

Chamouny. Aug. 11th. 1858 Sunday.

My eyes are much better; dearest Sue, indeed almost well again, as you may see from the place whence my letter is dated - And glad enough I am you may be sure, to get my pen in hand again - It has been a great disappointment to me to ~~find~~ lay my journal up for so long a time, and I am afraid I shall lose the record of many things, for it took so long to dictate them, & Dr. Gray did not have time enough to write them; and now that we have begun to travel again, it will be as much as I can do for the present to keep up the daily record. - But before I bring you to Chamouny, I must give some account of our stay at Geneva - The last letter was closed on Saturday, Aug. 3rd. That Ev. we drove up by the shore of the lake to call on Mr. Bonnier, a friend of Dr. Gray's. From this northern shore there is a beautiful view of Mont Blanc, & we were fortunate in seeing it finely - They say Mont Blanc is not seen ^{well} more than 60 or 70 times in a year, it is so often veiled in clouds - But we were fortunate during the week of our stay in seeing it some 4 or 5 times, though but one day all day - There are some beautiful residences, all on the shore of the lake - Most charming ~~situations~~; & Dr. Decandolle says that many English come here to live - Geneva taking to them the place that Boulogne was formerly - We did not find the gentleman at home, so we took our way back again - Mont Blanc had lost its lovely rose colour, & had turned a ghastly sort of white in the fading light - Sunday morn. we went to English service in a chapel attached to the Hospital. - Geneva is situated down at the Southwestern corner of Lake Lemann, on the lake of Geneva, just where the Rhone issues, & where of course it is very narrow, the old part of the town is on the South-western side, part of the town on the shore, where live the poorer inhabitants & where are all the shops, &c. - The town ~~is then~~ ^{must} ~~be~~ built up on the sides of a very steep hill, so that I assure you it is no easy matter to climb up - And the hill is so sudden, that a house with 3 stories in front may have 6 behind - The upper is the aristocratic part of the town, & there are some fine houses here - But the streets are very narrow, & so dirty, & smelling so! - My keen scent has been anything but a blessing in coming through Germany & Switzerland - such dirt we have no idea of! - And they seem in Geneva to take particular

delight in all sorts of little narrow lanes, often leading a long way under the houses, emerging occasionally into day-light, & then diving in again, so that you may almost go the whole length of the city, from the quay nearly up to the upper wall without going through an open street - And so you have a particular fancy for exploring these lanes & alleys, & making short cuts through them - The streets are all paved with small stones, & rarely does one see a side-walk on the Continent; & they only a foot or two wide - The main street at Genoa is an horrible exception - It knocks one's feet dreadfully - I don't wonder foreigners remark on our ladies walking out in their shoes - In England you are too much exposed to frequent showers, & it is often damp - I never ventured, after a few experiences in that uncertain climate, to ^{go out} ~~venture~~ in their boots, if I were to be out more than an hour or two - I mean what we call common spring & fall boots - I always wore ^{high} double soles, unless it were very clear - And in the Continental cities unless you are protected by black shoes, you are quite lame with continual walking on these disagreeable pavements - I had made a pair of black boots, with Paris fashion three rows of little nails round them, for mountainous ascents & to walk over pavements - And as we are quite beyond the region of carpets, I have always wooden floors, I would like anything but a "light, elastic step" - One can tell, even by the common people, that the wooden floors of Genoa is connected with the opposite shore by three bridges across the lake where the Rhone flows out - The first next the lake is quite handsome & has a little side-branch to a little island where they give concerts, & which is called, ^{St.} J. Rousseau - And on the quay opposite the end was our hotel - Hotel des Rois - ^{the great bridge} ~~the first bridge~~ is only for foot passengers & beyond is an island, ^{connected with the main shore} ~~on~~ bridges in each direction connecting it with the main land - The city has extended a good deal on the side where the hotel is, & the streets are much wider, & there is a fine range of stores on the quay, & I am happy to say a side-walk - The old city is walled, but outside the walls now stand a fine broad street with shops, nearly round the town - And many of the fine old mansions having their backs built on the wall, look quite strangely from this street - I became very familiar with Genoa, for when Dr. Fox

