

a little one horse carriage for Sierra. We had a most  
amusing driver, land in the paws of his horse Fritz,  
who beguiled the way with stories & commandments, i.e.  
Fritz he seemed in loving companionship, as he would  
call "Fritz" & a gentle, whistling pique & shaken him up,  
& Fritz would shake his head & trot on. At Troutman  
we stopped & give Fritz some water, & he appeared from  
the inn with a large piece of <sup>dark</sup> bread, which he cut up  
& fed him with! - We went to another hotel nearer the  
Station at Sierra, & was shown into a most fascinating  
room West, large & panelled all over, & a great Eastern style  
with a coat of arms in relief upon it; evidently an old  
chateau turned into an inn, & this had been a salon,  
looking out into its two big windows, into a formal, old-  
fashioned garden, & across the low wall to the high hills,  
the green valley between, & the cultivated <sup>steep</sup> valley running  
up the hill-sides. At Sierra the Rhone valley is at its  
fullest <sup>& richest</sup> I was sorry to leave for the R.R. Station, but Dr. Gray  
was anxious to get on, so we made a long push to Bille-  
reux on the Eastern and the Lake of Geneva, getting  
there at 8 o'clock. Lived over. I was, & the change from  
the cold Indian air to hot valley was very great. But we  
were grand, went to the fine Hotel Pigeon, took a cham-  
ber au premier & before me up stairs, had tea in our  
room, & certainly it was as truly comfortable & luxurious

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Finished July 25 - 19 Interlaken.  
My dear Sue, I left myself on the top of the  
Riffel on Monday Ev., with the important  
question before me, "how to get down?" - I was  
really afraid to ride on a horse, it was so steep,  
& then too, the motion was so uncomfortable going  
down hill, so I decided to walk & stay as much  
time as I chose to it. The others were to go down  
& push on before us, as they were to go to Phamouin  
on their way to Geneva, while Dr. Gray & I went  
direct - A large party left that morn'g. - Mrs. Eaton  
had gone first, & Mrs. Eaton, Bessie & an English  
lady followed us on horseback, & L.S.K. went in  
advance with a young American (Mr. Crall,) to  
go & see the fine waterfall at the side of the  
former glacier, while Charles soon left our thro  
propos, to go with the mule with all our baggage,  
so as to arrange for their getting on - With many  
stoppings to rest, & then looks at the flowers, or  
sitting where I got a grand view of the glacier &  
the arch at the bottom out of which rushed the river,  
we reached a new zone of flowers, & then trees, & so  
down & down, taking 3 1/2 hours for what is ordinarily  
done in 1 1/2 - At the bottom we met Mr. Thos. Chase

& their friend Mr. Warner, who had walked from  
Zermatt to meet us, & a little farther on a horse  
Chas had sent back for me - I was very glad to  
ride, for I was getting very weak-kneed, & so I  
got to the hotel before them & crawled tremblingly  
up stairs! - I tho't after resting a hour, when I  
went down again, I should never be able to bend  
my knees! And for a day or two they were quite  
swelled & lame, so that bending them was pain-  
ful, & I was as upright as possible - Of course too  
I was very tired, but it certainly did me no per-  
manent harm, & I went back to Geneva stronger  
than I started - We had a very pleasant dinner  
with the Church & left at 4 for St. Niklaus in  
one of the little ragoes - It was wonderful how  
now the stream had swelled since we went up,  
I suppose so many warm days had melted the  
snow; they had run across the road & backed it,  
& when you heard the constant rattle of the  
stones rolling in the bed of one brook, you got some  
idea of the force of these mountain streams - We  
had a heavy thunder shower before reaching St.  
Niklaus & were glad ev. of all our maps & waterprofs.  
Fortunately they took all the wetting - We found a  
good many of our mount. party there - Heard Co the

