

houses in conical shape, some black of great
spreading sails, others white of these picture book
pattern, & again like a cliff, late woman holding
up her arms with some round top. Then the
study of ricks: very round & smooth, like sugar-buns
with lids that would take off - All so nicely thatched.
Then the centre of the lid gradually goes into a neat
little spine ; & as we drew near Scotland, the thatch
was held on by crossed ropes, increasing from one or
two bands to a perfect net work about Edinburgh.
And such numbers! One can understand why rice-
burning should be so severely punished, for one count-
ed from half a dozen to at length, in one yard, over
30 - After a long one in the centre, & the round ones all
around - A fire would cut off a large portion of a
winter's supply of grain - They were ploughing &
rolling the land, - Several times we saw steam
ploughs, & sometimes draining & ditching - If I
were asked the most characteristic feature of
England, I should say the perfect cultivation every
where - Never what we call a waste bit of wilderness,
except perhaps in some great park, but then fields
after fields, some very large, & smooth, & green, or
brown, with the nicely dressed soil looking like
fardown land at home. Every pasture land trim & neat.
Dore & all from 1844.

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Kew - Oct. 20th. 49 -

My dear Sue,

We reached Durham after dark
& could only see that it was a long drive to
the inn, & down hill on uphill & down hill as
again - It was one of the nicest hotels we got
into on our journey, rejoicing in the name of the
"Three Tuns!" - Very plain looking outside, as it
were the fronts of two or three common houses run
into one, & the various levels inside were funny, & a
step here down, & there two up, & then down again;
I think I counted 5 different levels between our par-
lor & the first room on the story above! Generally
one can't say much for English hotels - Small,
dark, dingy bed-rooms, & parlours with lots of finery
of small wares, but dreary outlooks, hard beds -
Why the carpets must be always smutty & the bed-
spreads strowed a dark white as you used to call
light grey, I cannot see; for though climate is more
thing & coal smoke a great deal, it is not so in
private houses, there is some approach to white -
Then charges are enormous - We travelled almost
always 2nd. Class on the rail-ways, & tried to avoid
extra, but it was a great deal more than on the



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane Oct. 20, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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