

Dublin - Dec 18th. 1850

Dear Sue, I believe I was very naughty when I wrote that blue letter from Pontillas - After the people came, & matters were quietly settled, I felt more at ease & Mrs. Bentham never gave me any reason to feel that I was in the way, but was most kind & affectionate, & I have received most affectionate letters from her since - Indeed both she & Mr. Bentham seemed really sorry to part with us, which I consider extraordinary proof of their good nature after over 8 weeks visit - And indeed I should be very ungrateful if I did not warmly acknowledge the kindness we have met every where, & the sincere, true friends I believe I have made - Nothing can be kinder than they are to us here - And as for dear Harry he has been unwearied, & has nursed Dr. Gray with the tenderness of a woman, joined to a man's strength - And is always so pleasant, & kind, & playful! -

After the above little burst of gratitude, (truly it is & should be sincere,) I had no more time to write, dear Sue, as I was anxious to write to little Pat on his birthday, & printing is slow work with me - So yesterday's mail went without my weekly contribution - And I take my pen again in this old town, ^{S. far} as duty gets you here - I drop it, I think, in the journal & college, a fine handsome room, & ornamented with busts of distinguished scholars, &c. from Beethoven & Piero downwards, but who unfortunately threw down a favourite theory of mine, I have been somewhat building upon lately; that great mental development was accompanied in some good measure by physical beauty & development - Of course I admitted exceptions - But I saw there so many frightful old worthies in marble, that the theory would not do at all -

Dr. Gray at this time came down quite regularly to dinner,

through he took his breakfast in bed - Tuesday morning. Dr. Lusk
Tordhunter accompanied me to choose a dressing gown for Dr. Gray
I am afraid you will call it neat but not pretty, when I told you
it is pretty much red & yellow, but think, though perhaps gay, it
is really rich & handsome - And comfortable by the fondness with
which Dr. Gray clings to it - Wednesday morning I went out directly
after breakfast with Dr. Harvey to choose Dr. Gray a vest & order
it made - Don't you think I am approaching his heart's desire
of a wife, & so to the tailor's & order his clothes, so that he never
need have to think of dress? - Sunday Dr. Harvey kindly looked
all the way back as soon as he reached the college, to bring
us our American letters, which I acknowledged when I wrote to
father a matter that week. And I spare that day in diligent
ly poring - In answer to three epistles I say to you, dear son,
that I think the screen would be very much handsomer
filled up with gold colour, & more too gay for each a thing. I
hope you will think so too. Friday Dr. Gray preferred to
be driving in a car to the college & passing the morning with
Dr. Harvey there - So Mr. Luskhunter & I rode up with him, &
he getting slowly out in his dressing gown & Harvey's frock over
it, & with a staff as tall as he was, looked like some old
patriarch of 100 - Then Luskhunter then walked with me across
the river with Luskville Dr. A very fine road it with Adams
column in the centre opposite the Post Office, a large hand-
some building - He then walked up round some square
surrounded with fine houses, & came down again to the
river to the Custom-house, which is again a very handsome
building, only you cannot tell how good the smooches of all.
Smoke with in all these buildings, they look as if they had
been exposed to fire, or else worked in great heats with a very
dirty cloth - It soon injures the effect of good architecture by
bringing out lines never meant to be conspicuous & hiding
others - West Dublin is a fine looking city, & one did not
see so much misery I expected - You see some strangely

