

to see some great masses fall! Only think these glaciers
come down from the great sea of ~~rock~~ ice, 300 sq.
miles, round which these steep, faint mountains
stand as guard - Sunday morn. we visited the upper
glacier while Dr. Gray went to church - Walked into a long
fissile cut in where ^{the ice} ends, & which winds in until you are
quite shut in by this clear blue ice. In some places ^{main}
of old ice, how many years nobody knows, lies black under
the heavier white, showing how glaciers retreat & advance
again - It is some 200 or more feet shorter than we saw it 19
years ago, & shrunk enormously, leaving the immense mass
marmine on each side - We sat some time under a great
boulder formerly brot down, sloped at the low arch, the dirty,
rapid torrent rushing out, & above as it bends over to the valley,
the wonderful rifts & chasms & peaks & needles truly of this
white ice, or blue in the crevices - It is utterly impossible to get
up from the lower end, for must go up miles, to where it is more
level - Fortunately some men had partly made the ascent,
& when one could barely see the little black, moving specks
on the green Alp just over our heads, one could realize a
little the vast height of bare rock, snow crowned, extending
above - The weather looked uncertain, fortunately we
decided to drive down to Interlachen before dark, for
next morn. it rained hard. I had not that before how high
the valley lay, but it was almost steady descent all the way.

3P

Finished Paris, Aug. 1st '69 -

My dear Luc, We were all glad you. to be quiet
for awhile in our rooms after getting to Grindenswald,
for we walked more than we had intended, &
the roads were very bad - They say the Berneese
Oberland is more visited than any other part of
Switzerland, & it is a great shame the roads are so
poor, so badly made, so badly engineered, such a
contrast to those of Zermatt & Chamouni - Dr.
Gray said he had walked over the Bernese Alp
30 years ago, & 19 years ago, & meant to walk it now -
So he walked 2 1/2 hours to Trivisore, slept there, came
down next morn. in 1 1/2 hours, walked up the Bern
Alp & down to Grindenswald getting there at 6,
all in very nearly 24 hours! He says he was very much
mistaken when he thought in the Engadine he had
lost breath - That was caused by the beginning of a
very bad cold, & his mind & legs are almost as good
as ever! He did have a wretched cold that hung on
very obstinately, & it is only the last few days that he
has quite thrown it off - The guide leading my horse
said, "Fronseur a de tres bon pieds!" - Knecker, the
guide book, says, "Beaucoup de patience & de petites
monnaie," must be provided for the Oberland, the

'Small change' is true too - Then those huge horns some
8 ft. long broken echoes, old women offer little
branches of flowers, & young women small wood cane
sigs, &c. little children baskets of raspberries or bunches
of edelweiss, (I enclose a specimen, it grows very high
& near glaciers,) then old women sing, & little, fine
my boys, & plates of straw-berry are set in front of
Chalets, & every device is practiced to earn a few
centimes - But their season is short & they must
make the most of it - ^{Edelweiss} Edelweiss is a green val-
ley lying on one side under the sharp, high peaks of
the Wetterhorn, the Mittelberg & Eiger, which show
almost precipitous faces of bare rock, snow-crowned,
& between which come down the upper & lower glaciers
quite into the valley & below the range of cultivation.
The other side stretches up in rich, looking slopes to the
high wooded hills, ^{rare,} & green mountain tops behind. The
houses are just like the little fancy Swiss cottages we see
in books, pretty & comfortable looking, some quite large,
& the grain fields looked rich - We passed herds of
fine-looking cattle, the cows small handsome &
altogether it was more rich & thriving looking than
the Rhone valley & its tributaries - The people are more
healthy looking, & not so hard-worked - and Sunday
there was a great display of costumes, - white chemisettes

& black bodices, dark skirts & huge light colored aprons,
the apron is a very important part of dress - Some
had little black velvet caps with broad black lace in
front, falling round the head & face, & some straw
hats - Some young girls had only their hair braided
in long twists round their head-dresses. They had planned
red fire up the Saal horn on Saturday to sleep, &
get the grand panorama, - but our good weather,
in which we have been so highly favored, seemed
over, & threatening clouds gave poor promise for
sun set or sun rise - So they gave it up, & after a
quiet, resting morning, Dr. Gray & Charles, L. & K. set off
the three on horseback, to visit the lower glacier -
They had not been gone long when it began to rain heav-
ily, & I watched them through the glass to a shelter.
Then it stopped & I saw them walking - After awhile
it poured again with sharp thunder, & I got a little
anxious - At 6 1/2 Dr. Gray arrived, well wet - He had taken
a short cut on foot, had shelter thro' part of the rain, &
met them going up as he came back - He had no
change of clothes, & so went to bed! - They did not get
back until after dark (Anna & I had had our tea), very
wet & very dirty, but I am happy to say they had tak-
en no cold, & enjoyed the grand view of the great
ice masses, & broken & treed - Dr. Gray was so lucky as

on me at noon, & ask me to dine with them. And
presently Dr. Gray & Prof. J. appeared, & we had a walk
through the shaded promenade & their pleasant house.
^{one of those wonderful & delicious great Swiss castles!}
He had a pleasant dinner, ^{the three daughters,} very
simple, pleasing, intelligent, young girls, the brother of Dr.
Godet, & two young men - But as Mr. Godet was the only
one who talked any English, & he but imperfectly, we
had to depend entirely on French, & how I do stumble
& blunder when several are listening & feel most
anxious to do well! I understand easily, but the horrible
enders, & persons of the verbs! - After dinner they took us
to the Musée & saw the collection of pictures by native
artists - There were some beautiful landscapes by
Bastien, charming scenes of peasant life, Bernese, but the
treasure, a grand sun-view on Mt. Roca by Calame -
Then we went into a museum of all the animals & birds
of Switzerland, stuffed & grouped naturally, from great
bears & mice, & Eagles & sparrows, the number & variety won-
derful! And a most amusing appendage of little animals
stuffed & representing scenes. A trial in court, a funeral
with delicious, mourning owls, the fox coming as penitent
to the cat, a dog as policeman surprising marionettes & Jews
receiving stolen goods, cats at a tea-party, &c., &c., the expression
given to the faces was wonderful - I tried unsuccessfully,
& got some photographs of them - Then I went back

