

Wondering what had become of me - So all by accident  
He saw the Lord Mayor's show! The banner & some  
Pike guards, the mounted police, quantities of beautiful  
silk banners & flags, then amid bands of music, the  
Beads of the different guilds in carriages, some with pos-  
tillions on the horses, others with sockets as big as small  
plates on the backs of footmen & coachman - One or  
two men quite covered with gold lace - Then came the  
sheriffs, with rather more gorgeous carriages & liveries, only  
as it rained, unfortunately the cocked hats were covered  
with oil silk & the gay coats & pink stockings with mottled  
The ex-lord mayor came in a yellow carriage, then the  
Lady Mayor was in a black Coach (i.e. the <sup>upper</sup> panels all black)  
The Lord Mayor in his black & gold Coach, his huge felt mace  
looking like a little child, out of the windows that was  
the last of the procession - Presently the carriage came,  
& after most affectionate good-bys from Mr. & Mrs. Dowie, we departed.  
It was damp & foggy dusk, but we must call on Miss  
Cullinan, so we took our way through Faltham missed  
the road, it was so deceiving after dark, "the Coachman said,  
& after all found Miss Cullinan out - got back quite late  
to Kew, & found Mrs. Amory waiting dinner for us - Had  
not got to Liverpool with mother, but has been staying with  
us -

Saturday morn'g. Came Charles' letter, Saturday Ev.  
came yours, with all four news -

Tuesday I arranged trunks & packed preparatory  
to moving - Willie Hosker came in, & bid good bye, for, by  
he sailed for New Zealand, Wednesday - In the Ev. ap-  
peared Mr. & Mrs. Hale our fellow-passengers - They have  
been near here almost all the time - Cross to Paris tomorrow.

Kew, Nov. 12th '68 -

My dear Sue,  
What did I do all day Satur-  
day? I am sure I cannot remember ex-  
cept that I seemed very busy - Th. Jo! It was  
sharply cold & frozen in the morn'g, but before  
Dr. Gray got out began to rain - So I made up  
my mind for what would have been at home  
& set to work & got sundry odd jobs about, & mended  
my dressing-case, & stereo-box, &c., &c. And had  
the table littered with things, & scarcely no-  
ticed it had cleared & bright sun-shine, when  
Mrs. Thompson & her sister were announced.  
They questioned on the difference of English &  
American climate, & I told them for one thing  
we should have been sure of a rainy day at home!  
Just at dusk mother & Mr. Amory appeared,  
only to stay about 1/2 an hour; crossed on Friday  
with very good weather, reaching London at night.  
The next evening at the Hooker's tea-dinner  
at 6 1/2, Mr. & Mrs. Hooker were there. He is  
a sculptor & also a poet; perhaps you have read  
verses of some of his poems - I remember being



very much taken with a notice of "My beautiful Lady," some time ago - But only another proof of the danger of ever meeting any favorite author! He is a short, rather thick, little man, with a handsome head & full beard - jolly, conceited, opinionated, full of funny stories which he tells capitally & with a deal of dramatic force. Dr. Gray says is a small edition of James T. Fields. As for the delicate sentiment, the refined, spiritual beauty of the poem, we cannot put poet & poem together! His wife is a sister of Mrs. Holman Hunt, the painter, (is she living?) & is one of those faces nearly being a classic beauty, & turns out second rate - They were both though, pleasant & agreeable. The children had some fire-works in the little garden behind the house, shown off after dinner, & at which we quietly looked from the drawing-room in a warm room - Enjoying the fun of the failures as well as the successes -

Sunday Dr. Gray went to town to join mother & party for church - I was afraid to venture as I was a little overdone on Thursday & had taken some cold - but colds don't amount to anything, only a perpetual state of snuffles - It is so chilly! I'm clothed five in reversed warmth; as soon as I go to my cold chamber, even to fetch anything, I am

in a shiver! - But there was a white powdering of snow on Sunday morn. & it laid until 10 or 2 o'clock in the shade! - I went to New Church & sat in Dr. Hooker's pew, & admired the beautiful tablet to Sir Wm., made of Wedgewood, a bas relief, & most lovely, graceful form encircling the inscription - Going home with Mrs. Hooker, there were thick pieces of ice in the front yard, which she said the boys had got on the roof -

Monday we went to town & make some calls - Took a fly, 'gentle', & called first at Mr. Miers, then on Lady Rogers, then on Mr. & Mrs. Darwin, unfortunately not seeing them, & then to the Lyells' & lunch - They gave us a very kind welcome, & there was a very pleasant sister there, Mrs. Col. Lyell. - It was lovely sunshine when we left New, & I was utterly surprised to find it raining as we came out after lunch - We wanted to do one or two errands, to buy a larger travelling bag, to go to Dr. Wier's in the Strand, Charing-Cross, about some books - But we found ourselves in all the crowd of Lord Mayor's day! Difficult making our way, & raining quite fast - So Dr. Gray darted off one way on an errand, to meet me at Dr. Wier's, & I drove there, finding the street full of mounted police & crowds of people. A police-man accosted the driver, & I dashed in to the shop & hurried to my own books - The clerk said the procession would soon be along, & I asked him, fearing trouble, to go & direct the carriage to drive off & come back when it was passed - But it was already gone, & there I was pinned. But they were all civil, took quite an interest in my seeing as an American the show, & presently Dr. Gray appeared,



ever!

