

in her head at once - "You see I counted over once at sea, for fun, the stories I had going on in all the different magazines, some almost finished, some just begun, & unhappily me. Left with them all in my mind -

~~Nov. 1st~~ Sunday morn. we all assembled at breakfast at 9 - Each dropping in as convenient - After breakfast there were prayers in the drawing room, Mrs. Darmin leading the services - Then some took books, some went to walk spite of the rain, & at 11, some went to church - I was a little uncertain, & kept very quiet all day - In the course of the morn. as I sat in the drawing room with my book, one dropped in & then another, & such charming talks now & then - It was a rare chance when Mrs. Darmin, Dr. Barker, Dr. Lyndal & Dr. Fay all got into a lively discussion - One that does not often come in one's way - Mrs. Darmin's brother came to breakfast, Mr. Wedgenwood, whose wife was in Boston & Cambridge a few years ago, & he was generally with us most of the day, at breakfast, dinner & lunch, though staying at Miss Wedgenwood's - A very agreeable, pleasant man, of most cordial, simple manners - They were all very charming people, so unaffected & kind, so sincere & well-bred, so highly cultivated & intelligent - Such quick interest in so many things. As for Mrs. Darmin, he is entirely fascinating - He is tall & thin, though broad framed, & his face shows the marks of suffering & disease, for he has been

P

Down - Oct. 20th '66

Dear Luc,

I was in too much of a hurry on Saturday morn. to add to my letter thanks for the nice budget of letters which came, from yourself & Eliza, from Alice, from Aunt Sally Fay - I felt very sick though I did have to read them in a hurry, I thrust them in my pocket & had a nice time again with them, reading them over to Dr. Fay when morning when the fire in our chamber at night.

We took the train at 3.30, meeting Dr. & Mrs. Barker with Tibbie & Harriet at the Station; in London we took Cabs across to Victoria Station, there meeting Mrs. Lyndal, & took the Car again for Bromley, where we again took Cabs for Down, where Mrs. Darmin lives - It was so dark by the time we were fairly off that one could not see the country - we did not reach the Darmin's until about 6 o'clock - At home I should have said after such a journey, give me a cup of tea & let me go to bed - But such is not English politeness



shall bear - We reached the door, Dr. Gray, Dr. Hooker & myself in the first Cab, & while waiting for the second to draw up, Mrs. Garrison came out into the hall to receive us, followed by Mrs. Garrison, & we were ushered in to the large drawing-room, where were the two daughters, one about 26, the other about 19 or 20, & the son who is at Westwick, studying for the Artillery - We all sat down, & a little talk & then tea followed, & then were shown to our rooms, dinner at 7 1/2, & Miss Norton was expected - I had but a few minutes rest, at the expense of my dressing, & barely got down at the right time - I could not make up my mind to put on lace waist & thin sleeves, tired & cold, & so donned the black silk, with lace neck & sleeves, Cape & big bow, & best cap - I don't believe now I shall fit on the paper waist for I have not worn it since it seemed so cold & put on in the by, & I found invalid, & wear the high neck & long sleeves - Of course, white floor, & Dr. Gray in full Esq. dress - We barely got down at 7 1/2, & the first person I saw was Jane Norton, & how cordial her greeting was, & how pleasant to see such a nice home - We made quite a party for dinner - Mrs. Garrison, she in black velvet, the daughter, one in white gauze now with silk trimmed with pink ribbon, bare arms but the two Cape, the other in white serge with bright colour, Jane Norton was in black silk, with high back & long sleeves - Miss Barbara Carter, in black