guide had gone on to Triip - I was rather discom-  
m. in trying to climb into bed, but felt better next morn-  
ing, & we mounted our horses at 8 1/2 - Wound round  
the little church, which was burnt down once, then  
swept away by an avalanche in 1855, & destroyed  
by an earthquake in '55! Indeed the whole town  
looks as if it might be swept away! And to under-  
a very doubtful looking sky took our winding way  
towards Triip, up & down - Presently came drops, &  
then quicker, we splashed up waterprofs & opened  
umbrellas, & it set in for a steady pour - There was  
nothing to do but go on, & we met sundry parties going  
up the valley - At Stalden, the halfway resting place,  
we overtook the Scotch lassie & her brother & Mr. Cook  
on foot, & three English on horseback & joined them  
under the little roof, where they were stopping a  
while - Soon we were off on our way again, & the  
rain stopped, & a nice breeze came up, & we were  
finely dried - Prossingly, with Triip in full sight,  
& only 10 minutes off, came another shower, & we  
were all dampened again! - The valley seemed more  
beautiful coming down, greener & richer. Perhaps  
it was the contrast to the bare mt. tops - And we  
bade lingering good byes to our grand mt. peaks -  
We had some dinner lunch at Triip, & then took

More railway from Marseilles - Dijon preferred to  
come by boat. Dr. Gray & I were just getting ready to dine at  
the Delandres - they had asked all, but I declined for the  
others, as their return was so uncertain, but accepted  
for tea - But unfortunately they were too hot -  
We had a very pleasant dinner, prettily served in  
French style, met Mr. Duval whom I may remember  
from speaking of. Being studying hieroglyphics, at Dijon,  
a very pleasant we found him - Also a relation  
of Madame de C.'s, very bright & agreeable - The conversation  
was partly in French & then again in English, & Indian.  
told many funny stories - He all sat out in a sort of  
covered arcade after dinner, & there tea &c. were handed -  
Two gentlemen called, & M. Muller, M. de C.'s assistant  
came -

The next morn. we crossed to the little  
Jardin Anglais opposite our hotel & see the <sup>model</sup> ~~bas-reliefs~~  
of Mt. Blanc, which is worth seeing both for the ideas of the  
physical geography it gives one - Then we were all busy pack-  
ing & settling up affairs - Just the day we left the boatmen  
who were away, & Dr. Gray wanted to see, came back? -  
We all six were off at 4 & reached Lausanne at 8 p.  
We went to the Grand Hotel Bellevue at Pully on the  
Lake, & Anna & I retired, while Dr. Gray went with K. & L. to  
see if they could hear any thing of the Goodwins & Bradworths,  
& Charles to take tea with Elise - They could not find them,

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a hotel as I was ever in - The Lake of Geneva stretched  
away soft & lovely, blow our windows, & a little mild,  
new moon glimmered over it - All the appointments  
were most comfortable, & we had earned a good night's  
rest - Next morn. we took our leisure, had breakfast of  
most delicious bread, butter & tea & honey, & then took a  
little carriage & drove over to the Castle of Chillon, wh.  
we could see from our window - It is most picturesque  
from the land side, with the round towers & outer  
works, the deep gateway & bridge; the lake side is al-  
most plain, bare wall, the water was defence enough -  
It is now an arsenal of Canton Vaud - A young woman  
appeared as guide, showed us the dungeons, more crypt  
than dungeon like, the old Hall of the Knights, the  
Chamber of Justice, & then up stairs the Duke's room, a  
chummy apartment with remnants of nice frescoes, &  
a large window opening down upon the Courtyard,  
whence, I suppose, he could superintend affairs; &  
cornerwise bit, across a rough little passage, & thro'  
a wicket door, the Duchess' apartment, a little smaller,  
with a huge corner fire-place we could all stand  
under, but a window looking most charmingly upon  
the Lake, the wall some 40 ft. straight to the water -  
The Lady Duchess could not leave her room but her lord  
Duke knew it, & it had rather a prison air; but the stone

