

He left Winchester on time & got to London by 3 1/2,
& went at once to Mrs. Brooks' - The next morn. Dr.
Gray & I went down to Kew, & arranged to take Mrs.
Sears' diminutive lodgings until Mrs. Shepherd
should be ready for us - Then we returned & spent
pretty much the rest of the day shipping & looking
up things - Saturday, bag & baggage, we departed to
Kew, & squeezed as well as we could into our small
quarters. It was a nice, sunny morn., but the day
turned frosty, as it had the day before, & that night
began in full force the sale, which seemed to have
crossed the Atlantic, for having it on Wednesday -
And it blew more or less for a week, particularly
hard about at night, & threw a whirlwind in the
middle of the day, & the accounts of mischief on the
sea-board were severe - Much rain, so that getting
out was uncertain - But I went to see Mrs. Hooker,
& she & Dr. H. came to see us, & Dr. Engelmann dined
with us; & we dined with him at the Hooker's on Tues-
day, & they had much to tell of their visit to Russia,
in the Spring - Wednesday we moved in to Mrs.
Shepherd's, & we made ready for Charles & the girls -
Faintly expected them until Saturday, but got letters
Saturday morn. saying they were waiting in Cologne
for the sale to go down - At last they arrived on

44. Finished at Lincoln
Oct. 2 - 59

My dear Luc,

The next thing after the rather
bored we went to see famous Winchester College
or school, founded by William of Wykeham -
The boys are called Wykehamites & are admitted
at 12, if not younger. Our old friend, Mr. Carey's
young son has just succeeded in getting in in the
foundation, as they call it, & if he goes on well,
that gives him a chance for a scholarship in
some ^{near Cambridge & then a fellowship} Oxford College - We went through a deep
arched gateway into a courtyard, round which
were the Warden's & End. Master's houses, under
one of them, through another arched gateway, into
a paved courtyard, the dormitories on the two
sides, opposite to the Chapel, & at one corner
the stairs ^{steps} lead up into the dining room, one
story up - The Chapel is not large, but hand-
some, & in the ante-chapel, tablets to the Wyke-
hamites who fell in the Crimean war, mostly
young men - The dining-room has a raised end,
where are colored glass windows, presented by old
scholars, as are the Chapel windows - Below at the
sides, the windows are high up - Below, the walls
panelled with dark wood, & plain wooden tables

& solid benches running down, so solid & strong they looked as if they might be as old as the hall itself. In the centre another table, on which the food is placed. On it was a leather pitcher in which the beer is brought. Until about 20 years ago they always drank from the one pitcher, which was passed round, a "black jack". There was also a sq. bit of wood, six inches, on that they have their bread & butter, or bread & cheese. The old porter who shewed us round, said with great pride, they now had plates for hot meat, & table cloths, & each a cup for coffee or tea. But twenty years ago they had nothing but bread & cheese & beer, & at dinner a certain allowance of meat, a sheep cut up & so much mutton each. Now three times a week they had hot breakfast, rather a weak indulgence he seemed to think. Ham & eggs was one hot dish, as far as I could make out. Then the school-room was in another space beyond, a rectangular brick building not nearly so old as the other buildings, but I could not but think what would our boys & say to be asked to sit on the rough, wooden benches, some 200 years old, so solid they promise to last 200 years longer, & for desks, heavy, wooden boxes, a lead lid inside supporting the books, & the boy sitting on the corners

of short benches, which ran across connecting the parallel rows of benches! — They have to sit on their feet in a side-way. Wonderfully rough & rude it was! — The head master had a high ^{with a red cushion} chair at one end, the lower on each side, the 2nd master at the other end. — The cloisters open out from the ante-chapel, very quiet surrounding the green square, & a mortuary chapel in the middle, now used as a library for the masters. — The boys are not permitted now in the cloisters, they did too much mischief, calling their names &c., & they are used as a running-ground. — But they have a fine green play-ground of some acres farther back. — The looked into a dormitory on going out. — It was all as rude & primitive. — Each boy had a narrow bed, & a sort of secretary containing drawers for clothes, cup-board for books, & desk to study. — There were fixed basins at one side, & some men preparing the rooms for the scholars returning, were scouring out hot bath-tubs. — Still the whole impression was that English boys get a rougher training than ourselves, & I should think it might make them more hardy & less dependent on comforts. — The man said the brick was still kept, though more for show now than use. — 4 rods tied in to a turned wood handle. —

• Miss Lulwain drove Katharine & me back to Penny Station - Unfortunately Lizzie had lost a filling of a tooth & had to go to London & have it replaced, & Dr. Gray had to go to town too - We must just miss a train, & that made nearly an hour's wait - So what does Miss S. do, but drive K & me quite back to Kew! - She had wanted us to go to lunch with her, but I had letters to finish, & things to get ready for going off next day -