went in the mornings to M. Secandolle's to work in the herb.
 I accompanied him returning alone - And generally had some
 little shopping to do, or to get a roll or some fruit for lunch;
 for he breakfasted between 8 & 9, & dined at 5 at the table d'hôte.
 Sunday Ev. Dr. Jay thought a good walk would be beneficial,
 so we emerged through the city gate & followed the course
 of the Rhone to its junction with the Aare, which is said to
 be very singular, for the Rhone is beautifully clear & blue, &
 the Aare very thick & muddy; the Rhone coming first through
 a long valley & then through the lake is quite mild; the
 Aare coming direct from the glaciers of Mount Blanc
 very cold. They say the line where they join is very striking
 marked for some distance, but the muddy colour triumphs
 at last; & that good swimmers sometimes make the experi-
 ment of swimming just there, keeping one half the body in very
 cold water & the other ^{in the} warm. But ^{it is} dangerous, for both cur-
 rents are strong & swift, & the rivers quite large - Is the beau-
 tiful colour of the Lake of Geneva & the Rhone? There is no
 describing it. It is neither green nor blue, but between the two.
 Something like Niagara only blue - And so very clear & sparkling.
 It was beautiful to stand & see it rush under the bridge -
 They had the fashion there of washing in the lake - the bath-
 houses were a sort of boat, with a roof & open sides, moored to
 the quay. The washer-women stood on three sides, bowed to
 a sort of open trough before them, through which rushed the water
 all the time - A clanking board reached down across the trough
 in front of each woman, & on these the clothes were washed &
 rubbed, & to rinse them they needed only to be hung over a bar
 just over the water in the trough & ^{then} ~~they~~ ^{they} were done that gave you
 some idea. - The dots are the women, the boards in front of them
 over the trough, ~~but~~ & the bars were just below - When I saw how
 they sang & scrubbed & thought I should prefer not to be even
 that my own linen was undergoing it, but it seemed to be quite
 only coarse clothes that were washed so. It was a curious sight
 & quite amusing to me. - But to get back to our walk! - It

was farther than we thought, & by the time we got there too dark
to see any difference of colour, only the two swiftly running
rivers - But think of your delicate invalid sister dragging her heavy
limbs for 4 miles! - But I must confess I walked the last half
with more ease than the first; came home, went to bed, slept
most soundly, & awoke as bright as possible next morning -
After I got back next morning from my walk, a knock at the
door, & the waiter announced Mr. Boissier to see Mr. Gray - I
said "Dr. Gray est sorti" but Mr. Boissier walked in - You ask how
the French gets on, Charles. When I am taken suddenly & there
is no one to listen I get on quite comfortably; but if I get em-
barassed & think there is anyone listening, I make horrid work,
particularly with the verbs, mixing tenses & persons in a manner
over most painful to hear - I find though, I almost always
understand what people say, & get on very easily with the
servants & shop-keepers, & in such cases where there is no long
conversation - Being taken so by surprise, & Dr. Gray having said
before that Boissier spoke no English, I fell to work in French at
once; he sat down, & we had a little talk, in which I was quite
charmed at myself for getting on so famously - He soon left ~~to go~~ & find
Dr. Gray - I was quite delighted with his appearance, tall & dark with
beard & moustache, but exceedingly gentlemanly & quietly easy in his
manners, & perfectly simple - Poor man he lost his wife a year ago in
Spain where they were travelling together - She had travelled a great deal
with him, particularly in the East; & her death was to him a terrible
blow from which he is still in deep affliction - Dr. Gray says in that
way he is much changed from the gay young man he met 10 years
ago - He has two young children - When Dr. Gray returned he said that ^{Boissier} ~~he~~
had invited us to go there to tea that same (Monday) ^{evening} & that he
had accepted - So after dinner we took a carriage & drove out - The
house is charmingly situated on the shore of the lake. The entrance is
from the road, & passing through the house on the opposite side is a
terrace close upon the water, & commanding a lovely view of the lake
& of Mt. Blanc - Mr. Boissier lives there with his father, & his wife's
death was a great loss to the father, for he is a widower, quite an old
man, & there is now no lady in the house - Madame de Caumont told

