

himself. And at tea I was generally alone, & felt as if all the day waiters were watching every mouthful; whereas I suppose they only saw Mr. J. had come out stea, & noticed whether it was "the simple," or "the complet," or "the uce en plat," to charge it on the book. The simple, is tea alone - The complet, is tea with bread & butter, & you may add cold meat or a cutter or an omelette, & then you are charged for a "plat." The head waiter spoke English & was very kind & attentive, coming here me, & that I had all finished. They were very full, some of my amusements was to see the omnibus going directly under my window, from the many train; but I never saw anyone I knew. I did not expect Dr. Gray until Thursday Ev., but they arrived at 6 Thursday morn., & so we left at 1 1/2 for Lucerne. How rail roads have changed things! When we were in Switzerland before it was two days in diligence & steamboat. Or get to Ruzaty, & we do it by r.r. between 1 1/2 & 6 1/2! - But Lake Wallenstadt is not so beautiful by r.r. as the sail down it in the little steamer. I thought it & still think it one of the finest of Swiss lakes for wild grandeur, & picturesque. But I think I prefer the lovely grandeur now of the Italian Lakes. But both are very beautiful, & dwell in one's memory as such pleasures. Lake Zurich is tame & quiet, but the country looks rich & happy, & everything thriving. And many parts like home, with the apple orchards & farm houses. And everything so green!

Finished Lucerne, July 15th. '89

My dear Sue, I left us at Ruzaty on Saturday Ev. at 5 1/2. We had a journey of many hours, but the ride from Lucerne to Constance was tedious & slow, as Katherine said, they stopped at every creek! - But the scenery grew finer, & Ruzaty is beautifully situated, in a valley, a high, green mountain to the West, through which opens the wild gorge leading to the hot baths of Poffern, & opposite green range, & close behind them the high, picturesque, rocky mountains, streaked & patched with snow. By mid summer, it will all be gone. I learned to know & admire, for Dr. Gray & the girls left me there, while they went up the valley & then off over high passes, harder work than I can undertake. I wished I could paint or sketch these beautiful peaks, sometimes cloud-cloaked, or warm in the soft sun, & vary in its setting, & so varied in shape & distance, & terrifying in seeming so close, until shadows or passing clouds showed how valleys & ranges lay between. But words give no idea of this scenery. Sunday morn., Dr. Gray & the girls went to Eng. Lerne, I was tired with yesterday's ride. Then, after dinner, we took a little narrow, one-horse canyoe, & went up the narrow gorge, forming deep or a narrower all the time from which the Tamina flows. It needed the rapidly rushing streams below us, & to see how gradually we approached the level, to realize how much we were ascending, the

road is so good - The rocks are almost perpendicular
one side the stream, occasionally giving a ledge for
trees & shrubs, or a tuft of the pretty Alpsian moss, now
in blossom, & sometimes a lovely cascade came pour-
ing down, the other side was the road, carefully built
& engineered, but very narrow, & nothing between you
& the high fall with the river; the other side sometimes
a steep, green slope, sometimes high rocks, once tunnelled
through - It seemed narrow when we entered, but grew
narrower, & when we reached Hotel Goeffers, one could
easily believe the sun did not rise there in midwinter
until 11, & set at 4! - The Hotel closes the gorge, &
passing through it, you buy tickets, & are let out on
the other side onto a platform leading to a plank path,
that runs up for a $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile farther, I should say,
through this narrow passage, the rocks sometimes meet-
ing overhead, sometimes overlapping so you pass through
a cave, & then again grow more perpendicular, so you
get a glimpse of sky above - At last you come to a more
open place, & there a door in the rock admits you into
a narrow passage in the rock, at the end of which is the
hot spring, which supplies the baths took here & at the
hotel at Ratz, where it is carried through hollow logs.
It was like a warm steam bath! And all who came
out looked par-boiled! But it did not feel as hot
the touch as I expected - Indeed I did not try the

baths, for I thought them too cool - If I have a hot bath,
I like it hot - The little photo. I send gives some idea
of a part of the scene - The other is a view of Ratz, with
one of the old ruined castles which flank the town
on either side - Only it makes the valley look too
broad, & the distance too dim - Dr. Gray & the girl
had to take the $\frac{1}{2}$ hour ride by rail to Coire at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, so
as to be ready to be off next morn. by diligence, at 5 -
Monday was a lovely day, but Tuesday was continuous
showers, & they had some of it soon, & Wednesday the
mountain-tops would keep on their cloud-caps for me
all day, until just at sunset, when they came out
clear - So they had to give up part of their plans, as the
clouds were more than to them! - However they went higher
than they are likely to go anywhere else, & found such
lovely Alpine flowers - some I never saw in blossom when
I was in Switzerland before, for I was not high eno -
Meantime I sewed & read & wrote - Cook little walks
round the great new hotel, they are to open in a few days,
& which is wonderfully fine, - up the gorge over the
waterfall at the opening & through the Grist, Little
Town - I did not make any acquaintances - I am afraid
I am very unsocial - I am afraid because where I am
not used to the language, & besides I did not go to table
d'hôte, but had a beef-steak in my room - I went out to
breakfast often, but each person takes what he orders by

