

the left leg in rather dis-jointed fashion - A bag  
of Maria's & her mended had just come by carrier as  
promised, so she & Mrs. Conway went off in an early  
North London train. How if she could get it - George  
took the train at 8.40 & got to the London station  
earlier with the <sup>baggage</sup> luggage, mother & Dr. Gray & settled  
up the baggage & took the 9.12 with the maps, which  
were all put into a cab with me at the Waterloo &  
I rounded Charing Cross while mother & Dr. Gray  
took a short cut across Hungerford Bridge to get  
home with a walk - I fancy the Cab-man must have  
thought I had maps & bags etc. for me. - We found  
George at the Station, a compartment secured, & we  
gathered at length together & took our places for  
Folkestone - The country looked rather dreary & wintry,  
though the frost was gone - It was the day of borough  
elections, & some towns were gay with flags, especially  
Folkestone blue & yellow & purple & crimson, & bands  
playing & people cheering - We crowded into the boat,  
which was very full, & mother & I made for the  
ladies' cabin at once, but could only get places on the floor.  
There we laid perfectly still, & were favoured with a  
very smooth crossing - Only very few were sick, &  
mother & I escaped completely - But it is an utter  
disgrace & shame to have such a place on such a

11

Paris, Nov. 19, '66 -

My dear Sue.

I feel as if we were fairly  
launched, & live in triumph & a wandering state.  
Here we are in Paris again looking gay enough  
after smoky London, though even here we find  
precious little sun-shine - Indeed Maria  
Lathrop & I come to the conclusion that only in  
America do we know what sun-shine means  
or warm sun -

Saturday morn. we left our letters to be post-  
ed, & Maria leaving me to town early, mother & I  
took our way at 10/2 in the omnibus to Kensington  
the Museum of Nat. - Maria met us there about  
12. Mrs. Dalney was to have come but was pre-  
vented - It is utterly useless attempting to give  
any description, but it is one of the most inter-  
esting places I ever saw, & where one could go  
week after week & learn something new & enjoy  
speech every time - I have no idea of the outside  
of the building, but the inside covers an enormous  
extent of ground; large, high rooms, lighted mostly



from above, tiled (nicely) floors, with open work  
iron & let through warm air; then collections  
of everything, all the materials used in art,  
China ancient & modern, lace, embroidery,  
jewel-work, carvings, sculpture, ~~stout work~~,  
all ages & nations, & up stairs in galleries  
admirable collections of pictures, water colors  
& oil paintings, the Vernon collection, many of  
Turner's, & the best Landscapes I ever saw -

Diogenes & Alexander, Dignity & Impudence, some  
lovely King Charles, a blood hound; also Rosa Bonheur's  
Horse Fair, & many other fine things - The architec-  
ture of the building inside is very handsome  
partly because so well suited to everything - It is  
a public institution open free to every one & you  
see all sorts of people there, poor children, shabby  
men, fine ladies, artists all varieties - Some of  
the things are owned by government others are  
lent by the owners - One room was filled with  
a collection of Dutch paintings lent by a lady -  
We had lunch there in a large refreshment room.  
As we only took soup & tea &c. we did not go into  
the adjoining room where if you want a chop they  
cook it before your eyes at a huge range - I left  
Mother & Pina & went to call on Mrs. Beaumont &

say good-bye & then dropped into stores for one  
or two errands & took a cab to the Waterloo Sta.  
expecting to meet them there - But after waiting,  
looking as well as I could into all the carriages,  
I got into the one next the Engine & rode almost  
alone to Kew & getting out there & walking 1/2 a mile  
it seemed to get to the station & get out by met them  
having come in the very last car & just got in as the  
train started! -

Sunday Dr. Gray went off to see the Trade & say  
good-bye. After going to church with them went up  
to London to lunch with the Lewises - The rest of us  
made it a quiet day at Kew - I was rheumatic &  
cold, & it was a very sharp day -

Monday I devoted to packing, rearranging, boxing  
work, for of course we must leave some things, &  
other things only wanted for winter, & then to be  
gone 3 months perhaps, & everything taking more  
room than you expected, & the new bag turning out  
a humbug, & not holding very much more than  
the old one! I got tired & cross & despairing -  
However Mother's party has the happiness of a  
which they call "the dormitory," bought in Milan,  
never full, & holding any overplus, & I put some  
trimmings over into that, & rearrange in Paris -



great line of travel as that boat goes for a Ladies' Cabin! — He landed at Boulogne, got a nice dinner of delicate French cooking & then three easiest of sail-way carriages, the French first class. Nicely manned too, with hot water tin canisters. We took tea at Amiens & decided we might as well go on to Paris all were so fresh after nice naps, & reached there about 1/4 to 9. There was a tedious waiting there for the examination of baggage etc. was however the merest farce for I did not unpack a thing. — Then a little omnibus took us all & bag & baggage, to the Grand Hotel de l'Attence — Here we are quietly settled —

Nov. 20th —

We have a parlor, mother's room opens out on one side, my room on the other, a "grande lit," (large for one but small for two), bureau low, with large marble top serves for wash-stand, fire place with a large mirror over, clock & candle sticks, a clock in the parlour, a clock in mother's room — Phoebe George & Mr. Amory have rooms farther along the entry. — The passages are all nicely warmed, the house is new & fresh & neat, our rooms are in the top of the house, cheaper for that; & having the advantage of the lift, one does not mind the stairs. — We take breakfast, some of us, here, & then go out for dinner, lunch



being a chance - Wednesday mother, Dr. Gray, Plinia  
& I had coffee for three, tea for one, "Complot," meaning  
roll & butter then with, a liberal supply, then mother  
& I had soup for lunch - So much, I found, when  
dinner came - The Miss Schuylers called - They had  
a wretched passage, very sea-sick, very rough weather.  
We went out to dine at one of the places they call  
"Bonillon", immense establishments where you order  
by the carte but very cheap - bread 2 ct., napkins 1 ct.,  
soup 5 ct. &c. &c. - A very nice dinner we had, & a bottle  
of wine in honour of Dr. Gray's birth-day - Plinia & I  
brought him in at lunch a pumpkin pie, for they  
went to lunch at the famous place where the "Am-  
erican" dishes are served - Pickballs, buckwheat cakes, &c.  
Dr. Gray went to the Jardin des plantes, & did not  
come back until 2 o'clock, when Henri Vilmonin &  
Maurice came to call - Henri is a fine tall broad  
fellow, & so is Maurice tall, but looking exactly as he  
did at 2 years old! - We lingered along after dinner  
through the Passages (Covered ways) with such a display  
of jewelry, imitation mostly, & fine fancy articles, paper,  
the windows of the restaurants, always pictures with fish  
& fruit & vegetables, & then back again, & early to bed -  
But I must finish, as we are going out - Good bye & lots  
of love to all - Ever faithfully, Jane -  
Charles telegraphed at Queenstown Wednesday Ev. ! Poor fellow, such

a low passage!



Gray, Jane Loring. 1868. "Gray, Jane Nov. 19, 1868 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/225927>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/262667>

**Holding Institution**

Harvard University Botany Libraries

**Sponsored by**

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.