trimmed with white, half-mourning, full egg lace, Mrs. Hooker in muslin waist, & skirt of pink & white silk striped, Dr. Hooker, Mrs. Isidore, Mrs. Hooker, a boy of 18 not looking only 14, Leonard Garrison - I can't get used to being grand lady & taken out first, & expected to lead the way - The dinner was very sociable & pleasant, butter & four footmen, but the only living big buttons of white metal - The butter, a nice old man, who has lived with them many years - Everything is thoroughly comfortable, no show or grandeur - The dining room a fine large room, large bow with large windows at one end - It was a very sociable, pleasant dinner with lively talk - When the ladies retired, Mrs. Garrison's sister, Miss Hedge - good, & nice, Mrs. Kempton, appeared - Miss H. lives close by - I had some talk with Jane Norton, who told us her brother Charles was improving, though he has been quite ill with a severe attack of inflammation & severe pain, beginning with influenza - They have taken a little rectory two miles from the Darwins, & enjoying the quiet of English Country life as far as their numerous acquaintances flocking to them from all parts of the Country, will allow - Later I got talking with Mrs. Garrison & Mrs. Kempton, & happened to say that I was reading ten stories in magazines, in which I was suddenly broken off - Oh coming to England! Unfortunate remark! For such a reputation as I have got for novel-reading! I am celebrated as the lady of ten novels



Mrs. Kempton came & dined - In the afternoon  
Mrs. Darwin took me in the carriage to call  
on the Nortons - He saw old Mrs. Norton, who looks  
very well, & a face & a face - Charles was still  
improving, but his wife did not like to leave  
him - The house looked small & bare, but they  
said it had chambers etc. & accommodate their  
large family; & that the doctor, a bachelor, of course  
did not need or appreciate what a family of 12  
wanted - But they seem very fond of the place, &  
especially enjoy being close to Holywood Park which  
joins them, Mrs. Norton said, most delightful walks  
Tuesday I had a little walk with Mrs. Darwin  
round their grounds - The house faces, that is  
the drawing & dining-rooms, on a large lawn, &  
pretty shrubbery, at one side, gravel walks flower  
beds, pine trees with seats beneath them, & green  
fields bordered by trees stretching away - A most  
pleasant home view - We went down the shrubbery,  
through the kitchen garden, to a sheltered path at  
the edge of a copse, where we walked up & down, round  
ed slopes smelling below us, across which we saw occa-  
sionally jumps passing, & heard the sportsman's gun -  
Dr. Rother arrived to dinner, & in the afternoon a  
Miss Wheeler to make a visit - A nice, Cornish-looking,  
large, English-looking girl -

The dogs fed & off pretty regularly. We are  
dressed to breakfast at 8 1/2 or 9 in the dining-room

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a very great invalid, & still leads a life  
of rule & regulation - He never stayed long with  
us at a time, but as soon as he had talked  
much, said he must go & rest, especially if  
he had had a good laugh - His hair is grey, &  
he has a full grey beard cut square across the  
upper lip, but the sweetest smile, the sweet-  
est voice, the merriest laugh! And so quick,  
so keen! He never hears a remark, it seemed  
to me, but he turns it over, he catches every ex-  
pression that flits over a face & reads it, he is  
full of his great theories & sees the smallest thing  
that bears upon them, & laughs more merrily  
than anyone at any flaw detected, or fun  
made - Full of warmest feelings & quick sym-  
pathy, reads or has read to him novels of every  
kind, & yet carries on these profound investi-  
gations, with the most minute & patient exper-  
iments, & the number of topics he has taken up  
& studied & experimented! - He saluted me  
merrily Sunday morn, as the lady who "had ten  
novels unfinished in her head!" "Good gracious!  
What a state your brain must be in!" And he had  
regular challenges to find something the other had  
not read, & I triumphed in recommending "My  
Lady Audley's Secret".

Mrs. Darwin is very lovable, with her sweet,



placid manner & gentle, sweet voice & looking  
the comely, placid matron, happy herself & the  
source of happiness to others - just the right wife,  
with her quiet character, her sound mind, her  
broad sympathies - She made me think in  
look & manner of Aunt Marianne & Aunt  
Sally Gray - She took the most motherly care of  
me, sending me to bed early, evening I went to lie  
down in the day, to have a short drive, or quiet  
walk with her -

