

some supper, round which the ladies all sat & were
waited on by the gentlemen, & then retired up stairs
again, leaving the gentlemen to take theirs alone -
Then some more music, & then back, to bed! -

Saturday was a rainy day, so our plan of seeing the
Zoo had to be given up, & instead we went to West-
minster Abbey - It is a very beautiful Church out-
side & in, grand & harmonious in architecture &
beautiful proportions - Higher than is generally in
England - The Chapels, quite surrounding the Choir,
are full of interesting monuments & beautiful bits of
work - Henry the VII Chapel for all know, & the Shrine
of Edward the Confessor a sort of raised, little Chapel
behind the main Choir, & so many kings & queens buried
there! - They have cleaned the monuments from some
of the old effigies, or parts of them, & shown how they
were inlaid with color & filled so richly, & some of
the tombs all mosaic work - Didnt we see Elizabeth,
& Mary of Scots, & Eleanor, & the vault where the For-
tunabrunlands have been buried for centuries since.
Still, don't that sound grand? And then in the
nave all the wonderful specimens of that hideous
time in English art, where in one you see the mat-
tle sea, & the ship at the bottom with "all things
strange & rare" about it, & the man with his turned

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Kew - Nov. 5 - '69

My dear Sue,

Friday the Laurences called
on us, Dr. Gray having gone & town meaning
to see him, as he had a note saying he was ex-
pecting they should meet - I could not but ad-
mire Mr. Laurence's energy & cheerfulness, when
we see him so infirm - He has to be carried in
one of those ingenious English Chairs & carry
people up & down stairs in, & then when put
down make a nice, arm chair - It was crossed
work getting up our little, narrow, winding stairs -
Saturday, Dr. Gray & I went again to town & did
more shopping - Then separating, he went to lunch
with James Laurence, & I made my way back to
Kew alone - Sunday morn'g he was off early to join
Chas. & the girls at Oxford - And knowing things &
people there so well, he was able to put them
through very successfully, & they arrived Monday
Evg. in fine spirits - Tuesday Aft. the Laurences
came down & up through the gardens & Dr. Gray went
& meet them, I staying waiting for the Church,
who came to London that week, Mr. Church to
preach at the ordination of the Bishops of Salisbury;

We were very glad to have the chance to state them
by the hand once more, before, as Mrs. Church says
of our crossing the Atlantic, "departing into space!"
Wednesday had been an excursion planned to
St. Albans with Mrs. Hooker, to lunch with a friend
of hers - I had not felt very bright & the morning was
bitter cold, so I gave up going; but the others went
and had a delightful day - seeing the church where
Lord Bacon was buried, old Roman remains, & then
the very interesting Abbey of St. Albans - I went to
Richmond on some errands for a couple of
hours, & was glad I had made the wise decision
to stay, as it was very severe, with a high wind -
Thursday we set off for London, all in our best
attire for the Ordination - The new bishop was
Mrs. Church's uncle, & she had kindly got tickets
for us, told us they meant to be early, because of
the crowd - And I was surprised to see so many
around the doors when we got there, ten minutes
before they were opened - The Bishop's tickets admitted
us to seats under the ^{Canopy} ~~boxer~~, which is where nave & transept
cross, & we got good places, especially to hear the
sermon, but I fancy those whose seats were in the
transept could hear little. Only a small part of the
abbey is screened off for seats for service, & yet when the

great light is considered, I fancy it requires a very
powerful voice to be heard over all that small part -
Mr. Church has a very pleasant voice, but it was
scarcely strong enough - It was a good sermon, in
which certainly he put & maintained it well for
the episcopacy, & yet was liberal too - But I had rather
have heard him on one of his especial grounds -
You can't expect me to give a description of the cere-
mony - I could see but little of the choir where the
ordination went on, but we had a good sight of the gentle
kindly face of the elderly bishop when he went first
to put on his ^{gown} ~~vest~~, then ^{he} ~~he~~ put on his "lawn sleeve" -
We saw the Bishop of Bedford & the Archbishop of Can-
terbury, Dr. Tait, with his strong, sensible face - Dean
Stanley was away, so there was only the sub-dean - And
the registrar or recorder in their funny, curled horse-
hair wigs, some a red-willow gown! - The music was
beautiful & some of the chorister singing, lovely! -
We met Mrs. Church going in, but we did not stay
for the Communion service - We got out about 2
& the first wine was lunch - Then Charles & the girls
went for some calls, & Dr. Gray & I did some shop-
ping - Friday Ev. Mrs. Hooker had a little party,
so we all donned our best attire, & heard some most
interesting & met some pleasant people - Had a very hands

lunched there & then scattered, I going back for a
hasty run through some of the Egyptian things - Then
Dr. Gray & I went to Mr. Mashely's, where we were
to dine & spend the night - Mrs. M. is most sweet
& charming, intelligent & refined, & great simplicity.
She received me very kindly, after taking off my bon-
net put me on the easiest of couches, covered me with
a silk down quilt, & left me for an hour's rest & quiet.
Then she came with the tea-tray, Mr. M. came in,
& the three pretty little girls, the oldest a perfect little
St. John, of Raphael - Dinner was at 7 1/2 - Mr. Mas-
hley, Mr. Farrar, Secretary of the Board of Trade,
made up the 7, & about as agreeable a dinner as ever
I sat down to - Exquisite cooking, nicely & quietly
served; & such fun & quickness, & wit & sharpness!
Mr. Mashley may be a sharp antagonist, but he is cer-
tainly a most companionable & agreeable man, & they
all played so into each other! In the Ev. later, came
in Mr. Grant Duff, & I was amazed when I found
it was 11 1/2 - Mr. Mashely, though a mineralogist,
has an especial hobby for jewels, that is cameos in
intaglio, & has made a great study of them, - he has some
very nice ones, & casts of ever so many, & showed straight
me ever so much. Nothing could be kinder than they
were in every way - We were sorry to say good bye

