

New York, Sept: 3d, 1839.  
Mines Gray 29<sup>th</sup>. Dear Sir. I have just rec'd. this letter from London. Like the other one which I sent you, it was directed to my friend, Mr. Putnam, a bookseller of London, with whom he has business. It contains the latest intelligence from your son. Please take care of this & return it by Dr. Kneiskern of Oskarsham.

J. Torrey.

Bale, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1839 —

Dear Friend.

Your letter of 29<sup>th</sup> June awaited my arrival at Geneva, which event took place upon the glorious anniversary of our National existence, as our orators have it, in plain prose upon the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. You indulge your humor at the nonchalance of my mention of the places I visited, just as if I had time or room upon a single sheet to express all my admiration and exultation at large upon every thing I saw. It is a pity indeed you were not with me; you would have enjoyed it vastly, and I all the more. Had you been with me, my stoicism might possibly have been overcome, and we have journeyed on to Naples and Pompei together. But how could Pater-Noster & Corin have spared you? You have missed something too in not being with me from the date of my last down to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, during which time I made a most satisfactory tour. For a portion I followed in your worthy steps; but on the whole I think I have outdone my predecessor. I will give you the skeleton; your memory and imagination will fill up the picture. Eh bien

1<sup>st</sup> day Steam-boat from Zurich to Horgen (a knapsack on my back, containing an extra shirt and pair of stockings, pen & paper, — a Keller, Murray's Hand book, and a port folio for collecting Plants.) walked to Zug, dined and talked bad French with the Kellerin, walked on to Arth, stopped a little; the Landlady told me it would take 4 hours to reach the summit of the Rigi; I told him, I should do it in 2½; and I did it; saw the sun set from the Kulm!

2<sup>nd</sup> Day. Saw the sun rise, very good time, clouded soon after and rained, — cleared again; thus gave me every variety of view. Left at 12. m. and commenced the descent to Negriss to take the steam-boat for Fluelen; stopped by a Thunder-storm which came down the lake, got under a rock, and heard the thunder reverberate among the mountains! Reached Negriss a little too late for the boat. — took a skiff directly across the lake, crossed the mountain, where there was no path at all, and walked to Stans in Canton Unterwalden, which I reached at 5 P.M. — A truly Swiss village, quite out of the ordinary route of tourists. Looked about the place — the old church and bone-house, determined to go to Engelberg.

3<sup>rd</sup> Day. — Was off at 5. A.M. walked 13 miles up a valley through the most sublime scenery, and arrived at this retired and most lovely little valley of Engelberg (Angel mountain) at 10 o'clock. A rustic village and large old Monastery in the bottom of a green basin, the sides of which rise on every side into peaks covered with snow nearly all the year. One of these is the Titlis which in the spring sends its avalanches ~~smack~~ into the village. — I have since seen a good deal of Switzerland, but no valley equal at all to Engelberg. — Left at noon, — up over the shoulder of the Titlis, through the snow, by the rarely-frequent attempted pass of the Joch, about 7000 feet high to the valley of

Großteil (took a guide on the sun not merely) from this low valley - the low pass is called Gernthal - to where it comes into the Vale of Hasle at Hof, and thence to Meiningen. In the number as beauty of the waterfalls which come in from the deep winter grottoes is not to be mentioned in the same day with it. For instance, and for the grandeur of the main stream it is only surpassed by the Valley of Hasle from Meiningen to the Mineral! - accomplished about 39 miles this day, and reached Meiningen in such condition, and very far so one that I had no expectation of surviving next day.

4<sup>th</sup> Day. Woke in the morning at 8 o'clock; so perfectly rested that I was ready to say with honest Sancho "Blessed be the man who first invented sleep". - Felt a little sore. Took a guide, a needle, piece of felt, and soon found, went up to the fall of Reichenbach, thence to the grotto of Obersee lake (Did you see this?) Then took a guide early over the Grand Scheldeck and down to Kriensleid, which I reached at 4 o'clock.

5<sup>th</sup> Day. Walked up the Lesser Scheldeck and to the Hotel Jurasfrau on the Niedern Alp, in 3 hours. Skipped 2 hours to see the avalanches, now more than ever, but it cleared and went the mountains, descended to Lauterbrunnen, walked to the lake of Brienz - sailed across to Thun in the midst of a rain shower which促迫ed me from going to the Grossbach - thence back to Meiningen at 5 o'clock. This was done pretty well.