The oldest daughter Henrietta is one of those  
people who grow most wonderfully on acquaintance.  
She looks so youthful & childish that I wondered  
at first, at her decided expressions & her independent  
out opinions. But she is older than she looks, very  
highly educated & soundly informed, has been her  
father's great assistant in a great deal of his work;  
knows & means what she says, & "is quick & bright,"  
Dr. Gray says, "as steel." To hear her argue with Dr.  
Hooker, or answer her father's reference, or lay her  
self out that Harriet should have a good time, re-  
storing recreations into bracelet & necklace as if the  
arrangement were of serious import, convince for her  
mother, & rides on the pony, it did me good - And  
yet she is a sharp critic, I venture to say, not  
easily pleased, & friends & intimates few - She  
had just returned from a journey in Switzerland  
with Miss Popham Carter, travelling alone, & so doubt

& the surprise of many of their acquaintances;  
certainly & that of a Palladian gentleman  
whom they met, & who did not restrain his  
rather severe expressions of wonder -

Lizzie, the youngest daughter, is a nice, sweet,  
quiet, intelligent girl - But only a young girl as  
yet - Neither of the daughters are at all as  
handsome as the mother - The son is a  
pleasant young fellow of 20 - There are four  
other sons; three older, (two at Cambridge,) one  
younger -

Our chamber was a large, pleasant room,  
& most of the day a nice fire burning, so I  
could have a quiet place to rest whenever I  
wanted - Always at day, & when one went to  
bed, cheerful with its bright blaze -

Sir John & Lady Lubbock, who live near,  
came to dinner - She is quite pretty, & was  
becomingly dressed in pink, unsuit velvet, &  
a little coquettish cap with pink veils - And  
diamond eyes, very handsome jewelry - I could but  
notice how much handsome jewelry the ladies  
wear - I take refuse in wearing just as little as  
I can get on with -

Nov. 2nd.  
Mr. Lyndal left Sunday Aft., & Dr. Hodder  
Monday morn. went back to New, & Dr. Gray to  
London to pass the day at the British Museum.  
He came back to dinner, & Miss Bridgwood &



Friday morn. I went with Dr. Gray to call on Miss  
Hedgebrook, who has recently bought a quaint old house,  
modernized, close by, & is making over garden, & doing all  
sort of things - she is an elderly maiden lady, but full  
of life & interest, & a very agreeable companion - Then we  
went over the old Jew in the church yard, a huge shat-  
tered old trunk, hundreds of years old, I suppose; & on  
our way back down a pretty green lane, & see some  
old oak boles, almost as big as California trees in diameter,  
but only shells - Mr. Darwin came cantering across the  
field as we came in, on his daily morning ride -

Then came lunch & a good bye hour most delight-  
ful visit & these dear, charming people - "I will never  
forgive you," said Mr. Darwin, "if you don't come & see us  
again before you go back to America!" -

Dr. Gray & Mr. Hooker, Mr. Hedgebrook accompa-  
nying, with Harriet for a farewell ride, on the pony let  
off earlier, Mrs. Hooker & I went in their carriage -

We took the train at 10 o'clock, Dr. Gray & I went  
at New Cross & to Blackheath, Mrs. Hooker joining  
at London - At New Cross we took a cab for Mr.  
Carry's, & got there about 4, & were very kindly re-  
ceived by Miss Simon, - and most warmly & cordially  
by Mr. Carry, when he came from London about dusk.  
He has a dear little girl about 14, who looked so like  
Anna that Dr. Gray & I both enjoyed looking at her -

Mr. Carry enquired after you all very warmly & was  
glad to hear of each one - He showed off the folio with  
stereoscopes in the top, which I had also displayed at  
Down -

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from thence we went into the drawing-room -  
A large room, looking on the lawn, with three  
great windows, each composed of two panes of glass  
only, & down to the floor - A grand piano at one  
end, a book-case at the other, two writing-tables,  
sofas, little tables, etageres, small book-cases, easy  
chairs of all shapes & kinds, from Mr. Darwin's  
great throne, & the latest instrument of torture  
as Dr. Hooker called it, a little, low, niched chair that  
looked as if one were sitting on the floor, & yet which  
was almost always in use - Since a severe attack  
of illness, Mr. Darwin sits on an easy chair raised very  
high, & generally a caress in it so he almost stands, &  
keep off pillows & nausea - I shall always think of  
him on that throne, with his keen, quick glance, his  
quick remark or observation, his fascinating laugh.  
The fire-place was opposite the window & the sun  
shone cheerfully in all day - People sewed, or wrote,  
or scattered & do as they pleased, or read, or chattered.  
Generally the walkers started for a long tramp at  
about 11 or 1 1/2 past, & got back to lunch at 1 1/2 - Mrs.  
Hooker was a great walker - Lunch was the servants  
dinner hour, so there was generally a hot joint, loin of  
mutton, rib of beef, piece of pork, cold meat & small hot  
dishes, potatoes, puddings or tarts, often yesterday's re-  
mained & something more, bread & cheese shuttled for  
those who liked - The footmen waited at the joint,  
& then left us at the end generally, to help each other  
& ourselves; the butter never appeared at lunch or  
breakfast - The two young footmen then - Mr. Darwin