It is very pleasant all gathering together at dinner. We quite fill up our parlour - And then one has been here & the other there, & one brought this & the other that! And there are some things cheap - Olivia got a very nice porte-monnaie of Turkey leather for 1s. And Dr. Gray a very nice kid purse, neatly mounted, the same price - George could show blank books & <sup>movies</sup> most as large as this sheet paper, nicely bound in <sup>more</sup> off covers, ruled & well finished, for 10 pence - Paper & envelopes, pencils, &c. are cheap - George has a neat, convenient, little map of London &c. - The family run & maps, I believe we must have 6 of not 7 of London & suburbs!

Tomorrow we propose, some of us, going to Kensington - to Dr. Gray's in the Ev. & a party at the Lyells - I do not venture a late Ev. ride - Monday I suppose, I shall be busy packing, & Tuesday we expect to cross to Paris - I suppose Charles will land Tuesday or Wednesday, & be through with his affairs & London, so as to join us on Monday or Tuesday the week after - Then we shall probably start before him, & get the two days at Monaco, while he stops in Paris & comes later with the rest of the party - except Olivia who goes with us to Nice - We see the Dr. steamer has arrived, so I suppose the Schuylers are in Paris -

Many thanks to all you good folks for your letters, & heaps of love & from all!

Ever affectionately, Jane L. Gray -

Mon. 13th. Wednesday morn. came Miss Sullivan & call, hearty & jolly as ever, off herself for Rome the 18th. Dec., may go to Egypt, & hopes if she does she may meet us - "It would be so pleasant if we could go to Syria together!" - I went, after lunch, & look at the rooms for mother - Funny little attic up two flights, not looking very neat, & a quaint little sitting room at the foot of the stairs by the front door, about two doors away from us - Mrs. Amory had a bed at the "Coach chaises," the only bed, so we decided, as the beds were not large at Mrs. Sears', & take George into Dr. Gray's dressing-room - A note came from G. in the morn., saying the steamer sailed so late in the day they could not leave Liverpool until Wednesday morn., would stop in the way & see Litchfield Cathedral, & so not dine with us but arrive at 8 1/2 - Dr. Gray went up to London after dinner, & a meeting of the Microscopical Society, & Mrs. Amory & I waited, had two tea-kettles boiling, & the table spread for a high tea, and about 1/4 to 9 they appeared - It was very pleasant being together again, & Dr. Gray was back from London before they were gone to their own home -

Thursday we scattered. Mrs. Amory wandered in foot around the country generally, mother & I were to go to Highbury & see Mrs. Dabney, George & Olivia to London by North London train, so mother & I went part way with them, getting out too soon in this stupid way they manage the trains, but fortunately finding it out before the train started -

Mrs. & Mrs. Atkinson live in a very pleasant home, one of the suburban villas so common about London -



A nice brick house, double-house, we should say, only  
the wing where is the dining-room is but one story  
high - A little yard with pretty shrubbery in front, but  
reaching behind into what we should call in Cambridge,  
a large garden - Along a narrow, prettily & respectably laid  
out as these English gardens are, carefully cultivated &  
beautiful turf - A little conservatory adjoining the  
house, a green house & forcing-houses, farther off - The  
library where we were shown was a beautiful room,  
surrounded with books & the air of comfort &  
luxury the English know so well how to give - Mrs.  
Datney gave us a cordial welcome. Mrs. Atkinson  
is much better than when Mrs. Datney came. Looks  
like a hearty English woman, & we would never suspect  
from voice, speech or manner she was American bred  
& bred, the sisters make an odd contrast, for Mrs.  
Atkinson can only move on crutches or in a wheeled  
chair, but dresses handsomely & looks very stout. Mrs.  
Datney with her quick activity, & indifference & ap-  
pearance, & gray hair - We dined with them, had  
a turn round the garden, & before we left Mr. A.  
came in. Really, the most remarkable man of his  
age I ever saw! Looking about 60 or 70, & over 80! -

Mother & I were back in good time, the others missed  
each the earlier train & met in the N. R. station at  
Kew! -

Today mother & Elvira were off together, George  
also to London independently, & Dr. Fay to the City to  
draw money, get letter of credit &c. preparing for our  
move -

This morn'g came Lizzie's letter just & amuse her  
breakfast with her rascatching, or not rascatching -

Then an hour later came Charles' - And after  
dinner came Jura, enclosing Clara's & Alice's &  
Charles's & Anna's, with the stamps - Tell Anna  
not to be troubled, I am sure I am not cheated,  
& hope they are not - I hope that the letter that  
first open was not the one in which I sent some  
stamps, else they must have been lost! But such  
a budget of letters for one day seems almost too nice!  
We have all enjoyed their various contents - All  
items of home news are so delightful! -

I have been to call on Mrs. Hooker today -  
Returning from there I met Mr. & Mrs. Lewis, our  
fellow-passenger, whom we were wondering not  
to hear from - It seems they have been all this  
time in Ireland & Wales! If they do the rest of  
their travelling so leisurely, they will be a long time  
getting home again! - We went through the garden  
a little, & then they came to our lodgings, & then I  
went to see them on their way to the station, & as I  
came back I went across to call on Mrs. Thompson,  
& say good-bye - They are each very pleasant people!  
Really our going seems near - And it seems quite an  
affair to break up our quarters here, we have been  
so comfortably settled down - And to go into trunks  
to live for so long! For now we do not expect to be  
back in England until the end of next summer -  
We have a very obliging landlady, & very comfortable  
quarters, if only they were warmed more in American  
fashion! I shall think furnaces a finer invention than



Gray, Jane Loring. 1868. "Gray, Jane Nov. 12, 1868 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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