The friend Anna Gray had been here a week, & she
came over to see us - The girls had had a view of
Mt. Blanc the day before at sunset, when they had
crossed the bridge to go & see her - It is only occasion-
ally his royal majesty arrives & fagets eyes, & it was
a fortunate chance - He was on the opposite side the
lake in 19 years ago, that side we had the
chance of seeing Mt. Blanc when visible, but from
Hotel Metropole where we are now, we see this beauti-
ful lake, look up it, & enjoy this wonderful colour -
Monday the wind had gone down & instead of the bril-
liant haze it was all the softest most delicate tint -
Some pretty Roman candles & Bengal light, rockets, &c
were sent off on the breakwater, out in the water firing
on Sunday Ev - being the 4th, & Tuesday an candle
lighted the Americans in the house & a most superb
dinner, all French courses, & most abundant wines, Champagne
&c. The table was decorated with beautiful flowers
& little American flags, & the room with two very large
& elegant American flags of silk - Altogether it was a
very grand affair, & afterwards were sundry speeches by
our consul, & a Connecticut man, a Missourian & a
New Yorker; I cannot say they were remarkably happy,
though some said some good things, but there was too much
tendency to drag in Bonaparte's lake of Geneva without particular
reason - *Can conclude with, Peace -*

It was a contrast to Germany, where one rarely saw
apples, but such quantities of cherries! The road sides
lined, & the trees red with them - And such rice as
we find everywhere - The girls say, for once in their
lives they have had cherries enough - Last month, now
we have had them - We have not had good bye & roses
yet either - They are still beautiful in the little gar-
dens at the rail-way stations - At Lucerne we tried
one of the smaller hotels, & Engleterre, & very nice
we found it - They gave Dr. Gray & me such a pleas-
ant room, looking out beautifully on the lake, which
I enjoyed next mornf. while Dr. Gray & the girls went up
the lake & down again in the little steamer, which
sailed from the quay directly under our window. They
were up & off again at 5, making the fifth mornf. in
succession they had been up at 4! But I see that they
go to bed early & get sleep even if possible - They breakfasted
on the boat - The right way to see mountains is to take
in the early mornf., then they are clear of mist - By
the time they came back, at 10 1/2, the high tops were
quite veiled ^{in clouds}, which had been clear some hours before.
Then Dr. Gray went with me to see the lion of St. Mark
seen, carved in the face of the rock, of enormous size; done
in memory of the Swiss Guard killed in defending Marie
Antoinette in the French Revolution - Very grand & mar-

justice & touching it is - She felt had been to see it the 1st
before - Then we all went to see a diorama of the view
from the Rigi - And it was truly well worth seeing -
The effects of sun & rain & sunset, of changes of light, were
admirably given - And the whole such as only very happy
days could give me ^{in reality} - We dined at 1 1/2, took the
train at 1 1/2 for Berne & Fribourg - I could not
but notice one change since I was in Switzerland before,
how the costumes had gone out - At Lucerne I scarcely
saw one, & they said to be so pretty! About Berne we
saw more, my Louis doll with a hat instead of a cap -
And we saw more of the pretty toy houses, that
looked as if they should be taken in & shut up when
it rained - Only it takes away from the sentiment,
having the barn so almost invariably under the same
roof - R. & I came to the conclusion it must be the
semi-annual washing time, from the quantities of
cloths we saw hanging out in rows - We took tea at
Berne, that the girls might be ready on reaching Fribourg
& go at once to the Cathedral to hear the organ. And
it seemed to be a matter of course, for the omnibus drove
up, & the head-waiter of the hotel appeared, & said the
luggage would all be taken care of & our rooms arranged, if
we got out. The girls did, but I was too tired, so Dr. Gray had
me established, & then went back to them - I ordered
a cup of tea, & the boy who brought it seemed to think me

most stupid & insensible in losing my opportunities to
hear "the organ!" - They came back soon after 9, & we were
all early in bed - The next morn. was rainy - But Dr.
Gray & the girls went across the bridges, & then the old
Cathedral, with odd carvings, & the market, which
Katherine reported "highly festive," the men having their
collars up to their ears, & the women in some costume,
& the girls all alive, each in a net, &c. - Meantime I
wrote, & enjoyed the view from my window of the two
most graceful suspension bridges over the narrow ravine,
down into which the old town runs - It used to take
2 hours to go down & up again, where now the bridge
takes across in 20 minutes - I was just on a level with
one bridge - It was one of the nicest hotels I was ever
in, so comfortable & pleasant, & well arranged - And
then such a beautiful parrot, that whistled & sang
like a whole aviary of birds, & awakened me pleasantly
in early morn. I had no idea any of the parrot tribe
could be so sweet - We left at 11 & reached Geneva
at 3 1/2, rain & mist all the way, & the whole Lake
was shrouded - We went to the Hotel Metropole, & had
to mount very high for rooms, but then had a most
superb view over the Lake, & all Sunday & welcome
us, it put on its loveliest ^{color} ~~colors~~, blue & green & purple,
but chiefly that lovely blue green - A high wind helped
it, though it took away the pleasure of being out -



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane July 15, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/225927>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/262702>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.