came to lunch, but always breakfasted before us, tho' he came in then with some merry remarks & was all - And he left the dinner-table when dessert was put on - After ~~break~~ <sup>lunch</sup> we sometimes walked, sometimes drove, some read or practiced; one or other almost all walked 4 miles to household teachers. The carriage met them, & took the ladies home -

At 4 1/2 or 5 all were generally gathered in the drawing room again, the footmen came & moved forward the little stand, then sat in the parter with tea. Every body has a cup, & this afternoon tea was a nice thing when one dines so late - There is thin bread & butter or little biscuits (crackers) for those who like - As it grows dark, in comes the footman with a tray with 4 great silver candlesticks, tall & heavy, the candles are lighted, we talk & chat until gradually we drop off & draw for dinner, <sup>which is</sup> either at 7 or 7 1/2 as may be -

Wednesday Grace Norton & Mrs. Charles Norton came to dine, & Miss Botcham Carter again - The butter appears at dinner; & one of the four foot men, I learned, was Miss Medgerood's, & one the coachman - Unless quite by ourselves, all the carrying was done at the side table; & on the table was only, even, some large piece, saddle of mutton, say, which Mr. Darmin carried - Every thing was handed, & with so many servants all came promptly - But I think more than ever, that lunch is really the hearty dinner; though one eats less at each meal than with us, but has ~~two~~ <sup>two</sup> dinners a day - I must say the frequent eating & lightly, seemed to suit my digestion wonderfully, & I really have gained a little flesh -

There was always plenty of talk at dinner, & often much worth hearing - After the ladies retired, we presently had coffee handed in the drawing room, & later came tea again for those who cared for it - Then gentlemen generally came before long, & Mr. Darmin came in for a little while - If visitors were gone, Mrs. Darmin generally saw that I went up stairs about ten o'clock -

Sometimes we had some music - Mrs. Darmin plays well, & Mrs. Barker plays & sings - One morn. Mrs. Darmin brought in some photographs taken by a Frenchman, & showing certain muscles in an old man's face, & how if he read might the expression that putting such muscles in play should produce - It was curious the different meanings given - And it came out at dinner, that several of us had been trying to move certain muscles before the face! -

Thursday morn. Mrs. Darmin took me in the carriage for a short drive in Holywood Park, the seat of the late Lord Crumforth; the beeches were lovely & golden & flaming in their autumn dress, the hollies so brilliant, with polished greens & quantities of red berries, it is odd that red & green can be so much brighter in English holly than in ours, & the Hawthorns loaded down & down with fruit - The unusually hot summer has ripened almost all fruits exceptionally - We got out to walk over an old Roman encampment, & Dr. Gray & Miss Darmin & Miss Wheeler, who had come with us, walked home - There were only the house party for dinner - Dr. Barker had returned in the morn -



from that day with Mr. Bentham, & for the  
Linnæan Society in the Eq. - Mr. Carey, his sister  
& daughter are to come over on Saturday - I  
have appointed next Monday to call on the  
Lyells; & mean to try & persuade Dr. Gray to  
turn down for a day or so to Cambridge, if he  
will - He has had a very cordial invitation  
from Mr. Baskington, - extended to me -

I did not say how well & how pretty Mrs.  
Charles Norton looked, nor how becomingly & elegantly  
she was dressed - Nor how charmed  
the Darwins are with them, & like them all  
so very much - The Nortons expect to go  
December 15th. to France, to be near St. Cloud,  
where they have taken a house for six months -

You can judge I must have improved in  
looks, for Mr. Carey complimented me much, saying  
he could not have believed sixteen years would  
have dealt so kindly with me - He thought me  
less changed than Dr. Gray!