6<sup>th</sup> Day. Started alone for the Falls of Harder and the Grimsel, at 5 o'clock. When I got up a good way it began to rain, tho' clear in the valley. - reached the falls at Harder in 3½ hours - stayed a long time to see them, did you go there? It but you missed the only sublime waterfall in Switzerland, the falls are only pretty. This is a different character. Walked on to the Hospice of the Grimsel in the midst of a snow storm, which embraced the garden as desolate and ends of this most remarkable pass. Reached the Hospice at one o'clock - what with the old snow and the new, a scene of mid winter, and very cold. Another party came in toward evening. -

7<sup>th</sup> Day (Sunday) did not start, snow is a blizzard terribly. As the party attempted to reach the Ober-glacie, but was obliged to come back. We were fortunate they made the attempt for they picked up, and rescued another party who had lost their way, and were in a fair way to have perished.

8<sup>th</sup> Day. At 10 o'clock, the snow over but still a thick cloud that you could not see 50 feet. - left with a native of Vallais, crossed the summit of the pass, commenced the descent, the wind blew away the clouds to give me a full view, saw the Rhone, a pretty brook - descended to Thayatal, and walked to the Ober-Vallais to Brig on the Simplon; about 4½ miles that day according to the map. Felt in very poor condition for walking - but walked on to Leuk about 2 miles, and took a chair to Sion. - Slept.

10<sup>th</sup> Day at 4 o'clock: feet and legs yet felt amply; both worn down so that my feet were nearer the ground than I liked. Walked to Martigny by 10 o'clock (24 miles according to the book, but I think it is not so much). Breakfasted, took a mule and went up the Col de Balme! - back again, walking most of the way. Left St. Martigny till one o'clock in the morning, took diligences by the falls of the Wallonne to St. Maurice & Villeneuve at 7 o'clock in the

11<sup>th</sup> day. A little too late for the morning boat; kept till afternoon when we got on the train back to Leuen.

Your note of introduction (and my own merits) secured me a favorable reception at Madame Wolff's (I only name your remembrances to the Misses) I have grown quite thick with them, and we made one or two after dinner excursions together, my mornings being all occupied. I left them on Saturday morning, for Lausanne, Friday, when I heard the big organ on Sunday, came in on the night to Bern and yesterday to this place over the Jura. I wished here to see Prof. Meissner, but found not his morning copy here after the train had left, that he was absent on a journey. It was a great fail for not finding him out last night, in which case I shall have been below Strasbourg and this evening at Mannheim. So it is I can't wait here till Thursday morning for Hayne's boat, and shall have this evening for Schaffhausen and Lubingen, and then push on the last way I can for Geneva & Turin. I do not live a moment of time. Do not be surprised if I stop in with you about the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. I would like to sail for home the latter part of that month. In early winter we will bring to you an entire volume of flora, and see what you can do with her. Then flushed out, in my mind, sufficient labor enough for several years to come, and several works, some of which will be good in a publisher's acceptance of the terms; others, I dare say, not. Prof. Murray's Park is derived from Brown's; so shall you be immortalized and known to all posterity as the publisher of the celebrated Gray!!! We have not much time to lose and on my arrival at London I shall be wonderfully busy. I hope you will have picked up a great quantity of books for me by that time. My future credit and comfort will very much depend on my bringing home an immense quantity of books for my library. Speaking of money, if you wish any more before I see you write me back to Berlin (I fear I shall have left Leipzig too soon). I have some books to send from Paris but I wait for a letter to inform me that a microscope I ordered is finished before I give you the order. Perhaps there will be time after I get to London. - By the way did you send the copy of the Botanical Apparatus of Aldrovand's Voyage to the Agent of my friend Nobl, as I begged you? If you have not for do at once, as my credit is at stake. Bentham wrote me on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, just as he was at the point of starting for the Pyrenees. He says the box has sent down to you some parcels of plants &c. very precious things, direct either to me or Dr. Torrey. I thank you had best keep them until I arrive. - So you have moved into larger quarters. But why did you not give me your new number. Tell you as this I must continue to address you at '67.

When I was in England I could scarcely put up my head as a Yankee slave - what with our border wars, and domestic quarrels. But now I feel greatly relieved. The recent Birmingham affair and several other things, - fortunately (?) give me "wherewithal to answer them that are of the contrary part." Let them shut their mouths now! You know my address at Berlin, a few days' restante if you will. - I think I shall be there to about the 25 August. I shall stop a few days at Hamburg. I think I may say that I shall not go up to Rostock. You will perhaps be receiving some letters for me, which now you know my movements you will act according to discretion either in forwarding to me, or retaining. I have bought scarcely any books since left Paris. I have had some not one given me

Excuse this hurried epistle, I have precious little time, and I find  
I am growing more and more slovenly every day — Adieu —  
Most truly Yours

A. Gray



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