window seat was room as if she sat many an hour looking  
at the view, some might forget a good deal with that  
lovely lake & the exquisitely colored water, the bold,  
picturesque shores opposite, the different ranges of hills  
throwing in contrasting shadows of dark & light as they  
fell off higher & higher, & at the end the Grand Port  
de Midi, snow-capped, & soft clouds just lightly  
touching it here & there. - It was one of the loveliest of morn-  
ings I saw, & Hotel Byron would be a charming place,  
where the purse was full, & spend weeks! - The day  
kept on as beautiful all through, & the rail-road ride  
skirting the lake, from 1 to 2 1/2, was delightful, all but  
the heat; & oh, such a magnificent view of Mt. Blanc!  
It is one of the grandest impressions it gives seen from  
that distance, the great white mass piled up against  
the sky that seems bluer for the contrast. At first  
you think it cloud, then you see it is too white, too fixed in  
outline, too sharp. - The lake with from scores of picturesque  
houses makes four fore-ground, the green hills dotted  
villages on the other side the middle distance, then come  
dark mountains with varied outlines, & behind the  
mass of Mt. Blanc. - It is one of the most beautiful  
landscapes I ever saw! - They gave us a nice room at  
the Metropole, where for the next 4 1/2 days I looked  
out on this beautiful water. We had such fine days,

& so rejoiced for them at Chamouni. - And the  
lake was all day long & every day these lovely  
colours, sometimes pale, sometimes purple & blue,  
sometimes only this soft, green-blue colour, whenever  
I lifted my eyes to look out, which you may be  
sure I did many a time, as I sat sewing or writing.  
There were a good many little mendings to be done,  
& some shopping, & letters to write. - And Friday Evg.  
Dr. Jay & I drove out to Ballon to call on the Dr. &  
walked with them to the little village of Chene, a  
few minutes from their house, & got the very sun set  
on Mt. Blanc. - They do not see the Mt. only the shadow  
der from the lawn in front of the house where we  
found them sitting, the picturesque Salève at one side,  
& green landscape stretching away between, <sup>them?</sup> the pointed  
M<sup>ts</sup>. <sup>oh.</sup> ~~taking~~ off their view. - They are on the S. side the lake.  
Mr. Dr. C. pointed out the quiet, little house in which  
Lamondi lived at Chene. - Sat. Evg. I walked over the  
bridge where I was so fond of standing 19 years ago to  
watch the blue water rushing through & breaking into  
white foam, & Sunday Evg. we walked up into the quiet  
little Place St. Pierre, to see again the queer, old church,  
that combines Grecian & Gothic & all sorts of enormities  
in ugly confusion outside. - Monday Aft. Charles &  
Katherine & Anna Jay arrived from Chamouni by Ste.

most unnatural brilliancy of colouring, as rocks few purple  
the green is intense - They were down next morn'g at  
7! And at 8 we were started, all on horseback but  
Dr. Gray who preferred to walk, to then up over the steep  
ascend of the Reuzum Alps, looking back on the beautiful  
Lauterbrunnen valley, & quite above across to the Stanser  
then through woods, around the shoulder of the hill, &  
up again, coming out directly opposite the Jungfrau, rising  
just before us with its vast precipices of snow & ice & bare  
rock, great snow fields lying along great glaciers rolling down,  
& the beautiful, pure white Silberhorn pointing up on one  
side - Further on a black range cutting off snow peaks in  
the distance, & the <sup>left</sup> ~~right~~ branch of Eiger rising sharp  
against the sky, bluer than any day I have seen it in Switzer-  
land - He made me rest & lie down on reaching the hotel,  
& I went to sleep on the sofa facing the Jungfrau (Kate had  
pulled me in front of the window) with that fascinating view  
before me I have carried in mind these 19 years! - He dined  
<sup>after seeing some grand avalanches go down the mt. opposite &  
hearing the noise of</sup> & then after resting again, set off for Grindelwald. - Made good-  
bye for the time to the Jungfrau, & wound round under the moorstone,  
bare steep slope of Eiger towering grandly over us, & contrasting  
with the rich, green valley beginning to open from below us. The  
descent was hard & steep, & I tried walking part way, riding was  
so hard, so that Anna & I got to Grindelwald well tired; & all  
too soon had the warm day's work was over. Ever lovingly, H.