I have lots of little sewings to keep me busy;  
& if you don't all say I write nice long letters,  
I shall begin to quote something disagreeable about  
"pearls" - The reading time does not come - There are  
so many papers! - Much love to all,  
from the ever aff. Jane -

(4)

Mr. Carey lives with his father-in-law, his  
wife's sister having taken his children & brought  
them up - She is a sweet, gentle person most  
kind & attentive, & it was pleasant to see Mr. C.  
so little changed, & really with so much to make  
him comfortable & happy - After breakfast  
Saturday they took us into the little garden be-  
hind the house, very prettily arranged, & an un-  
commonly nice rock-work crowded with the  
rarest as well as commonest ferns - Then I wrote,  
while Dr. Gray & Mr. C. went for a walk in Picca-  
dilly Park, just across the heath, close to the  
house - Dr. Gray came back determined to  
not lose the view, so he got a little pony carriage  
standing for hire at the Park gate, & came over for  
me - Then I walked to the edge of the terrace, through  
the avenue of old chestnuts famous since Queen Eliza-  
beth's time, to the edge of the terrace & looked down at  
the Naval school, on Greenwich Hospital, on the town  
stretching beyond the Park, the Thames muddy in the  
distance, & London hazy beyond - It was a fine view -  
We observed the outside of the Observatory, & our bath-  
ing, by Greenwich time, looked at the standard bronze job,  
fort, inch, &c. set in the hall, & walked back & took  
a ride drive, again back - After lunch we went to see  
Annette's Collection of shells, a beautiful set & scientifically  
arranged; & the boy a nice, bright, intelligent looking



little fellow of 12, came in. He is at school close by, & his Aunt went for him that we might see him -

Then the Cab came to take us to the Station - We took tickets to Blackfriars, Cab to Waterloo, & so back to Kew, getting here about 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  -

We found a note from Mrs. Hooker including a note to her from Lady Rogers, saying a friend of theirs, Mr. Church, was coming to them to see something of Dr. & Mrs. Gray, Americans staying at Kew - She takes it for granted we are the Hooker's friends, & asks us all to dine on Monday at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Later in the Ev. came a note from Mr. Church to the same effect - We deliberated, & decided it would be too much for me to drive 7 miles to London & back in the Ev. to dinner, so Dr. Gray accepted & I declined. - A note from Lady Lyell followed us to Down, asking us to come to lunch there some day, when we should be in London -

Yesterday, Sunday, Dr. Gray was threatened with cold again, so we neither of us went to Church, but read one of Mr. Pharaoh's sermons - I took the chance to be quiet, for engagements thicken, & our time in England grows short -

This morn'g. came your letter, dear Sam, & accounts of a snow-storm! What a year '68 will be! Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn each exceptional, & in its way disagreeable & horrid! -

I was disappointed to hear nothing from Charles & his plans; the more, that the Prince & Princess of Wales, we hear, are going to Egypt, & it seems very desirable to me, that we should be in advance of them! - As for sanguine people they are decidedly shabby - Not a line for three months! -

Mr. Church came down to lunch with us, to see the gardens - He brought me a beautiful photo of Magdalen Tower at Oxford. It was so pleasant to see him again! He rather laid ourselves out for lunch, Cambridge Pansies, & Richmond "maids of honor" The last a sort of cheese-cake, - the first an uncommonly delicate & nice pansy -

Dr. Gray took a long round in the afternoon with Mr. Church, I had a short turn at noon, & Mr. C. went back to London at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  - Dr. Gray went with Dr. & Mrs. Hooker in a brougham at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  - I don't expect him back until towards midnight -

Tomorrow we plan to go to Slapham & pass the night with the Hardey - Thursday I have proposed to Mrs. Dabney to meet me at the British Museum - Dr. Gray dines in





Gray, Jane Loring. 1868. "Gray, Jane Oct. 28, 1868 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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