one that there was a married daughter, who passed part of the year with them - Mr. Boissier received us at the door, & we went out upon the terrace & sat for some time in the fading light - His two children came - A nice boy about Pat's age, we talked in each other pretty much by smiles for I could not understand his French very readily or he mine, & a sweet little girl of 3 who soon ran away again - Afterwards his father came, he talked a little English, & by mixing Eng. & French we got on tolerably together. Then we were summoned to tea - such a pretty, little Swiss tea of which Dr. Gray says I will give a full account - Not forgetting but "particularly mentioning the delicious little jephyr cakes." - So I wish I could put before your eyes the table, for it did not quite correspond with our ideas of tea - Everything was very nice though, & very handsomely & quietly served - The china was simple but with the ^{family} initials upon it, & the dishes with the tart & cakes upon them were silver - To take the dishes in the order they were served, promising that the table was set as for a little supper, with a large piece of bread by the side of each plate - First there was a tart about a foot (perhaps more) in diameter - The paste very thin, & little apperits cut in half & laid closely side all over it, & then most abundantly strewed with sugar & baked - I was exceedingly nice; & I quite admire these Swiss tarts - Meantime the servant brought the tea-set & put it by the side of Mr. Boissier's fil, & handed the cups in turn to him, which he filled, & they were then placed by the side of each person - Next to the tart ^{came} a large sponge cake with almonds in it (a sort of bride's cake I should think) & baked in a handsome mould; it was handed round for each person to cut himself a piece; & then came the "jephyr cakes" as Dr. Gray calls them, which were exceedingly delicate. Meringues I should think, baked in paper cases - So delicate one must eat them with a spoon - Then our plates were changed, & we had some very nice strawberries - After tea I talked with Mr. Boissier, & we discussed the opera & singers & Jenny Lind, & concerts & I told him about things in America, & steamboats came in, & Americans whom he had met in Paris where he was formerly in the habit of passing his winters; it seems he knew Mr. Astor quite well, & some New York families - And he asked after Mrs. Wis, &c. &c. - By and bye he spoke of Mme. D'Autoville - Mr. D'Autoville it seems was a cousin of Mr. Boissier's wife.

I can't say they seemed particularly to admire the American side of the case. Their visits were planned in Switzerland, & he took one or two parties to go to in certain places &c. &c. M. de Montmirey talked botany with Mr. Devisier's wife. And it was late & I could not catch this eye, & began to grow nervous. Especially as Mr. Devisier's wife had been telling us how he was up at 3 o'clock in the morning, & had made a long excursion on foot to some mountain from whence there is a fine view - thinks she wishes these Americans would go & let him go to bed - At last I got up & told Dr. Gray he must go - He walked back to Geneva, & as we did not leave until after 10 o'clock, he had to walk, he said Dr. Gray told us sitting in the city gates - there is always a lot of us after 10 - But we had a very pleasant day.

I should have said before that Madame Maunoir called on Saturday M. She was very pleasant, & I was delighted to see anyone who had ever seen Koster, & to whom English was rather foreign - On Sunday M. the hall of Dornodance called while we were out - Dr. Gray went over to see him & to him as we got back, & Monday afternoon he came & made us a long call - He had seen Aunt Anna a fortnight before - said they were charmingly situated at Florence. That Aunt Anna was very home sick, & counting on returning next spring - that they were all very well - that Mary called herself quite well & seemed so - The hall was on the way to Frankfurt through Switzerland -

Tuesday, Dr. Decaudelle had planned an excursion to the petit Salève. He found a petit Salève are two mountains that rise over Geneva, apparently just beyond the wall, but in truth 5 miles off - one over the city & the other to the west. Decaudelle at the country house of his father, where they pass the summer, then rode to a village on the side of the mountain, thence with a guide to a little village still higher where we could see the view, have tea, & descend by a steep path to meet the carriage which would be sent round for us - so we dined early, & hastened after dinner to call on Madame Maunoir before Mr. Decaudelle should come for us - He my precious! how hot I got climbing up the steep hill just after dinner about 3 o'clock - He had a pleasant ride, & Dr. Gray made a tour to the B. on our return, while I hurried back to

change my dress - Dr. Gray soon came in with a letter from Mr. Ward enclosing Lucie's & Annie's letters of July 18th & 19th. I Charles of the 15th - How good you all are for writing - Lucie & Charles I must most particularly thank, for I did not expect they would write so often - How I longed to meet them! And how glad I was that Dr. Decaudelle was a little late! I could have time to read them! - How much I think of you all! & say for the most minute particulars of each - I am sadly behindhand though in letters, & must work hard until I can get up again with my correspondence.