bare eyed & bare footed creatures, driving perhaps a wretched
little donkey, mixed in with handsome gillies, and you
see beyond tolerably clothed in rags, but still not so many mis-
erable creatures as one expects - Dr. Gray found the little, nice
pleasant & agreeable, so Saturday we went again, though the day
looked threatening - It poured after we got there, but in the
respite Dr. Harvey went with me to the Irish Academy, where
the most interesting collection of Irish antiquities - One of his friends
& Dr. Pittmore, showed us round, but I had reason to think af-
terwards that the pleasant stories he told about everything, &
the deductions & order of various things were an antiquarian spec-
ulation, or else took upon my credulity - At any rate I took
them as innocently as possible - There were various gold orna-
ments, some very handsome, very heavy, & quite uncompro-
mise as to any use that one could derive - Then a curious old
cross containing a tooth of St. Patrick, & very antique crosses, for they
find in Ireland very ancient relics of the Christian Church - But what
interested me very much was St. Patrick's Testament - It is a very an-
tique handwrit. one - And the manuscript is not a black, brown looking
man, by soaking it in warm water, that it fit two upon leaves, &
could see that it was written in Irish characters in Latin - There
was also another very old manuscript of the new testament, in very
poor preservation - There were abundance of spear heads of various
shape, & many curious things - The gold ornaments so are generally
found in digging & potatoe fields - Though as the peasantry see
the finders, & make a mystery about it, they cannot tell whether
they are in old times or not - The bogs have wonderful power
of preservation, & among other things, exhibited, is a mass you can
still see bound with ropes & leaves, containing letters, so chemical
examination says, & perhaps 1000 years old - I saw in the Lib.
many the original manuscript of Wolfe, of the burial of the Irish
Marine - Sunday morning I went to College Chapel, Dr. Harvey
having procured for me & one of his curious tickets for the pla-
ken - The body of the church, which is not very large, is occupied
by the students, fellows, & professors, &c. & they are more white sur-
plices - It looks very stately: then each man's degree is shown to
a sort of bay, worn hanging down the ^{or mantle} back, & a band passing round
round the throat - Dr. Harvey, as Dr. of Med. is scarlet cloth,

of the Irish old - magnificent - gigantic things, &c. &c. The horns of the elk are tremendous! Dr. Ball shared a wind

lined with crimson silk - Saw is scarlet lined with rose color,
& divinity scarlet lined with blk. velvet - Then Masters & back-
elows are again different. Dr. Harvey looked very handsomely
in his white surplice, with white cravat & muslin bands, & the
scarlet bag, & blk velvet, flat college cap - The music is very good
at the chapel, but the sermon was very indifferent - Dr. H.
met us as we came down stairs, & touching his cousin & myself
under each arm, we went back to his room, where he unrobed
& then went back to the Todhunter's. Dr. Ball, who has charge of
the College Museum, accompanied us to call on Dr. Gray. He is a
giant of a man - Dr. Harvey looked like a baby by his side -
Dr. Fisher a cousin & friend, & uncle of Miss Hannah Fisher, who
went to Chapel with me, dined & passed the Evng. with us - And after
tea the children repeated hymns & I helped a little - Monday
morning Dr. Gray & I rode up to the college in a car, & then took
in Dr. Harvey & then went to Glasnevin gardens, some two miles
out of the city. They are the gardens of the Dublin Society, of which
Society Dr. H. is Prof. of Botany, & so he says has some direction of the
garden, more particularly to pull flowers - The gardens are beau-
tifully situated, with rising & falling ground, & a stream running
through one end, & the largest "stove" (conservatory) is a beautiful
building - And now imagine, poor, frozen people, that on the 18th.
day of December, (within almost) a week of Xmas, the ^{was} grass green
& fresh, roses in blossom, even one bush of tea roses, enormous
shrubs of two varieties of laurestinias, great arbutuses, small flower
Christmas roses (a sort of hellebore) & a jonquil, in blossom! - Such a
sweet & delicious bouquet as I carried home with me! - Tuesday
I did a little shopping, for Dr. Gray wished to go Thursday, &
we needed warm wraps - The great establishment for shopping
seemed all to be in one enormous building, up stairs & down,
where they sold every thing for dress, from shoes to millinery &
jewelry, & almost everything one could buy in shops, except
provisions & hard-ware - But I think it very confusing, &
should rather on the whole go to different shops - Tuesday
Evg. a nephew came, & performed some very neat & pretty