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I came back to find us sitting on the little balcony  
outside our window, admiring the beautiful view, which  
as Rizzie said, was only ~~too~~ like a fine drop scene in  
the theatre! You see, everything was in it - generally one has  
to combine artificially, the beautiful lake & grand mts. beyond,  
the well laid out garden below us skirting the water, the  
little landing stage running out, the grouped trees, round  
bushes & tall Lombardy poplar one side, weeping willows  
on the other, little boats in the lake & the full moon shining  
softly through light haze, & below us the provinces in blue dress  
stroll over swamps, wandering through garden - walks with her  
dark-robed attendant, scarlet geraniums making a fine mass  
of colour for centre piece - Then we went down for tea in the  
stately banquet hall, where sat members of the Court  
at different tables in Exp. costume, & rich waiters flying  
about - He could only be some great people in disguise as  
many all the splendour, in our plain travelling dresses &  
presently two of the little ballet dancers got up & stopped  
off, one in a white pinnace with a cherry over dress, & the  
other in white ruffled muslin & gay sash - I am sorry to say  
in truth they were little American girls dressed in this  
abroad way, & I fear very few but Americans would wear such  
freakish clothes in such a place - Then we had gone up to  
our stately rooms again, the music for dancing came up  
to our ears, & the lights shining through on the garden

whence all the promenaders had gradually disappeared, made  
one expect to see the dark cloaked villain steal out of the  
shadows - One went ahead feeling it was all utterly unreal  
& dream-like! - Charles, next morn'g, seemed to have no other  
petite for breakfast, he said Cici had entertained him  
so sumptuously; & she met us at the rail-way station & say  
good-bye, bringing me a beautiful bunch of carnations -  
We had a pleasant ride, after saying farewell to that most  
beautiful lake - Kindly it softened the parting to me by  
reeling itself in soft haze, so that all color was gone in one  
universal <sup>neutral</sup> tint - Our ride lay through the more level  
part of Switzerland, looking so rich & green & happy, &  
at Bern. Dr. Gray, Anna & I went upstairs & an excellent  
dinner served in the rail-way station - He had about an hour,  
& then went on to Thun - Charles & L. & K. stayed overnight  
to see the old town, & pick up dinner where they liked -  
He had a most magnificent view of the Bernese Alps  
from the rail-way - These snow mts look wonderfully  
majestic, seen so from a long distance, the long white range  
piled up on the horizon! - He was uncommonly fortunate!  
Dr. Gray has been at Bern three times now, & this is the  
first time he has succeeded in seeing them - The lake  
of Thun, where we took steamer, was very beautiful too,  
the green hills, & white peaks behind; & we were in our  
comfortable Hotel des Alpes at Interlachen, by 5 1/2 -

Anna & I were tired, & had tea in our room, where we  
sat & eat in front of the window, looking out on the  
stately Guggen rising white before us, & then frowning  
golden peaks in the sunset, which shed strange planes  
of light on the bare mountain peaks nearer us, & lighting  
up the green patches of turf most brilliantly - It faded away  
with that sudden change to cold white, which looks like  
the change from life & death, & then presently grew silvery  
under the moon - I looked out once or twice in the  
night, it was so beautiful! - Charles & the girls arrived  
about 7 1/2, quite elated with their successful expedition  
The next morn'g, we were all busy, with repacking & the  
off some days, packing lists, &c. - At 4 o'clock we  
took a carriage, stowed away wraps & small bags &  
were off, up the narrow green valley to Lauterbrunnen -  
There Anna & I were left to pass the night, & the rest  
walked up the Mt. & Mürren, to get the grand view -  
I took a little walk, & soon reached the Staubbach fall,  
which we could all from our window, & which does  
not strike me with its beauty - Only wonderful, the  
streams coming over this straight face of rock 700 ft.  
high, so it is all spray before it reaches the bottom -  
We had another beautiful sun set at our tea, lighting  
up the snow-peaks, & the green slopes, & the narrow  
valley with rich meadows & brown <sup>hills</sup> ~~hills~~, a sort of al-



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane July 26, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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