The weather had been looking threatening all day, & when Dr. Decaudelle came it rained a little, still we concluded to go, hoping the shower would pass off - I must give you some idea of Dr. Decaudelle - he is rather more formal in his manner than Mr. Devisier, & not I think quite so fascinating - But he is very polite & kind, & speaks English quite well - Indeed everyone treats me with the greatest kindness & attention - But I must that to my husband's account - I think, Lucie, they consider him a good man - Mr. Decaudelle looks more Swiss than Mr. Devisier & yet has something of a French air - I sometimes say to myself - "Jane! Jane! are you quite aware of the distinguished honours heaped upon you?" - One day when I am at the Chênevick (pronounced, very short) which sits with the town of Geneva, (in that account my husband considers it the proudest day of my life) seated by Sir M. Walker, attended to by Mr. Decaudelle & Mr. Devisier, & associated so familiarly with so many distinguished men! - But harder still as it sometimes to realize that I am among these - seems that one has dreamed, & awakes to find it all a dream - That truly have seen the Rhine, & Lake of Geneva, & Mount Blanc, & Chamonix!

I sometimes think I shall wake & find it all a dream - But I am far away from the ballroom where we were dining to take in Madame Decaudelle - It was a pleasant country place, as far as I could judge from a hasty glimpse as my door up the house. He got out & were ushered through the saloon into a little parlor sort of verandah, with pots of flowers ranged around the pillars & climbing plants, & trees close by, & tables & chairs. It is very pretty, these little places one sees in German & Swiss villages so arranged - They have either rose or a very rare decorated with plants, besides the profusion of flowers close around, & they have a great deal of them, so in the open air, sunny, & taking tea so there - I am struck with seeing how much all

are in the air - going through towns & villages you see the women in the shade of a house in all sorts of occupations, sewing, knitting, cleaning vegetables, &c. &c. In small places the men have a shady place under the tree, or vines trained over a very open summer house, where the visitors take their coffee &c. & sit & smoke - The houses along the roads have almost always either a summer house on the wall, or a raised seat under a tree where they can sit & see the passers by; & in Geneva in many of the cafés an awning is spread out in front; it is walked round with plants in pots, oleanders, *Arbutus vitæ*, orange trees &c. & in the enclosure tables & chairs, where the visitors sip their coffee & smoke - But how I get away from my story - Madame Decandolle was a bright looking, little woman ^{quite stylish} with a keen black eye which seemed to see everything; she spoke no English, & there was a tall, pretty looking daughter of some 16 or 17 who listened to my French, & I got frightened & fell into the most horrible confusion - Nouns, verbs, moods, genders, persons, tenses, were all in inextricable & painful ~~confusion~~ ^{in my mind} - I was glad when Madame took her bonnet to join us - The floor of the salon & hall were brightly waxed, & I assure you I had to be very cautious in my steps lest I should slip down - We set off in a shower, & had occasional showers as we ascended the hill - The gentlemen got out to walk, & Madame & I were left alone. I got on rather better with the French, & she said she could understand me. She soon began to talk about Mr. D'Hauteville, whose cousin it seems she is; & by the way she talked & the black eyes flashed, one could see how much excited they must all have been at the time - I thought it was but right to tell her what I thought about it - And though she blamed Mr. D'Hauteville for having married after so short an engagement, she felt as if it were a very incomprehensible matter why Miss Sears married him at all - She told me some queer things I will tell you when I can talk, for it takes too long to write - She said the Hauteville estate was the finest in Switzerland; that the exterior of the house was not much, but that it was handsomely arranged inside, & the view was superb - And even Murray's hand-book mentions the villa for its situation - Mr. D'Hauteville has no children by his present wife - They asked if she had married again - How much a little good sense & forbearance would have done for both parties! - But by one or two little remarks I saw that the reputation of the American ladies had not been particularly raised by it - I think they acknowledged Madame Marnier as an honorable exception - After awhile the hill grew too steep for the carriage - so we got out to walk also - Soon