jugglery tricks to amuse the children, while Dr. Gray & Harvey occupied themselves with botany in the other room. - I had been hard at work every spare moment in Dublin, crocheting a polka for Dr. Gray - Dr. Harvey left ^{the} mine, he used to have in, while at Holyhead. And Dr. G. found it so comfortable, that he was anxious to have one like it, especially to travel in. - So the first day we got there, Mrs. I. bought me the materials, taught me how, & with her kind help I completed it ~~Wednesday~~ - Except the sleeves which he preferred omitted, that he might wear it under his coat travelling; so imagine the man in this bright, red woollen thing! - Wednesday too I called on Mrs. Ball, but found her "not at home," as she had found me also. - In the Ev. the Fishers came to tea. (I had returned their call a day or two back.) Mr. Fisher, & son & Miss Fisher, "Tolly" Dr. Harvey always calls her, Miss Corentry, a young lady staying with them, & Dr. Fisher, a Mr. Churchill, & two nephews, Harveys - "Tolly" has a very sweet voice & sing some very sweet songs in Irish, & Irish airs with English words - The gentlemen sang, & they being all very anxious to hear Yankee doodle, I sang too! - We had a very pleasant evening - I got your letter that day, dear Sue, & was indeed shocked & grieved to hear of Putnam Bancroft's death - A sad sad loss indeed for his Mother & Lizzie! - To send to them my sincerest love & sympathy - Ah me! How little each knows what befalls those separated so widely! - It was the very day after Dr. Gray's accident, & I was alone, & so anxious & worried & lonely at Holyhead! - I do hope Lizzie Bancroft will not be injured - Her mother must need her more than ever now. - You criticize the ^{words} ride & drive - As to the meaning of the words, ride is no doubt correct, but the usage here has become quite settled, as to distinguishing the meaning, & is certainly convenient - Especially where they ride & drive so much. - Wednesday Ev. we had some snow, & it was quite a cold night & high wind, & I feared the channel would be rough for crossing, so after due persuasion & entreaties, Dr. ^{Gray} consented to give up the idea of getting to New by Saturday Ev. but to pass Sunday on the way, & get there on Monday - Sir William Hooker had kindly written to say that he & Miss Hooker had been looking for lodgings for us, & had found

some which he thought would suit us - But they wished us to come there & pass a few days until we could quietly settle ourselves, & Dr. Foster had also written to ask us to come there until Dr. Gray should be quite well again - But we thought it would save trouble & fatigue in morning unpacking, to settle ourselves quietly at once in our lodgings; so we wrote to decline their kindness, & also to say to the Parson, that we must give up the visit to Clapham we had promised ourselves & go at once to our lodgings - Dr. Gray went to the College Botanic Garden Wednesday - It was damp & cold, & I think he got too tired & took some cold, for he did not seem so bright Saturday - Mrs. Fisher called Thursday Morn. & brought me a lovely pair of "Spider Mitts" - Her husband's sister & brother's wife, Mrs. Seabrook, of whose sad death Mrs. Sedgwick had told me, brought the poor Irishwoman about her, beginning first with some advice, to do at length this fairy-like knitting, & so varie them, by giving them some remunerative occupation, mentally & physically - When Mrs. Fisher heard we staid until the next day, she said we must pass the evening with them - Dr. Gray prudently declined for himself, but I accepted - I passed a good portion of the day, when not packing, in visiting to little Fat - and finished just as it was time for Dr. Harvey & I, the only representatives who went, to up to the Fichis - They are cheerful people, & so the furniture was more for, & they had a piano - They are very pleasant people - Mrs. Fisher is a most hearty, warm, & cordial Irish woman, her heart on her tongue, & proving out with ready expression - Fat & good natured looking, & with an accent which to my ear is very pleasant - The little boys around most sweetly in Mrs. Fisher & Mrs. Sedgwick - Mrs. Fisher is very pleasant to Harry the son - "Nelly" is interesting & pleasing in appearance, & sweet & pleasant, but Hannah, "Nanny" & they all call her, is very pretty, with soft dark eyes, dark hair, the face a little too full perhaps, but most sweet & amiable in expression, & looking every a lovely character - Her manner seems a little too soft till you get used to it, & her voice is very low & soft - Harvey laughs & plays at her for its weakness - But when you talk with her you see the gentleness & softness is no affectation - There were

