

So you have seen Kossuth - though not yet heard
him. Poor fellow indeed. Shipwrecked - with
an accomplished work-hoper that are only dreamed
- an untamed spirit - consciousness of power &
of impotence at the same moment - and with
a reputation which may be either great or small
just as it is appreciated. To be sure, whilst there
is life there is hope, & he may now compare himself
to Vasa or to Alfred in exile, looking forward to
the end - & no doubt this is what supports him -
& this endurance also shows a greatness of
mind. - I do not know what I wish to you
about ambition. At different times of my
life I have thought very differently about
it - & there was a time when it filled my
thoughts pretty fully - but I have lived beyond
this stage, & I dare say my altered feelings
are due to finding myself entangled in challenges
from which I am not likely to get free - a
having missed the tide, and a consciousness
of inability to recover a lost opportunity.
In the abstract I go with you - but abstract
wishes & principles seldom operate on more
than the dreaming quality in our minds -
Things are not to be done by wishes, or dreams,
if they were - what a world one would
create - I do not mean for one's own particular
self (for I could go on pleasantly enough through
its byways unknown) - but for ones race. My
passion would not be so strong for political freedom
which I regard as secondary, but for freedom from
the slavery of hereditary superstitions. O'Connell
talked much about hereditary "bondsmen," but did not
help them much in throwing off the bondage. Oh for
some commanding, vigorous mind to call us back
to first principles - but who is sufficient for such
a work? I know not any such. In my dreamland
I often picture such a workman, & that is all.
Good bye - My love to Dr. & the Cats.
Yours very affly

Kilkenny - May 12. 1852

Dear Mr. Gray.

You may wonder at the
date of this letter - if you ever heard of the
place - But Asa I am sure has, as it is as-
sociated with the feline race for whom
he has such partiality, "Kilkenny cats" being
famous for their dogged resolution. Here am
I, living in the "house that Jack built" and giving
lectures on Pottery to the natives - 2 are over &
& are to come, so that I have still a fortnights
residence before me. - While I think of it let
me send Van Vorst's message to Gray - which
is - Mohl on the cell is translated, and would
have been in print before now but that it is
detained waiting for casts of the original cuts,
which have to come from Continent - On their
arrival, now shortly expected, the book will go
to press, and have 160 pages, 52 woodcuts and
a copperplate. So I hope you will not start
an opposition Yankee translator, and so throw
poor V.V.'s stock on his hands. Live in hope of getting
it in time for your next course. -

Now I must thank you for your interesting
letter of April 27, received the day before I left
Dublin - I must not forget to tell you too
that I have sent by Josiah Toddhunter, who
intends sailing next Saturday for Boston, the
last tattoo collars &c - the account is en-
closed with them, & if you choose you can
pay it to my sister in New York - Mr. Harvey,
101 Franklin Street. That will be better than to
trouble Mr. Bell with such small sums, and
she owes me other such matters, & can put
all together. - I am glad the tattooing business

has pleased, I hope that now sent will be approved of. The number of quilts, now making it at Bodice is about 100 I am told. —

The weather you describe must have been wretched — but I suppose ere this it has passed away & Spring come with a hop, step & jump in regular "go ahead fashion". Does it not burst suddenly on you? — Here we have long been preparing, and are now in the very greenest & freshest season of the year. I have not made much acquaintance yet with the neighborhood. Close to the town is the family residence of the Ormondes (now only Marquis — formerly Dukes) — a fine Castle, but the greater part a modern rebuilding, save two or three old towers. The park is small — but the situation good & there are good gardens. The family not at home. There is a very long picture gallery — mostly filled with family & Royal portraits — the latter from Charles Ist down. You know the connection of the Ormondes & Ossorys with the Royal party in the Great Rebellion. Here are Vandykes of Charles & his queen &c. After the English Houses you would think the furniture mean — but these are some old & curious, relics, tapestries, & so forth — which have an air of respectability. —

A few days before I left Dublin we had a child born, poor, to Malahide — a favourite place with Mr. F. It is on the sea shore 9 miles north of Dublin, by railway, but so little frequented that it is almost as wild as Connemara — a level walk by the sea over sandhills, full of pretty flowers, — then by sea banks, covered with *Scilla verna* (a minute hyacinth) and pun roses — larks singing overhead, and the waves golling, an accompaniment — views of headlands — Ireland Eye, Lambay, Howth &c. — a charming walk — We came home over land across the country, by lanes & hedgerows & stiles & pathways — and on route gathered *Saxifraga granulata* which grows on a little limestone hill. Here Miss Ball found she had dropped her sunshade — somewhere — so that I & Mr. F. had to go back to look for it — & after much search, & time lost, it was found in the grass not five paces off! "Oh what a pity!" — But we did not miss the train — & came prosperously home in time for dinner.

Thanks for your report of Madame d'Orsoli which I shall duly retell to Mr. Allman who is very much interested about her. I am sorry you have so little to report — & that you did not know her personally — though I can well understand that her ways on paper may be much more pleasant reading than they were in the acting originally. The book as it stands is sufficiently freighted with transcendentalism — a sort of ism which is much better to read of than to see in action (as far as I know). Her unbounded talents — her earnestness & romantic history — gives one, looking back at her life, that toleration for her peculiar opinions which I can well suppose would not be felt by the majority — whose opinions they clashed, while their utters was living. So few can appreciate the romance of life before the catastrophe throws a halo round the actors in it. —

Next topic in your letter is Agassiz's Medusa which I have not received, & should be glad to be referred to the channel through which it was sent. Please also remember that this is the time when Dionaea blossoms & ask Dr. Gray to write to his friend at Wilmington, to dry a few specimens in flower for an unfortunate individual. You had it in your mem. book. — I am distressed that Gray should be troubled to glue his own plants. How can he find time? Would that I could ship off Emily Lee to him! but I fear he would not tolerate her ways — as she sometimes puts the plants crooked — sometimes sticks wrong labels — & sometimes loses the labels. I used to fret at first, but now bear patiently. I have only had her employed about 10 weeks this season — a length of time which ought to represent the gluing of 5000 specimens at least. — I have just ordered the new cabinets to fill my last empty wall — and hold Hooker's Indian collections &c. —



Harvey, William H. 1852. "Harvey, William Henry May 12, 1852 [to Jane Loring Gray]." *William Henry Harvey letters* –.

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