Saturday noon, the 25th, we that is Dr. Gray & I, took train to London, & there met Mr. Flower who is the Professor & has charge of the museum of the College of Surgeons, he was to take us to pass Sunday with his father at Stratford on Avon - He has been quite sick & is only recovering - His wife had come to put him in the car, a pleasant, bright, little lady - Charles & the girls were to go to Warrick to pass Sunday, & meet us Monday & see Stratford -

We went by train to Warrick, where Mr. Flower's carriage waited for us, & we had a fine drive thro' picturesque old Warrick & fine English scenery, Edge Hill of Cromwell memory skirting the horizon, & quaint old houses & picturesque cottages with deep thatch, fine avenues of trees, pretty parks & grounds & vary the scene with freshly ploughed fields & green pastures covered with very fat sheep & neat flocks of cocks of various - Ever affely, Jane Gray -

Saturday Ev. at dusk, & very glad was I to see them again - Charles took our little rooms at Wat. Leas - Monday we went up to London & did sundry important chippings, & Tuesday kind Miss Lulwain had written to ask us all to 5 & 6 Cl. ten - She was in fresh mourning for her Aunt Lady Pelham-Clinton, who had died the week before quite suddenly - We walked about & admired her lovely lawn, & the pretty flower-beds, which seemed to have taken a fresh lease since the rain - Katharine & Lizzie played croquet with her little niece, & Charles & I sat & talked & we were presently joined by Dr. Gray. We sat some time looking into the lovely green-house, opening by an ante-chamber from the parlour, & then went into the drawing-room where ^{are} some superb Turkish embroideries Miss Lulwain brought from Constantinople, now added to all the other lovely things - Miss S. drove us ladies home in two open carriages, Dr. Gray & Charles going by rail - Wednesday was a lovely morn'g, soft & sunny, we took a carriage for Hampton Court, going through Richmond Park, which was very charming - The view from Richmond Hill just before you reach the Park, is very fine - The Thames flowing beneath, & the wooded landscape stretching away in soft, misty outlines - The trees are old & striking in the park, the deer were lying or browsing in full sight, & as there is a good deal

of up & down & gentle hills, there was variety enough -
Of course we stopped on the famous spot where it
is said Henry VIII stood to watch for the signal from
the White Tower in London that Anne Boleyn was be-
headed, that he might gallop off to Tricheham below
& marry Jane Seymour! - Hampton Court is very
stately, a little formal, & somewhat grand - The
rooms are spacious, & the windows so large they give
a bright, pleasant look to them - There are interesting
historical portraits, many of which we have seen
engraved - 3 of Elizabeth, one of Mary Queen of Scots,
& many of Charles 1st & Duke's times - Not an honest
face among Sir Peter delij's beauties! - But the charm
of Hampton Court is the gardens, which though for-
mally laid out as with the palace, are so beautiful,
with broad levels of green turf & rows of dark firs,
larger trees making background & avenues in the dis-
tance, & bright beds of flowers in brilliant patches
& stripes to brighten it all - We went to the side
garden & green-house, & see the wonderful grape
vine, which bears 200 lbs. of grapes, & 100 bunches!
And we drove back through Tricheham, passing
Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill, & the sale of the
Duke of Arundel's place, & crossing the Thames again
at Richmond, which is so pretty, with green wooded
banks! We did not get back until nearly 6, & I was
very much aggravated & disappointed & see Dr. & Mrs.
Nyman just leaving our gate to go back to London!

And so I lost my only chance of seeing them! -
(The next day Charles & the girls went to Windsor,
& Friday we met Miss Sullivan at Putney & she
took us in her carriage to Battersea Park -
This is one of the new, large parks, recently laid
out for the people - Great fields of smooth green
lawn for cricket grounds, beautifully bordered with
trees & bushes & groves - Gay flower beds, in stripes
& borders & patterns, at the entrances - Some, flowers,
scarlet geraniums, yellow & blue violets, lobelia, helio-
tropsis &c.; others done with two colored foliage so
much in vogue - But the most interesting part
is what they call the sub-tropical garden, where
the experiment is tried of planting, in sheltered
places, tropical things that are taken in in
winter - Whole beds of fine Cannas of many kinds,
dwarf palms, & Cycases, Mexican Ononis that give
shiny banana with a red mid-rib to the leaf,
& very many very striking things in fruit, great
leaves of various shades of green - It is all in little
hillocks, behind & among which wind the paths,
so the effect is very picturesque & beautiful, & a
little pond like stream adds to the ^{scene} effect, with
black swans in one part & white in another - And,
as I say by the law of natural selection, the black
swans not being half so handsome as white swans,
don't carry themselves half so gracefully - The last
Charles there, as he wanted to look & study farther,