down & head up rising above it with the white (2)
marble clouds, flecked about on a slate colored
sky, & the angels tooting away among the same clouds,
as large as life! - Happily he has not on a full bod-
ied wig as one other here has, the rest of his costume
being Roman Armour - But independently of all as-
sociations the whole building contains a wonderful
history of art, from the Crusader stretched in effigy
on his coffin, hands joined in prayer & legs crossed, & the
abbots & queens so solemn & erect as if their last thought
was prayer, & where they turn them on one side, as if
the thought had changed to taking a last look at the
world, then more active, then the more every day
look, then absurd ^{with weeping angels or sitting little devils,} grotesque, then representing
the man as he sat & looked every day, good & life-like,
but entirely inappropriate to a tomb, & now the taste
seems going back to the quiet, reposeful figure - We
lingered in poet's corner, & then looked round the
statemen's, & at last came away, & went to the new
House of Parliament - They are a wonderful pile of most
elaborate work & finish, but too monotonous, I think,
the same idea stretching on over & over again - But
the towers are fine, & the little touches of gilding sets
them off, especially when the sun comes out. There
are miles of passages & hundreds of rooms, & some grand

halls, but what we especially wanted to see, the Corridor where the great frescoes are, was undergoing alteration & would not be opened until January! He saw the House of Lords gay & ornamented, & the House of Commons very much plainer, & seemingly quite too small - Then we went out by Westminster Hall & saw its wonderfully fine oaken roof, but a curly policeman would only let us look into the long hall, statues at the sides, leading to the Houses of Parliament - Why - we could not enter there seemed no reason but his brief authority - Then we took a cab to lunch with Charles' friends the Russell Scotts & Dr. Gray & I saw Mrs. Scott & Katie in Catania - Very nice & pleasant is Mrs. S. - Mrs. S. a true John Bull in looks, & the other daughter & daughter-in-law & son very pleasant - Lunch means dinner, only less formal - After lunch I went in to see the invalid daughter who has still suffering from an uncomfortable accident, the ceiling of the room in which she was sitting having fallen, & she got a very bad bruise upon the leg - She & Katie are to follow us in our lodgings here, for change of air -

Sunday morn. Dr. Gray R., C. & I went to hear Mr. Martineau - It is a dingy, ugly, little chapel in Little Portland St., & only a small audience that day, & it seemed a shame such a man in such a great place

as London, where so many thought be reached & edified, should not have had a large church full - He preached a very fine sermon, & the whole service I particularly liked, as never saw anyone whose whole manner of conducting it was so satisfactory - He is an admirable reader, & so a great contrast to the majority of English clergymen - Then we went to lunch with Sir Phos. & Lady Syell, meeting Mrs. Col. Syell & her eldest son, who takes strongly to science - They were all very charming & pleasant, & we had a very nice time - Lady Syell kept the same sweet, fresh face that seems never to grow old - When we got back to Kew, Dr. Gray & the girls went to see a Mrs. Hodgson, a lady who has the appointment of house-keeper to Kew Palace - Which means she has a little cottage to live in, & her maid to see the Palace is aired & swept - But it was a ~~fine~~ privilege to see it, for it is very much left as in the times of "Farmer George" & Queen Charlotte - Then they had tea, "Kettle drum" is afternoon tea - Monday morn. we all went to the British Museum, Miss Sulivan meeting us there with Miss Fatty, & Mrs. Maskelyne kindly took us through Cuvier's speech cases, their history of gradual change showing the progress of life, & so through bronze & glass, & so a most wonderfully interesting morn. - We all

Much love to you all from your ever
faithful

Sam Gray —

(3)
next morn'g., but I was to meet Chas. the jisk at
the Station as they came from New, & on to the
Tower - So we marched in company with 200
10 others, under the charge of one of the beef-eaters,
 round through the magnificent armouries, with
armour from the time of the Saracens & Com-
mello's buff coats, & its device, seeing Bluff King Hal's,
& Charles I when 10 years old, & all sort of weapons,
oc. of all times & countries, & the murder rooms
where are muskets by the thousands, & sun-flowers
(passion-flowers, trailing vines & stars, the Prince
of Wales' wedding-cake, & every sort of device ^{made} of sword-
blades of gun-stocks, ram-rods & pistols, in the most
superior way - We saw the old Chapel of Norman
times, & the tower where Elizabeth was prisoner, where
Henry VIII. was murdered, & the young princess bones
were discovered, through passages in the walls
15 ft. thick, saw the block & executioners axe, & in-
struments of torture, & the enclosure in the yard
where Anne Boleyn & Jane Grey were beheaded, &
Beauchamp Tower where the cell walls are covered
with inscriptions, & patiently cut in telling of such heavy
hours, & then having seen the regalia, crowns & gold
rings, & maces, swords oc. filed out again, & drove off
to get just a peep at the grand interior of St. Paul's -



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane Nov. 5, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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