband, & left me to prepare
for dinner - On returning to the drawing room we found the two daughters
of Thomas Brown, & two Misses Lathbroke from Leicester - Then two daughters
about 14 & 15 of Mrs. Alexander & two sons - They are very strict Quakers in
their manner - The eldest son a small specimen of the father with
his straight coat & pane ways - And they were all very quiet & still,
but very kind & attentive - It takes one a little time however to get
accustomed to the plain rather cold manner for they had not the
mineral courtesy & cordiality of dear Mrs. Sedgwick - But they
were very sensible & agreeable, & Mrs. Alexander struck us as a woman
of great information & strong mind, & she liked a good laugh, her
laugh was particularly pleasant, & her round smooth face dimpled
sweetly under her plain Quaker cap just like our Quaker Quakeress.
There was one son or so here - I saw Jane Jane, & Dr. Play, dear Jane -
so with all - the Miss Lathbroke were very agreeable well informed
girls, & they & the Browns rendered the Quaker house in quiet & how a
great simplicity, but there were some contradictions in the fashion of the day
in the length of their coats, the fashion of their sleeves, & the shape of their
bonnets (Heaven forbid dress to be worn with -) We sat down to a
sumptuous & excellent dinner - whatever the simplicity of dress, the Quakers
were certainly keep good tables - There were daughters young, & a little
boy came in with the dessert, & after tea was handed in the drawing
room by which time we were joined by another Quaker, Robert Price,
a striking looking large old man who came from Wales, was appointed
to the Quaker School, & the introduction meeting of the Association in
the Corn Exchange which had been arranged in a hall ^{in the room} with seats & benches
to run with above cantons & divided into sections & lighted, & a
very hot light - And I must say however that we are open enter any of the
socialistic meetings without a ticket for which I saw 10 & 20 is said - The tickets
however are not transferable, the ladies are - & some & all have the
same & then are considered as members, which gives them the privilege
of attending all the public meetings - After some time as darkness
had fallen the meeting, & I saw Mrs. Sedgwick the last year's president, gave me

address - He was rather sharp on the prominent for not having granted a request
preferred by the Association the year before - But I thought the close very
eloquent & beautiful, where he spoke of the aims of a scientific man, or rather
what they should be - When he sat down Mr. Airy, the Astronomer Royal &
President of the Association for this time, gave an address, & briefly reviewed
the most important events in science for the last year, & praised the forma-
ment highly for its attention to the requests & recommendations of the Associa-
tion - I thought it a pity the time could not have compared notes a little
beforehand: - When Mr. Airy was through, the Bishop of Bedford one of the vice-
presidents, got up to propose a vote of thanks to him - This said Bishop is a
son of Milberforce & spoke easily & readily, but such praise or eulastened
& fulsome, as he lavished on Mr. Airy! He was followed by Prof. Sedgwick,
who is a wit & therefore every one laughs at all he says, he seconded the
motion in another speech, in which I am sure he endeavoured to prove
that Prof. Airy could only be second to the Archangel Michael from the
accounts he gave of his intellect & character, for being an Eastern Counties
man & formerly of the Cambridge Observatory seemed to give him an excuse
for going back into all his private history - Such a speech would have been
extravagant at a man's back, but to his face! - Dr. Gray & I opened our eyes at
each other - And all this time not a syllable or word to the retiring presi-
dent, & his successor before his labors had commenced, & extolled! It was
really painful to me, I thought it quite reversing the propriety of things - I am
sure we manage these things in much better taste in America, however wanting
in polish & refinement we may be - Well after the two gentlemen had sufficiently
complimented each other & Mr. Airy, it was put to the vote, & the thanks carried.
But my feelings were somewhat refreshed by hearing the honest Quakers
quite as much offended at this wholesale praise as we were, & struck
with the want of propriety of letting the old president & such a man as Sir
David Brewster almost the father of the Association, retire without a word,
& such fulsome praise bestowed on his successor with his duties still
before him. - Robert Vose the old Quaker, who knows Mr. Airy, said he went
to him when the meeting was through, & told him he hoped his humility
was equal to his other gifts to bear such speeches - We assembled at 10
breakfast the next morning - When all the family were assembled
Mr. Alexander read a chapter, & then followed the silent prayer, each person re-
maining quietly in their seat with bent head - The blessing at dinner is in the
same way silent, & I think there is something very impressive in it - And I
would add how invariable is the custom in England of asking a blessing
at dinner on matters how much or formal the company, & of returning thanks
when the cloth is removed.