after as we ascended the mountain the storm became quite violent & we had a real blow & heavy rain - And were glad to reach the little village of ^(Monetier) Montet where we could have a fire at the little inn & dry ourselves - It was quite picturesque in that little inn kitchen, with its monstrous fire place so that we sat under the chimney round the little handful of stiles in the centre - I was soon dry, & we had a nice little tea, rather more rustic than Mr. Boislieu's - The gentlemen went out to get the view, but it rained so much that Madame & I staid still - And afterwards went down the mountain again to our carriage, & rode back, quite a rain all the way - They were very much disappointed in the weather, but I thought it quite exciting & adventurous, & was surprised to find how well I could walk - Of course we could not see the Alps & Mont Blanc - but the hills near, mountains we should call them, & the pretty valleys between looked all the more picturesque through the shifting clouds -

Wednesday we had had another invitation to tea, from Mr. et Madame Choisy Liridet - Madame Choisy thought of Swiss father, was born & bred in England, & they had invited to meet us some English ladies married in Geneva, so that English was quite the language that evening - We had another tea à la Suisse, only it began with boiled tongue & meat jelly, & instead of the tart was ice cream, &c. &c. We had a very pleasant time - I am gaining flesh so much that I think I must be growing quite young in appearance, from sundry remarks made to Dr. Gray & me -

Some of the mornings that week were rather long - Any few minutes I could use my eyes I had sundry little mendings to do, buttons would come off & things would wear & tear, but I did not like to use them long at once, & so I walked round & fussed over dressing & sometimes slept to pass away the long time until Dr. Gray came back for dinner - How I longed to have a little talk with you or Lizzie, Sue, & so kept up with my journal! -

Thursday Ev. as we came in from a walk we were startled by the appearance of George Curtis in the entry - He said he was with Mr. Choate & Mr. Bell - He went up with us to our room, & told us where they had been & we told him our course - He met them in the breakfast room next morning - You must know the Salle, &

manager is a large hall with tables all round, where each party breakfast by themselves - If you have tea, tea-kettle, teapot, & caddy are brought, & you make tea yourself - If coffee, the coffee pot &c. - Each party have their own equipage, & so does anyone who is alone - Bread, butter & honey, with either tea or coffee, is the regular breakfast, meat or egg are an extra charge - Has the same. As for dinner I must some time, I think, take a separate letter to advise me in all its length - But such delicious bread as we have had ever since we reached Rotterdam through Belgium, Germany & Switzerland! - It is most exceedingly nice, & I never get tired of it, rolls, loaves & all - English bread I do not like. It is too closely kneaded, too tough & hard, & too much flour - But this is so light & delicate & sweet & nice, & such a crisp, tempting crust! - I wish I could learn the art -

Friday I went shopping with Dr. Gray - I have bought myself a pair of cap boots - Having always to wear caps I thought might indulge in something new, & so always bands me - oh, dear papa, I threw away a little money, I bought a pair of gold with a point on each, set clear - Then I have bought a new bonnet ribbon - The liveries of almost all the English & American travelling ladies, dark blue - Only mine was a straw color etc. - Do tell me are winter ribbons, dark blue, crimson, select trimmings &c, the fashion in the U. S. this summer? - It quite shocks my ideas of good taste, yet I see them pretty worn, especially by the English ladies - They travel in such strange dresses & wear so much jewelry! - Flounced muslins seem to be their pet travelling dress, with lace under sleeves & gold bracelets - Has no ever flowers amazingly. What do you think of this travelling dress which I saw on one of the Rhine steamers - A light flounced blue muslin, with a white muslin, puffed skirt - A straw bonnet with dark spots over, & to match the spots a dark claret cold velvet cape to the bonnet, & lace veil (embroidered in spots of the same colour) - Yet it did not look quite so nice as described, and for a full bonnet would have been very pretty - But I see so generally now that I should call fall & winter dresses - If I see what seems a regular travelling dress, the lady is generally either French or American.