³She had been suffering dreadfully from rheumatism for some days, & was just out of bed -

two or three young gentlemen there, & two young ladies who sang duets very sweetly - And towards the end of the evening Harry Fisher & a young man named Griffin acted a charade capitally - "Calypso" - The young man was nephew to Frank Griffin who wrote "the collegians"; he was a very old friend of the family; & some of ^{his} ~~the~~ pieces are addressed to them - I am sure, even if you could get hold of his poetry, you would like it, some of the pieces are very sweet! Perhaps I will send you a copy of one, but I wish you could hear Dr. Harvey read them aloud - Gerald Griffin wrote "a place in thy memory, dearest!" - When we bade good bye to come home, it was concert night, & no car was to be found, after waiting some time, I said, if I could only get something for my feet I should enjoy walking - & after due trial the largest pair of ladies boots were procured - I had scrabbled a way, & every way lead that I need not trouble my cap with a bonnet, & thought it would do to wear at night, but Mrs. Fisher insisted on procuring it with a bonnet, & as her face was large & round, & the bonnet larger & rounder, you may imagine how picturesque I was - And how soon Dr. Harvey was to venture through the streets in light moonlight with such a figure! But we had a nice, pleasant walk - The dear man was actually leading to the washerwoman to get his clothes, that he might go on to London with us, to take care of his leg on the way - But we stopped such an overtask upon his kindness - Friday was a lovely day - So I finished packing, & Mrs. Sedgwick put up a basket of cold chicken, bread, biscuits, &c. to refresh us, & when we got on dinner, & a little bottle of wine & ^{put} ~~put~~ all together in a nice basket - Mrs. Sedgwick & Dr. Harvey labelled all the luggage, down to the bundle of wraps, & put into my hand a card with a list of the different pieces - And at 12 o'clock we bade good bye to dear Nelly - I cannot tell you half how kind they were to us in every way, from eldest to youngest - And all done so that you quite forgot how much they were doing for you - Mrs. Sedgwick is charming - And has a great deal of wit & humor behind the quiet Quaker manner - And I got very much attached to the children, particularly little Nelly.

Mr. Todhunter & Dr. Harvey went down to Kingstown with us, & saw us on board the boat. And at last we bade them good bye - I began to think with Mrs. Wenthams, that it is a great draw-back in travelling to make good, kind, pleasant friends, that one would cling to always, & then be forced to bid them good bye - Perhaps, most probably, never to meet again! -

Soon after we left the harbour, leaving Dr. Gray by the fire in the saloon, I retreated to the ladies' cabin & a sofa; for ever since I have been upon the ocean, I am very unsteady on the water - But by lying still, I got on very comfortably, & was edified by the froans of an old lady-passenger - "Rasty, horrid piece of water! It is very hard they can't bridge it over!" & then at the deck walkers, "Frightful, horrid creatures, I have been wondering when they would get tired!" - Her daughters rightly responded "It was the longest 5th hours they ever passed!" to which I privately agreed - The moon rose just as we landed, so we could recognize the Castle Hotel, & we got safely to the R.R. - We saw there the man, (steamboat director I think he is) who saw Dr. Gray fall. And who helped him afterwards to the omnibus & to bed - He says the fall was at least 20 feet - That he saw Dr. Gray go down, & said to the men, "what are you throwing luggage down this side for?" They answered, "it is a man down!" - He said he had no idea of finding him alive - I told him it was shameful there was no guard - He said it was very misty that Ex on the side he fell - The more reason, I should think, that there should be some protection! - The cars were off by 7, & Dr. Gray & I made a good dinner from Mrs. Todhunter's basket - We reached Chester at 10, & went at once to bed - The next morning was soft & pleasant, & Dr. Gray was anxious to show me the Cathedral - I feared the fatigue of the walk, but he insisted it did not tire him, so we set off - Fortunately Chester is not a large place - But the houses are very quaint & old - Many of them with gable ends to the streets, & with wooden beams filled in with plaster, making many grotesque shapes & patterns, & sometimes the wood is elaborately carved - The Cathedral looks more ancient than it is, for

