

side for horsemen, & so to the Bois - Ports are laid out
park-like, with green slopes, trees, pretty pieces of water
& ornamented buildings, parts as wild as a wood drive
at home, then pretty cascades, & one fine waterfall,
all artificial from the different heights of the ^{banks of} water,
but all very natural & pleasing in effect. It is a drive of
some hours & see the whole, & fine carriage roads.
Saturday it seems, is a favorite day to be married in
Paris, & it is customary for the bridal parties to go in
carriages with their friends to a cafe & breakfast in
the Bois. We met 7. Some in carriages with their brides-
maids or other friends, some in procession on foot, all
in full bridal costume. It was quite a pretty sight.
We saw them making already preparations for the
great fête for the Sunday week, the Empress' fête-day,
also the centennial birth-day of the 1st Napoleon.
The top of the Arc de l'Etoile was hung with colored
lamps in the form of tri-colored banners, & an
immense imperial crown surmounted it.
Then the road sides strewed with rows of white garlands
"like great pearls". Sunday I wrote for a quiet day, as
indeed I did many a half day to. But Paris is never
in mind & body both. But more another mail. I
must stop now & be in time. With much love to
all, Ever affectionately Yours, H. C.

London. Aug. 21st. 49.

My dear Sue, To think that all Paris
should have gone by & never any journal!
Well, perhaps it was an agreeable surprise. For
I feel sometimes as if after all, the long epistles,
week after week, might get to be tedious, & what
interests me & so I think may interest you, loses
life in its long distance to travel; & that after all
I cannot make you see with my eyes or enjoy what
I enjoy, as I would wish. For indeed, by the time the
story gets to you, I have changed & something else.
But I feel now as if all the more interesting part
of our journey were over, certainly, all that is most
new, & there will be comparatively little to write for
the next weeks, unless we are home again! - That
seems near, now that Dr. Gray & I are in England again.
We crossed yesterday, leaving Charles & Katherine
& dizzie to make a little excursion in Brittany,
where we had all planned going together, but I was
overdone in Paris, did too much & took cold & cut
myself, & so had quite a sick turn last Sunday,
& had to give up the rest of Paris work; & Dr. Gray judged
it wisest that we should give up the travelling, &
come home at once, where we shall look up lodgings &

get ready for the others, - And I be quite just for
Arrive - But to go back to my story dropped in
Paris Aug. 1st - It would be quite useless to give
a detailed account of that first week, when we
tried to accomplish the shopping, & so have the rest
for eight days - Charles & the girls came Monday,
morn^g, charmed with their trip at Cologne. Anna
Jray turned back to Switzerland from Heidelberg.
And as soon as the girls had breakfasted & dressed,
we started to order necessaries - For I don't believe
three women often arrive in Paris more entirely without
clothes & wear, except our very best, only useful on state
occasions! Six months steady travel & packing & unpacking
is hard on your wardrobe & looks of it. - So there came in
a succession of measuring & examinations & questioning.
And prices were often fearful & we had to look farther,
or things were too ugly & others would be made - And
then only the rare exceptions were punctual, & we
would wait other customers got vexed; or break-
fast was a succession of interruptions, or the Exp. a
continual loss. I confess we tried & crowded too
much into the fortnight - But it would not do for R.
& L. to go home, & nothing for winter attire from Paris, &
none of us wanted to get home the last of November &
sit down at once to dress-making! - But I must say
the only things we found really cheap in Paris, when you think

ink paper, were flowers & artificial flowers -
We took a holiday in our shopping Saturday, &
went to the Louvre to see the pictures - Enjoyed them
exceedingly - There are some grand Italian, such
superb Rembrandts & Van Dycks, the finest I think
I have seen. (portraits all) lovely Raphaels & such
an enchanting "conception of the Virgin" by Murillo,
the soft, sweet, pearly figure floating up, & lovely little
angels trying her up in the clouds, such true, holy
faces as Murillo painted! No false innocence so com-
pletely - I found my old love as beautiful as ever, the
superb woman called "Titian's mistress," and there a
Raphael's sweet "madonna à la jardinière" - Then the
grand marriage feast of Paul Veronese, Titian's en-
trancement of Christ, all three in one room! The Louvre
is wonderfully rich in good specimens of so many
masters of almost every school. And the galleries are
an immense walk - We changed again in the
aft., & took a drive to the Bois de Boulogne, very pretty
& pleasant - Passing through the Champs Elysees, so
improved since we were in Paris before, with
beautiful flower beds & pretty fountains beyond the
very broad sidewalks, fine houses & blocks on the
outside, then round the magnificent Arc de l'Etoile,
which looks handsomer than ever after seeing the
Roman arches, through a fine road, a soft road at the



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane Aug. 21, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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