I was very busy Friday packing & getting ready for our excursion to Chambray - We were to take only one travelling bag, & my hand-bag, Lippie, which is quite invaluable, & makes me often think of you with thanks - Would you like some idea of our expenses staying a long while as we have? - He calls a franc .2500 Our room which is in the first floor as they call it, having to go up one flight of stairs, (the story below being entirely devoted to the Salle & manager, dining-room, offices &c.) was, as we took it for the week, 4 francs a day, which is the regular price for a good room with two beds - It was quite out of the region of doubt beds, I have seen but one since I left England; & they are generally inferior rooms - This room had the beds in recesses by the entrance door, so that you could shut them off in the day with doors, & the rest of the room was furnished rather fancifully with a sofa, table, secretary, clock, bureau in one corner, arm chairs, two small tables with stools & pichers - I am sure the English travellers who complain of no such accommodations in hotels & pichers I never saw in America! - I was disappointed, as regards washing apparatus in England. I expected something extraordinary, but found nothing more than I saw in hotels at home. And here it is evident that washing is a very insignificant thing. The beds too are singular contrivances - In an English bed-room the bed with its tall posts, heavy curtains, & jointed sofa gives the impression that sleep is a grand & serious occupation, to be carefully & seriously undertaken - In Belgium, here France, it is a small bed-room gives the idea of its being a thing to be tucked away in a corner, only indulged in from absolute necessity, & one of those things one must perhaps have, but in as evasive a manner as possible - Such little, low, & narrow boxes! - Switzerland seems a cross between France & German - But our room was a very good sitting-room - Breakfast 1/2^{fr} & dinner at the 5 o'clock table 1/2^{fr} each - Then tax-lights are 1/2^{fr} each, we were charged 4/2^{fr}. - And what I consider the unreasonable part of the bill, I saw as it is called, 16/2^{fr} - Instead of gratuities to the servants it is charged on the

bill & the regular charge is 1 fr. per day for each person - But when one stays 9 days that mounts up very fast - They charged us 10 fr. but reduced it to 15 - But 3.00 is pretty well for servants fees, is it not? - That is what I dislike so much in travelling abroad, everything must have a fee - And it quite takes off the pleasure of politeness, when you think a *bonne main* is expected for it -

Saturday Morn. we took an early breakfast, (found Mr. Choate & his party at the breakfast table) & walked over & took our places in the Diligence. - Now I must tell you a little what a Diligence is.  there you see it is a great many vehicles in one - First is a sort of *Chariot* - This is called the *Coupe*, & here are the best seats, having glass in front & at the sides, so that you can see in all weather. Behind is a carriage part² this in the *Interieur*, & rather dark - Up behind³ is a seat for four, the top of which shuts back like a bellows top chaise this is the *Cabriolet* - Then behind the drivers seat is another seat for four with also a folding top (4) this is the *Banquette*, & 5 is the drivers seat - Sometimes instead of the *Cabriolet* is an omnibus behind & that is the *Ronde* - But all these different parts are combined in every variety of way in different vehicles, except I believe that there is always a *Coupe* whatever else is left out or added - Our seats were in the *Cabriolet*, & it was something of a climb to get up I assure you - But it is a fine seat for the view in good weather! - My eyes had greatly improved under Dr. Mannors's applications which were an ointment within the lids at night, & frequent bathings with very hot water, from which I find very great relief, though at first it was very disagreeable; & on calling on him the morning before he had said that I might go, being provided with cold spectacles, veils, &c. So behold me at last fairly started to my great joy - Mr. Choate & his party were travelling en grand, into a ~~coachman~~ ^{courier}, and en voiture, that is to say with hired carriage - But I think though we may in some ways have more trouble, yet we are much more independent as we go; & can take any direction we choose, do as we please, & stay or go as we like - Perhaps we shall have to have a courier when we get where we cannot speak the language -



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