it was built of very soft stone which has worn away, rounding the corners, & scaling off in some places - The choir is fitted up for service & has very elaborately carved stalls - And sides quite round - We were in time to hear the end of the service - It is always chanted in cathedrals - Then we took a survey of the church outside - Then Dr. Gray insisted on going to show me part of the old wall - Chester was an old walled town, & the wall still stands, but has been built upon so closely in some places on both sides, that you would not know you were on the wall until told - The top of the wall serves as a promenade about wide enough for two, & where it crosses the streets there are no longer gates, but a wide arch; we passed the old tower where King Charles I saw his army defeated on Rowton Moor - And we walked some way on the old wall - You can go quite round on it - The streets were gay with preparations for Xmas - The houses are built with the first story, say a shop or open stall, then the second story is half away, & overhung by the 1st floor, making an open gallery, by which you can pass from one end of a street to the other over the shops underneath, & covered from the weather - There are often shops opening into these galleries, & sundry things displayed in them for sale - The butchers' shops have open fronts, & great pieces of meat were hung up stuck with holly boughs; the grocers' windows made most tempting displays, & were dressed with artificial flowers; boys had great heaps of holly, laurestine & other boughs for sale; and as, being Saturday, I suppose it was market-day, the streets were very picturesque - Here a group of rough, shaggy little donkeys, there women squatted with heaps of nice looking vegetables, poultry held up to tempt you, & girls with nice baskets & a clean towel inside it, offering "to wait on your honour, & take your purchases" - And some successful applicants following a housekeeper with her basket half laden on her head - We got back to the Inn in time to rest, & at 1/2 past 1 took the N.E. to Litchfield - We began to see snow as we went on, & when we reached L., it was drizzling, freezing, slushy, cold & dreary -

Lumberland Place. New Dec. 29th.
Sunday

Here we are settled in our snug lodgings since Monday aft. - Dr. Jay continues to do well - though he needs checking somewhat - I have got no letters this week - And as I have one from Dr. Harvey on Christmas, & he sends no foreign letters, I suppose this steamer brought none - I hope it is not bad news that has prevented writing - I have given them up now though I thought the delay at first was from their being sent to Ireland - But to continue, here we are, with journal - The station at Leichfield is a mile from the town, & we were glad when the omnibus dropped us at last at the comfortable George inn, where a nice fire & good dinner soon cheered us - The next morning, as I thought to pay felt the effects of yesterday's chill, I wanted him to stay at home, certainly not to go to the Cathedral, they are generally so damp & chilly - At last we compromised matters, by driving to a parish church, which they said was warmed, & where we heard a good sermon; & then drove to the Cathedral - The found us going in to that, that the choir was most comfortably warmed & filled up - Quite proving! - The Cathedral is very fine outside & in - It has three spires, two at the end of the nave, & 1 where the cross meets - And there is a neat deal of handsome carving & other ornament; but the flying buttresses are heavy - The choir is simple inside, but very handsome, & of fine stained glass windows at the end - The modern one at the side shows badly in contrast - The nave is long & high, & a fine stained window at the end - The aisle runs the whole length, & at the end of one is the famous statue of Chaucer's of the sleeping children - There is another statue of him in the church, & some modern ornaments but not many old ones - We had a fine view of the Cathedral inside & out, & it is well worth seeing, & one can see it too, for there is a nice open square round it, & a handsome house for the Bishop on one side - We walked back, & at a little distance is a sheet of water spanned by a handsome bridge, & with iron railings & trees about it, & it made a very pretty view as a foreground, with the

