

Pontrilas House - Oct. 7th. '80 -

My dear Charlie,

I am quite tired with being so behind hand in my journal; & so make a desperate dash on to get up with the present time. - For I see as much as I can well do at present will be to keep up with every day accounts - I have a good deal of writing to do for Dr. Gray, & I cannot devote all my time to writing it is so very unsocial -

I left the journal on board the steamboat between Rotterdam & London, & on waking in the morning <sup>I found</sup> the fog was so dense around us, that we were obliged, though just at the mouth of the Thames, to drop anchor & lie still - With hours counted in London it was very tiresome - And very tiresome waiting for breakfast & for the fog to clear up! - Some tried to amuse themselves catching sun-fish, which were floating in great quantities around us, & they caught some very large ones of the mushroom fashion prettily marked with orange & purple - Others roved listlessly about until at length breakfast was announced - Afterwards I tried to write a little but it affected my head as when at sea, & I gave it up - After lying still 3 hours or more the fog cleared sufficiently to take our way again - It was still "smoky," so that one could not see quite satisfactorily - But I could see the points of historical, classical, & mother-fossil association as they were pointed out - Tattersburg fort, Worcester, Greenwich with its very fine imposing Hospital in two quite distinct buildings, their ends quite on the river & topped in the centre with domes, Blackwall &c. &c. The river grew so full of vessels as we went up! in some places it was astonishingly narrow, ~~and we were~~ they are obliged to keep a channel open, & unobstructed, by stationary vessels, by law - The little steamboats were darting in & out in all directions - The Cambridge gentleman made himself exceedingly agreeable & he & Dr. Gray exchanged cards - He found he called himself Rev. William Thompson which addition I had not suspected - But all the tutors are obliged to take orders - At length we reached our dock, & were all escorted into a ware-house, where they were hoisting luggage up into a room above to examine it - The passengers

must all find their way up into a pleasant little room with wooden  
seats round the walls & no ventilation, & here wait till their turn  
came. Unfortunately a steamboat from Blend had passed us &  
was before us, & they were examined first - First each person with a  
single baggage, then the others in the order of their names in the Cap-  
tain's book - We had to wait at least an hour! The baggage was not  
very carefully examined when at length we were duly ushered up  
into the searching room, where were the officers - First it is the only  
place in all our travels where the man who searched gave any hint  
Of receiving a bribe & took me to pay never offered me before - And this  
time only to hasten matters, for we were careful to take nothing doubtful.  
At length at 4 o'clock or after, after diving I visited Throgmorton Street  
concluded with baggage, coats, bags, umbrellas, &c. ordered by watchmen  
& shops most of the way, we reached our Hotel Golden Cross Charing X  
which I had thought was in the centre of London. London is an  
immense, vast place! And the noise & din was quite confusing  
after the quiet continental cities. After changing his dress & ordering  
dinner, Mr. Gray hastened to Mr. Boston to ask about the Swells,  
& came back with the information that they were all in town & at  
Berkeley Sq but that Aunt Lizzie had been quite ill - So after  
not 4 o'clock dinner I put on my bonnet & we hastened there. We  
found only Aunt Lizzie, Ella & Sarah - Mrs L. Langhams & Lizzie had  
gone to Cambridge - Aunt E. looked very pale & delicate & quite thin,  
but I am glad to say before she left London she looked very much  
better - We had abundance to talk about & I consulted her about  
the next day's shopping.

Whitfield - Oct 14th - '88

Dear Charlie,

I am quite ashamed that my letter is  
so unfinished, but I have tried hard. To get time, & get  
up an hour earlier this morning on purpose - But I  
wanted to finish my letter to grandfather, & written I know  
not why, for surely with me - Here we are at Mrs. Child's  
the Archery meeting having been yesterday - Mrs. Child  
sent her carriage for us Tuesday aft. & sends us home  
again this morning - We have had a charming time,  
& I have enjoyed it exceedingly - They are all very  
kind & agreeable people & I was quite amazed at my-  
self to find how quite at home I felt -

Mrs. Bentham I like very much, she is so lady like  
& sweet & pleasant & kind Mrs. Bentham too -

Once got a little into the interior of English people  
& they are very cordial & agreeable -

Yesterday I got a letter from Sue, from Lizzie & You  
& from Fanny - Many, many thanks for them all -  
I quite enjoyed the peach police - And amazed people  
here by saying you had peaches by the bushel -

With most affectionate love to all  
& a great many apologies for such a vile little letter  
I am ever lovingly,  
Jane -



Gray, Jane Loring. 1850. "Gray, Jane Oct. 7, 1850 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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