After breakfast each busied themselves as they pleased - And Dr. Gray & I

note letters - Most went off to the sections at 11, but I staid with Mrs. Alexander to see Prince Albert pass when he should arrive & then go with her - There was quite a crowd in the street awaiting the Prince's coming, & passing & repassing of soldiers & one or two gay carriages - At length the cheers announced him & he came driving swiftly by in one of the royal carriages with three gaudy footmen & coachmen which had been sent down the day before - He came so quickly & looked so like some great gentleman in his gay sack coat, that the little Alexanders who were at another window did not know that it was he until he was passed - They expected some state dress - Dr. Gray fearing there might be crowd came back to join Mrs. Alexander & me - Mrs. A. had unfortunately lost her ticket & Dr. Gray went up to the Reception Desk if she could get another. While the matter was discussing I looked about the room & saw the likenesses of various naturalists which were taken for the Spanish Museum - Among them was the "emerging" likeness of Dr. Wallace! - In this reception room were books kept with the addresses of all the people who had come, a post office &c. &c. At length they agreed to let Mrs. A. have the ticket, & we took our way to the Ethnological & Geographical section - A paper had been read before we came on the deterioration of races going westward & they were discussing it particularly the deterioration of us the other side of the Atlantic - And a first-looking little clergyman of the Church of England seemed to assert so authoritatively & as if there were no question, that we were a deteriorated race, that there seemed no use in arguing with him - as one poor American seemed to attempt - I cannot say that personal observation convinces me of the fact - After being there about 1/4 of an hour there was something of a stir & a sort of understanding the Prince was coming - Everyone in the room rose & he came in & took his seat on the plate form - With the president of the section &c. - He is a very gentlemanly looking man not quite so handsome as I had judged from the picture, but still handsome, with a German cut face & something German in his manner - But quiet, easy & gentlemanly - His face is cut something like Gassie, but not so handsome; he has not Gassie's fine eye - His eye is cut good - The first paper read before him was by Mr. Schikatchef on whom we recognized our agreeable rail-road companion & it was on his investigations & discoveries in Asia Minor - Then followed a paper by Asa Whitney of New York on the great rail-road to the Pacific - Really the plan is more feasible than I had supposed & people seemed to listen to it with a great deal of interest though Mr. Whitney was rather prosy & too apt to branch off into side discussions - But it seems he has before brought it before the Geographical Society at London & they have received it favorably - And Sir Rodrick Murchison the President of the section spoke strongly in approval & so did Capt. Lecky - And I think the English Government will perhaps gladly take it up if our government so delay action as to make the plan impossible through

the United States - They cut Mr. Whitney short & have a little discussion before the Prince went which he soon did with a fruit all rising as before until he was gone - Then Mr. Whitney resumed his paper but as he spelt it out & then at the end did not know where to stop but must say a few words more & introduce it in a business point of view a matter foreign to the Section people thinned out amazingly, & we thought he never would have ended - ^{Dr. Gray} ~~Mrs. Anderson~~ & I left as the next paper began leaving Mrs. A. alone, & after getting some lunch we went into the Mathematical section which was just closing & where we met the Bonds who greeted us most cordially - (I must say one thing of Americans they certainly seem heartily glad to meet each other as broad merely as countrymen without previous acquaintance) - They had brought that curious machine for noting the time as an astronomer observes, one of Young Bonds' inventions, & it seems to be very much admired & prized, & also the daguerrestypes of the Moon they brought with them - And they are so simple & sensible one feels they do the country credit - From thence we went round to the Museum which however we found closed until after the reception of Prince Albert the next day so we went back to the house much amused with the green arches & mottoes & wreaths & banners with which the streets were decorated in honour of the Prince & After dinner Dr. Gray & I wrote letters & in the Ev. was the service - It was a question how to dress but as there were so many Quakers in I thought they would give a tone to the place & full dress did not seem accordant with the Hall which was the lecture room of the evening before, so I decided for my bonnet & felt rather abashed to wear such a gay thing before Mrs. A's eyes - We had a pleasant Ev. though I decided it would be but reasonable for the great men to have their names pinned upon them for how else could one find who they were who had so few acquaintances as we had - Towards the end of the Ev. we saw Mr. Forbes whom I saw last year at Mr. Ward's & was introduced to his wife & to Miss Wendlow's two sisters & father - And Dr. Gray had one or two introductions - We staid till about 10 & left with the party belonging to our house -

Many thanks to Sue & Charles for letters this week - You have doubtless heard ere this Charles Brace is released & in Vienna - I heard nothing about until we learnt it from a Yankee paper this week! - I must end abruptly for we are going to a dejeuner from 3 to 11 P.M. at Mrs. Bates's - Aunt Anna & Mary came last week & seem very bright & we are very merry - Good bye & best love to all from your ever loving & aff. Jamie -



Gray, Jane Loring. 1851. "Gray, Jane July 18, 1851 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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