cathedral rising in the back - Leichfield has the most comfortable, venerable, substantial pork, just as antique as Chester, but old & expensive taste, & I loved it for its warm sake - In the market place is a station to Lamb. Junction - We were up betimes in the morning & bade good bye to our most comfortable inn & took the "rail" at 9 1/2 for London - It was cold, & crowded, & slow, & we did not get to London until after 1 - Then such a crowd & confusion, & such a strife for a cab! We got one at last, stopped at Dr. Booth's to report ourselves, & see if he had any letters, & drove at once, an interminable & miles it seemed to me, to Kensington - At the garden gate we found a note from Dr. Williams, containing our address, & Lumberland Place sounded grand, but we found a neat, little, two story house, & on the second floor two rooms, parlour & chamber; they are very small, but neat as neat can be, & look out pleasantly; the chamber on yards & the green fields, the front on the Victoria garden - The omnibuses to London pass our door, & the R. R. is 8 minutes walk - Our nice old woman keeps the house, & looks after things, & waits on us, cooks & does everything for 12s. a week! which is the cost of the room. They bring in a pile at the end of the week for every thing eatable, which they procure at our order, & for the "coals"; we find ourselves in tea & scotch, & in a little cupboard at my side are sugar bowl, tea caddy, &c. under lock & key, if I please - Odd this, going to housekeeping as it were, here in a "foreign land"! - About 12 am here after our arrival Mr. Tim. & Miss Brooks called - I was in shocking dishabille, but must see them - While we were at dinner Lady Hooker sent us a pudding & some nice tea, & we found when we came a note from her asking us to dinner the next day & on Christmas - In the eve. came a sweet bunch of flowers from Miss Brooks - We were asked to come as soon after breakfast as possible next day, & so as soon

as I could accomplish some necessary things Tuesday morn.
we were off; but not before 12th ^{Dr. G's} ^{inexpressible} fidget. Had a pleasant day, they dine
at 1 as Sir Hm. is ordered on account of his invalid state, &
were not back until after tea - Dr. Gray undertook to read
aloud to me after we got back, & what with the fatigue
of walking to the books & back, felt dull & was morn.
so we gave up going to church & took the N.E. at 1 1/2 to
Banyhall, then a cab to Clapham to dine with the Wards,
got there in time for Dr. G. to get a nap before dinner -
Found Mrs. Ward still poorly, but she came down to
dinner, had a pleasant, merry dinner, warmest welcome
from them all, & a merry, frolicking evening - We persuaded
Dr. Gray to go to bed at 11 1/2, but I did not get to bed until
1 1/2! - Dr. Gray & I, with two little children of a friend's in
India, whom they keep for the holidays, made with them
all, brothers & sisters, 16 - A fine large family, & so happy in
themselves! - Yesterday morn. Ann Ward went into London
with us, & we passed the day shopping - Dr. G. & I returning
here at dusk - Last E. came a note from Lady Woster,
inviting us there to dine today - He accepted; but this morn.
I felt dull, (eat too much pudding I suppose,) & between you &
I, glad of an excuse to pass the day chatting with you, as my
spouse must go to the Verb. I sent Min charged with apolo-
gies from me, & to make my place good himself -

I enclose two pair of the "Spider mitts" the long for Lizzie
the short for another, as I was boxes from their loving
Jaunie - If any body fancies them enough to order some
through me, they will bestow the best of charities, & I will
gladly execute commissions; they are not very expensive, &
there are different patterns - They are all knit by hand & of the
finest silk - Beg a little for me, Sue! Most warm love to all
from your fond Jaunie



Gray, Jane Loring. 1850. "Gray, Jane Dec. 18, 1850 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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