side, low, stone room they were - She showed us down
stairs, an old high-backed settle, as old, she said, as
Shakespeare's time, & called "the Counting settle." And
made us look up the wide chimney, where one could
literally sit in the corner - Then she pulled, in the
little, old garden, some lavender & worm-wood, "Southern
wood," she called it - I enclose a spray, & all the scintil-
lating ones may each have a bit to put in their
albums - And fancy it the same plant Shakespeare
pulled from - We drove back to Mr. Horner's for
lunch; Dr. Gray had gone to see the Browney man
time, & join Mr. F. - We had a charming dinner
lunch, & nothing could be more kind & hospitable
than they all were. Even the parrot, always sociable,
screamed & whistled, talked & laughed in grand style,
it wonderfully sweet, clear whistle, & faintly it cat,
holding a morsel in its claw as a hand! - We left
Dr. Gray to go back to New by Oxford, & I started with
C. & the girls for Warwick, driving round thro' Char-
lote & seeing the famous park & Lucy House, an old,
stately, Elizabethan mansion - And such a park,
fine sweeps, grand trees, herds of deer, & then,
facing the house, across the road, a grand avenue
of elms, - most grand & majestic - The job to War-
wick at dusk - And so good night all & much
love from four affectionate folks.

45

My dear Sue,
Monday morn'g. Charles & L. K. drove
over from Warwick, & we joined them to see Strat-
ford. They were charmed as we had been with
Mr. Horner's house - It is a new building, but ad-
mirably arranged for comfort & beauty both - A
large drawing room, with the most lovely &
thoroughly English view from its two great win-
dows, & the dining room opening into a pretty,
round conservatory, with a pit in the middle.
Our chamber above had the same view, one view
down looking towards Stratford, the ^{hilly} meadows
with trees, ^{farther off} the roofs of the town mixed in with
trees, the spire of Shakespeare's church rising
among them, & the distant hills fading off into
round softnesses - Engravings give a wonderful idea
of English landscapes! They are so almost always
hazy & variations of colour lock, that it is more a
distinction of light & shade, & then a soft roundness
& richness & every thing, very charming in its way.
We drove through Stratford streets which is
more of a town than I had thought; the church
is on the farther side, near the river. (As soon it is
not Asow, the a as the first letter of the Alphabet.)
It is in a large churchyard filled with graves,
some of yesterday covered with flowers, others all

old that design & inscription are lost, & only
the outline of the stone left. There are nice
trees too - And the church is large, handsome,
newly fitted up inside, with fine timbered
roof - The chancel opens broadly into the
church, separated by a screen - And the
altar railing is almost just underneath Shakes-
peare's bust & monument in the wall - ~~And~~ The
stone over his grave lies a few feet from the wall,
in front of the altar railing; next is his grand-
daughter, ^{his last descendant} then his daughter's husband, then the
daughter herself - I copied roughly the inscrip-
tion on her stone, but cannot recall the last line.

Thirty above her sex, but that's not all,
Trice & Salvation was good Mistress Hale;
Something of Shakespeare was in that, but this
Wholly of him with whom she's now in bliss.

Then passengers have here a tear
To weep for her who met with all
That weep, but also strive to cheer.
Them up with comfort cordials -
Her love shall last her money spend

When thou hast need a tear to shed -
The two last lines I can't get right - The spelling
is as it was - They have colored the bust of Shakes-
peare again, as it was originally - In the nave are
some queer, quaint old figures - A knight & his wife

in full costume - The lady's head dress hanging
down over her cushion behind. And the present
family pew surrounds the old figures of the an-
cestors - We stopped in at Mr. Charles Howis,
(one of the sons) garden & see the lovely river view,
& then went on to Shakespeare's house - Saw the old
old kitchen & sitting room, the wide up-stairs
chamber where he was born, & all the curiosities
collected from various times & places - They make
a sort of museum of part, some of the interesting
things was the immense number of editions of his
works of every size & style - The rooms are small &
low, ~~and~~ Mr. Pontin said about America, "I don't
think there could have been much comfort in
those days -" The house now stands quite alone, the
front on the street, & a pretty garden on the three
other sides - The house Shakespeare altered himself
& died in, was pulled down some years ago - Then
being continually inclined, we drove away then
country roads to Ann Hathaway's cottage, just
like the pictures, only instead of crossing fields to
get to it, it is on the road - The woman who showed
it was very good natured, took us up stairs to see
an old panelled bed with quaint carvings, "come down"
in the Hathaway family, then sheets & pillow case of
that time, with open work stitched in the hem & seams
by drawing threads & working over, wonderfully elaborate!



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane Oct. 2, 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/262711>

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>.