

The day was lovely & the ride very pleasant. Fine hills
& mountains with brown, terraced sides, rougher & more
barren in the distance, white, snow-covered peaks beyond.
Green fields about us, olive-trees abundant, occasionally
a pear or peach-tree in blossom, & tender, young leaves
on the late poplars, those seem to be superfluous for me
everywhere. Then villages showing pale yellow clay -
where, on hill-side slope, or down in a valley, or perched
on a mt. peak. Sometimes castles, sometimes convents.
Classic ground too, from ancient Roman, down through
the middle ages & Garibaldi's last battles. - If one makes
up their mind that the coloring is very like (rather
barer, & browner, & more hazy) ~~what~~ one sees at home,
& don't keep searching for the wonderful purple light
the pictures deceive us with, I admit it beautiful.
But the blue sky is not so much bluer, seems to me, than
with us. Not so blue. I should say, though now may be colder.
And I think the distance too hazy. Coming from the soft
clearness of Egypt, & used to the cold sharpness of our
atmosphere, I want sometimes to brush the mist away.
Unfortunately sun-set came just as we reached Albano
& the young moon was too new & light for us the Campagna,
& we could barely see the outline of the great aqueduct,
& only pass at the gates as we passed through, reaching
Rome about 7 1/2 o'clock. - We had stopped for passports

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Rome, April 18. '69

Dear Luc,

My first date to you from the Eternal
City! Truly I think we began our travels wrong end
first! Italy should have ~~come~~ come before Egypt, for
Egyptian antiquities make old Roman remains
seem modern, & funny too, beside those huge masses
of stone. - It is wonderful too, how much less well
preserved all carving & sculpture is. - But no rain,
& dry sand are wonderful preservatives. - But
this is beginning journal wrong end foremost, & I
must go back to Naples -

I went out on an errand Monday, I had under-
taken bravely to ~~do~~ do alone; but I fell into the hands
of an unworthy driver, who, as I had taken him by the
hour, thought to make something out of me; carried
me all wrong, & so I was 1/2 an hour where I should
have been 10 min. I was determined not to be done,
& as he really did not know or pretended not, I put the
money for an hour in his hand at the end of the hour,
& walked off, as I was near the hotel. - However, though my
errand failed, I got another glimpse at Naples Sts.
where every body rides, from hand carriages & liveries, down

to the chabrier one horse fiacres, or the wonderful Looked,
1 horse chaise, which carries 15! - It is very cheap & ride,
& so all sorts of errand people & shabby women ride, & yet
streets & side-paths are full too! - The women of the lower
& middling classes rarely wear anything on the head, &
You see the beautiful dark hair neatly dressed &
showing various styles - But bonnets are such nothing
now-a-days it seems much the same! I saw one
appointed in seeing costumes, I only saw two, one in a
maiden - I saw a handkerchief worn on the head
by an old woman, folded up as we see the white, but
a printed cotton lacy, tied pictorially over the head,
& another or a white pinned over the neck, was all
to make them look different from the plain cotton
I saw & by apron we see any where - I forget to say in
Sicily, they had the same great brass tower on the saddle
of cart-horses, only not so large as Naples, & their carts
fairly painted round the sides with scenes from script.
there, & the Life of Christ! -

This got back from Capri for late dinner, having
had a charming day, seen the blue grotto, & then a
most beautiful sunset sailing home -

Tuesday I went out early with Dr. Gray & Katherine
to look at lavas - But the things I had admired were
now were sold, & I was soon tired & gave out - So I
came back & backed & sat with Charles a little, & then

they all came at 2 & made an excursion to the old Con-
vent of Camaldoli, said to be one of the finest views in
Italy - Charles felt up to a drive, so he & I took a carriage,
& went with them as far as up the hill, where
they took donkeys - A stupid drive rather, as the road
all the way was between high houses or high walls. Most
of the country roads have a high wall, each side - But
one sees the out-door life, for the ^{working} people do everything
in the street; & I wonder, as their houses are generally
one room in a long block, no windows, but a great double
door, giving all the light & air the poor inhabitants have.
A range of them seems like a range of stables or ware-
houses - Under a handsome villa, will often be a
range of these cottages (?), & so everything we put at the
back of the house. ~~most~~ of sight, is not in the street - It
must have been washing-day Tuesday, or it is always
washing-day; you see the women scrubbing & wringing, &
clothes hung & dry on poles & cords & back of chairs & every-
where! And such patches! - Then I came back to
pack, & Charles & Henri & nap - And really seeming so
much better, though still stiff & lame - He decided
Wednesday morning to stay a few days longer in Naples,
& feel a little stronger before he took the long day's
ride to Rome - I felt easy in leaving him, for fever seemed
to have passed away, & his appetite returning - So we had
him God-bye, & took our departure at 9 1/2 for the Station -

& examination of ^{small} luggage where we dined, comfortable station, fair table d'hôte, & plenty of time — At the Station in Rome a man-servant met us, putting a card from the Schuylers in our hands saying they had sent their carriage for us, just outside the met. Anna Gray, who had come with her's, & our landlord's son, with two! Was at that an arrival — Lizzie P. & I were put into Anna Gray's carriage, we sent our way the Schuylers' with many thanks, & then to my dismay, Dr. Gray, after seeing Lillian & Katherine into one, came & us, leaving Katherine & Lillian with Lillian, after the young man had got the baggage — He arrived, we were shown up, up to our rooms, which looked cheery & pleasant with a nice fire when we got there, my tea was sent up & eaten, & still Katherine did not come! — I told Dr. Gray if he were going to let her take the care, as she so willingly does, I should have to take his place & take care of her! But not speaking Italian puts him quite at a loss, & she is so ready & business-like, she steps in & does everything — She came at last, said the delay was that we having had a "permit" to bring through without examination, the tickets had been taken off, & then the luggage had to be identified, & they kept them all waiting 1/2 an hour before opening the doors.

We are in the boarding house another was in last year -
a nice parlor, the girls' room, a nice large one with
two bureaus & wardrobe, one side, ours the other,
& opening out of ours a room for Charles - It is up
four long flights, but everybody in Rome, they say,
lives at the top of the house if they can, for sun &
better air - And our parlour has three windows to
let the sun in, if only the sun should shine!
Such a lovely basket of flowers, we found on the
table from the Schuylers! Red camellias, helio-
trope, violets, & the handle wreathed with mistaria.
And a kind note from Louisa saying they wished
to give me my first view of Rome & would come
next morn. in their carriage to drive me -

So next day at three o'clock I went with them;
partly up the Pincian hill, then down through Plaza
del Popolo, where is an unhappy obelisk perched up
on a pedestal with a bronze cross on top!, but where
the effect of the fine square was planned by Michel
Angelo, - down the Corso, a narrow St. by the column of Ande-
rinus, then Trajan's forum & column, the old Forum, the
arch of Septimius Severus, up the Capitol hill, down again
seeing the Via Sacra, down through the arch of Titus, round
the Coliseum, by the arch of Constantine, & back again!
Much love to all - from Your ever aff. Jane -



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane Apr. 18, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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