

chapel has the famous statue of Michael Angelo - Right
& Thomp., Twilight & Dawn, ^{one} ~~conveys~~ & another medicine,
a Madonna & Child & two saints - But he never got
above a big, heavy woman as Madonna! - I say I think
among all the magnificence he supported & the encourage-
ment he gave to art & the splendour he left in Florence
during the magnificent years for a statue, only an ugly
portrait of him in the office! - The Romanians women
are exquisitely beautiful in Florence - He had a good
look at them; choosing a wedding present for Charlotte
Ward, the man showed us his 1000 francs, for buying
our 30 one -

I did not see so much of Anna Fay as I had hoped -
By some misunderstanding they told Dr. Fay she married,
when he must have got her over the last Eq. - I was very
sorry we could not have been in the same house -

The left Thursday noon for Pisa, rather a hurried
getting away; & in the middle of the day it was very warm -
But lovely by the time we got there at 4 P.M. - He had
a jolly lunch in the Cars - Katherine is generally fonder,
being quick & prompt, & speaking Italian - Dr. Fay often helps, &
this time took it in charge - Charles sometimes for the same &
we carry four napkins & towels, Luc, have tumbler &c. And
always think the rolls & perhaps cold meat, uncommonly good,
wings, & now chicken make dessert. For Luc: such chicken!
^{some cold} ^{from the kitchen}

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Finished at Leg. Maggiore. May 10

Dear Luc,

I do not feel as if I had given half an ac-
count of the life of the streets so far & picturesque
in Rome or Florence, & yet so different in each.
In Rome there is more variety, they do more in
the open air, spin & reel, sew & cook, punish the child
then, dress & undress them - He drives thro' all sorts of
odd streets & queer corners, & come on vegetable stalls,
the moist lying in strings, just as you see them in old
Egyptian pictures & drawings of offerings to the gods, what
you never see now in Egypt, & come to find in modern
Rome! Then over a charcoal pan they are cooking some
vegetable dish, & the next stall are scraps of meat, such
as would seem only refuse at home! Then the baker's
hanging rings of bread linked together! & great round
loaves - Then flowers so beautiful, so cheap & so exquis-
itely arranged - Boys playing games, men asleep in a
corner, wide girls carrying babies almost as large as their
selves, funny little kind babies, smothered like mummies
from the waist downwards. Then we come on a beauti-
ful fountain, a sport playing up & two streams crossing,
or a big rock over rocks like a natural waterfall, or
a gush from a shell, or perhaps only a pool - But the

fountains of Rome are a great beauty in the streets & places - Rome is all paved with round stones, rarely a side-walk, so imagine the noise! Florence has chiefly smooth stones, but the quick driving echoes like thunder & need to make the noise between T. & D. the fashionable crowd past our hotel, a nuisance - Florence has on the whole wider streets - is jayser, brighter looking than Rome, where the heavy, sombre palaces so often fronting a narrow street, have a gloomy grandeur - Towns in Italian towns, is the best part on the street - They are generally dark, other brown windows plated with heavy bars - Florence gives the impression of colder winters, more covered shops, less out-door life, though still one sees a deal that is amusing & picturesque - And there flowers for sale too, a rose-bud, a bunch of orange-blossoms, pansies &c. &c., & Katherine says, "they are glad to get 2cts for a bunch!" - Florence has very little hill in the town itself, but is surrounded by hills of all ages, dotted in over a plain, & covered with villas, churches, green - just the reverse of Rome, with its hills in the midst of a plain - So Florence is less picturesque - But then through its midst flows the Arno, fine quay ballad on its side & spanned by old picturesque, & more modern beautiful bridges, one with that exquisite arch Chas admires so much! Nothing could be prettier, than the long quay & built reflected lights we looked on from our window over.

But to go back to more regular accounts - The Cathedral is wonderfully beautiful, white & black marble intermixed, & most exquisite carvings tracing over windows & doorways, & the Campanile standing separately, as does also the Baptistery, both in the same style, a simplicity united with beauty & delicacy of finish wonderful to see - I lined to the interior of the Cathedral, of solemn & grand effect, & the round Baptistery domed inside with red mosaics - The Campanile has those beautiful bronze doors, that Michael Angelo said might be the gate of Paradise! - Then we had a visit to the convent & church of St. Mark, the church little to see, but the convent, the monks all gone now, in beautiful, empty order, & the cells, some corridors, & the refectory, frescoed of Fra Angelico whom he lived & painted, most interesting - His quaint simplicity, & pure devotion, nowhere shown more sweetly! - Then we saw the oratory, cell & sleeping cells of Savonarola, the clothes taken from him when he was burned, his bible & musical notes for sermons, & his likeness painted by his disciple & friend Fra Bartolomeo, & a quaint, old picture of the burning in the square, all very interesting, & partly for "Rome's sake" - The grand old library, beautifully illustrated choir books, & other things! - We went also to the two famous Medici chapels in San Lorenzo - One magnificent & dark with the greatest variety of superb marbles, Vasco's chapel coats of arms, the other all in Florentine marble - The other



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane May 28, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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