

from the best. Do me - He looks almost exactly
as he used, & the same quick, short man. Quite
disappointed to hear Dr. Gray was going to Egypt for the
winter, instead of staying to work at Kew.

All the gentlemen seem very glad to see Dr.
Gray, & give him every facility - The Librarian has kindly
given him ^{to the garden, & cutting before public house,} a key, which is a wonderful favour & not
to be talked about as they are in great demand -
I must have a special order to go in to see a Bath
Chair -

I had a half-hope Sunday, some line or so might
come in the Java - It seems so long without news from
you all! At any rate we should have had a notice or
a newspaper, but nothing came - Only a post sheet
from Welch & Bigelow, Cambridge - He had a quiet
day - Dr. Gray went over to the little church, almost
opposite no, I laid quiet - After lunch I tried
a little walk up to look at our old lodgings from
the outside, & then into the gardens - Went into the
Tropical Ferns, & Temperate Ferns - The last especially
lovely - Such dainty forms of maiden-hair, & then
almost a trifling, & the great fronds as delicately
cut as our crickonias! - And the plants so well shaped
& fresh green - I sat & rested awhile on some of the
out-door seats, & looked at the colour beds in front of the
old Museum building - They are not to my taste, but
the back-ground of my two feet high & two feet broad, &
tracing a graceful figure in the grass is beautiful. So
the ivy covering the whole building wall, the windows
cut in it! -

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Sept. 23-69
Dr. Gray says address is - Charlton House, Kew -
near London

My dear Lee,

I begin my journal again
to tell a little more of our doings - Though
most of my doing, I think, has been to lie
stille on the sofa -

Friday the Hales did not get here until
late, so that we did not get into the gardens
until the opening hour, 10 o'clock - I had a Bath
Chair - A very comfortable & easy Chair, but
without a top, & a very chabby boy to draw it -
However I am wisely indifferent to appearances,
& take all advantage of being a foreigner -
We went down the main avenue, first to the large
house for some palms, but especially the most
monstrous & extraordinary forms of Jack-in-the-pulpit,
great massive ones that strangle the trees they
climb round, with huge leaves & grotesque shapes -
The most of the shape in the house was of pro-
digious leaves - Then to the next big building on
our way - It used to be the old Antiquarian house
when we were here before, now a Museum of birds.
Superst indeed were some of the specimens, for they
had reached the advantage of the great conditions
& specimens sent in production of some of the
at last been sent to Kew when the show was over -

Darwin would have been amused by specimens
of how the works of animals are carried, & the
wooden toy - It says is turned, the outline of which
when cut in sections are a sheep, elephant, horse, &c.
& then finished by hand.  I imagine the smooth
the inside the circle, then the grooving the upper
sides; do you see, by sawing like the middle you want,
you get the rough outline of an elephant? —

After this house comes the broad walk leading
down to the great Palm House - Each side here the
patches of combined colours, such a favorite way of
decorating now - Circles, diamonds, an oblong with trans-
verse bands, of coles & white leaved plants, geraniums
scarlet, pink, a purple violet, & yellow calceolarias, &c.
&c. - I confess I was disappointed in the effect - Too
flaring & forced in contrast - Either the English want
of an eye for colour comes in, or else the contrasts
must always lack in harmony - But sometimes I
will get there I can look from above down, perhaps
the effect will be better - But the palm house is
superb! The great palms & tree ferns a lovely
vista, & all growing so freely & luxuriantly - I could
not but think how Charles would enjoy it - He must come
in time to make a stay here & study effects -

From the Palm House we went to the Victoria House.
I saw some buds ready to open next day, & great leaves - *Rosa*
pyramidalis, *relambrinus*, &c. - Then I was dropped back to
our lodgings, & Dr. Gray & the girls were enticed off & did
not get back for some time - He had a lunch of cold

^{of beer!}
meat & baked potatoes, which served for our dinner,
& then they must have been the large Museum of
replable productions -

My head still troubled me so much, I thought
as my digestion seemed affected, I would try taking
medicine on Saturday & see if it relieved it - I
can't say it did any good, & since then I have
been taking tonics - But still part of the day it
troubles me very much - It irritates so, I feel dazed
& stupid - Am not sure I can speak right, or
know I make mistakes in words - Part of the
day I am free, & then feel such a relief! -
The evening it is almost always better, but then we
have only two candles, & Dr. Gray & I are not so young
as 10 years ago, & find two candles the most miserable
light & do anything by! - As soon as I feel bright
enough, I mean to go up to Richmond, & see if I can
find something in shape of a lamp - The fact
Dr. Hooker says is or was that it injures books &
furniture, & they introduce it but little into
houses -

Saturday morn of the 17th Mrs. Charlotte & Maria
came over to see me - Charlotte is very little changed
in these many years - They were very kind & kind.
Ann, the eldest, whom I know best, is away, but
I have had a note from her at Norwich -
Mrs. Glover came too - Prof. Glover is lecturer of
the Bazaar, & lectures at one of the London
Colleges - Mr. Bentham came over in the morning.

for I should like to have seen him again - Then
 Mrs. Davis, who lives next the garden gate - Dr.
 Hooker's house is close by, but Mrs. H. Heard, had just
 returned from London - Crossing the fence again, & passing the
 corner of the churchyard, we came on a white stone
 & Dr. Gray touched me to stop - It was Sarah Cook, died
 in June 47, aged 88 - her good, kind, old landlady! -

The Rivers is one of the old houses round the green, or
 to quaint & queer inside: built much as a child's addition
 to a building with blocks, apparently just where the
 fancy dictates, or one thinks they want a room - So it
 is hard to tell where a room faces, or arrange it sym-
 metrically in one's head - But it looks very pleasant
 & quite modernized inside -

I sauntered through ^{and to the} the gardens, letting myself
 out on the Richmond road back to our lodgings, for
 I am trying to walk a little, & sit in the air & see -
 There are seats through the gardens, & I intend going
 this morn'g. but some time -

Dr. Gray dined at Dr. Hooker's yesterday, & goes to Lon-
 don again today on sundry errands, & to dine at the
 British Museum with Mr. J. C. Gray -

My head is feeling better - The dizziness wearing off -

Yesterday came a Semi-weekly of the 9th. Sept. And
 pleasant anything American looked -

Friday - I took Mrs. Hooker's Camp - Stool & sat an hour in
 the sun yesterday - Dr. Gray had a very nice visit & town
 & saw many nice people at Mrs. Gray's -
 Over so much more to pen etc. from Mrs. Gray, &c.

Monday morn'g. Came Mrs. Dabney & see me &
 pass a good long morn'g. - Oh, how pleasant it was
 to see a face from home, & wasn't we glad to
 see each other, & exchange opinions & tell ex-
 periences - She is so amused at English Con-
 ventionalities, for she is in the midst of them -
 And we both are so struck with the English
 dresses - I gaze in wonder & awe at the costumes
 that people walk in - such shapes, such colours,
 such combinations! And would you believe, al-
 most everyone wears long trailing dresses, & then
 they hold them up & obligingly - A good many
 without hoops, & much more violent caricatures
 do not surpass the reality - Such heads, chignons
 bigger than the heads! And such wonderful con-
 trivances for bonnets - They have followed the fashion
 in the eye, but so queer & grotesque many of
 them, & so ill suited to face & climate - It seems
 as if the liberty of style now, & the tendency to pro-
 teague in fashion, had set the Englishwomen
 wild, & developed all their oddity & lack of eye
 for colour & horrible want of taste - I have only
 seen 4 short dresses (except Americans) & 2 more
 without hoops, most heavily trimmed, & dark,
 heavy material, waist tight fitting, & as plain as they
 could be got! They were English - I saw
 on Sunday in the gardens one going through first in a
 dress they wear much such as we wear, & Mrs. Thompson

son, who is in mourning, had on a short dress, & is pretty & has some air - She & Dr. Thompson called on Monday - Dr. Gray went up to London to change or have altered some shoes he got there. Saturday, for poor man! they have blistered his heel - He came back soon after Mrs. Watney & I had lunch - And soon after came Dr. & Mrs. Hooker, just back from Scotland, & with them dear Mrs. Bentham - She is sweet & lovely as ever, grown older if come; I long for the chance to sit down & have a good talk with her - Dr. Hooker is changed a good deal, I do not know whether I should have known him again - Thin, great whiskers & eyebrows, sitting must be somewhat gray, for the colour of hair & whiskers looks lighter than formerly - Some features new & a smattering of manner, his smile made me think of dear Sir William, but the same lively, quick, eager way as ever - Mrs. Hooker is stouter, - a prettier, more delicate complexion than Miss Benson; but she does not look young, as they say old Englishwomen do at 40 - She must, I think, be that now - They are very kind in offering us anything we wish, - And to do anything for us -

Dr. Gray went over there to pass the day, & goes to dine today - I don't feel up to going out to dinner yet, & have declined the party at the British Museum tomorrow - Dr. Gray is going -

I got a letter from Mother on Thursday from York, asking me to write to Glasgow - But she did not

tell me her plans -

Tuesday I went again to the garden in a Bath Chair - Went as far as the Temperance House, which is in what were the Old Pleasure grounds, when we were here before, now all gone - A very large structure, with Aurucarias planted in the earth, a great bank of Rhododendrons in one place, passion-flowers wreathed round the pillars, & vines creeping up long columns that support the roof - Your winter garden in existence, Charles - Then I came back down a path we used to frequent in old times, & saw sundry Elm oaks I remembered - Oaks with leaves more like willows - Stopped a little while at the new museum, & saw Cases with specimens of cork in all stages, beech wood, maple, ash, &c. &c. Hemp & lace bark, &c. &c. - Dr. Gray escorted me, which I thought all the more good of him when I saw his poor heel at night - Then before he came back to dinner he had a long walk with Dr. Bates. Sept. 24th - Wednesday, as you see, I had a good hot bedtime about 10 o'clock - Just as Dr. Gray came for lunch, came Mrs. Garrison's mother & sister - They had to get news of her & to hear about the baby - They carried off the large bundle she sent them - After lunch we went to call on Mrs. Thompson, who lives just across the green, in sight from our window. They had just come to London - I had only



Gray, Jane Loring. 1868. "Gray, Jane Sept. 23, 1868 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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