(2)
A fine high-road, but our driver helped the carriage
with shoe & brake - The mountains were grander than
ever, for soft, fleecy clouds skirted & then veiled, & then
hovered amidst them, & the tops looked sublime when
just appearing above the great, soft mass, rolling white be-
low them - Hettshorn, Mittenberg & Eger are all too sharp
& precipitous to have much snow upon them, only in rifts
& patches, or on the more sloping side from us - And as
we moved away, the cone of Schreckhorn came in sight
behind the Mittenberg - The valley was rich with grain
fields, the houses large & comfortable looking, mightily
trimmed with wood carvings, & occasionally texts on
the outside - The people were chatting in groups & the children
were toddling round - But before we reached the Lautera-
brunnen valley, from which Gindelwald branches, it grew
wild & narrow, & the black Gutachne tumbled through, the
road following closely its side & sometimes crossing - How
cold the air from these glacier streams is! - I had thought
it 1 1/2 hours drive, but it was fully 2 1/2, & almost quite
dark when we reached our hotel, so it made 10 o'clock.
tea, too late for a good night's sleep, so next day I did
not feel energetic under the racing ship, & Dr. Gray & I
gave up the plan of going off to pass the day at Jostbad, &
see the famous fall - The others decided too, to wait for the
6 o'clock boat, as exploring a waterfall all day in the rain

is not tempting - to me counted & weighed & refashioned wash
& trunks, & did some shopping in Swiss wares - And at
5 1/2 they all departed, Charles, Anna, Lizzie & Katherine, to
take the steamer over the Lake of Brinz to Fribach -
Next morn. by diligence over the Brunn Pass to the lake
of Lucerne, down that on steam-boat & then by rail to
Basle - Thence by Strassburg & Heidelberg & down the
Rhine to Cologne, joining us in Paris next Monday morn.
Anna Gray's last movements will be decided by what she
hears from Mrs. Huntington - Dr. Gray & Wolff Enter -
Lachen on Tuesday morn. at 7 1/2 to 10 - Met the Messrs.
Shippen on the boat, & got to Bern at 1 - Had dinner, &
then took a carriage with them to see the curious town,
part arcades, & odd square towers & old walls & new build-
ings & broad streets in strange contrast - The cathedral
has some fine balustrades outside round the roof, & a
quaint representation of the vice & foolish virgins over the
front porch - The vice virgins with burning lamps, smok-
ing, smug & self-consciously good, & brisk, the foolish, dol-
ful & sleepy, & some quite bawling & blubbering - The terrace at
the side is very grand - So high a perpendicular wall, that
you look down the steep sides of the houses on the street running
below! It is planted with trees, & seats are placed, & men
were smoking & chatting, & women knitting & sewing &
loosely & headling babies in the cool shade - There is

a magnificent view of the whole Bernese range to be
seen from it, but we could only see bewildering clouds
aping mountains, & had to content ourselves with the
memories of the week before - Then we went to see the
live bears kept by the town of Berne, & viewed one bear
rice bath in the foot built in his pit, as he paddled in
& laid down, & amused himself playing with a stick shot
the sport, play over him, then came out quite grisly &
trotted about to dry himself - There are two deep, stone-faced
pits with trees in the middle for them to climb & a tank
in each, & then cubs behind - Three little bears playing
like puppies one side, two large ones the other - Read as
bored in Berne, in wood & stone & bronze, & every kind
of device - Then we went to see the famous clock strike,
a little porch at one side, where an old man nods his
head & opens his mouth & turns his long glass, & an atten-
dant bear also nods his head as many times as the clock
strikes, a harlequin strikes the bell, & a procession of bear
moves below, & a cock crows feebly three times - Then the
fountain, where an old boy holds one child in his mouth &
others tucked about in his belt & straps, & then to the R.R.
station to rest & wait for the train - We got to Granchet
soon after 8 - The hotel was pleasantly situated on
the lake shore, & I had a quiet morn., while Dr. Gray
went off to work with M. Fodet - Mlle. J. came to call

ful carvings of Philip the Bold of Jean sans peur &
his wife Marguerite of Burgundy - rather grim in
best expression as they lay stretched in full sized
effigies - The monuments were shattered in the revo-
lutions of '93, but the fragments preserved & since
restored - We left for Paris at 11 1/2, only first class
on the express train, as we were packed, 8 grown
people, in two common-sized carriage bodies side
by side, stuffed & covered with broad cloth & broken
curtains, to smother & pant for 6 1/2 hours - European r.r.
carriages may be more comfortable & luxurious for
cold weather, but give me for a hot day our free ven-
tilation, & not to face your neighbour & never want to
stretch your feet without hitting him, & then only the
two large door windows & 4 little ones at their side, & these
the four lucky people control, indifferent to the sun
that scorches their neighbours, or that their drawn
curtains are shutting off the ventilation, unless, like
some, like a little Frenchman one of our company,
you choose to refresh & air yourself by making yourself
the curtain, especially when stopping at a station.
An English party of 3 had 3 of the window seats, & the
4th.; and I must say the young Englishman next
me, was about as selfish & ungracious a specimen as
one often meets, & none seemed to recognize there

to the Hotel d'Orléans, & to do some more botanical
work. It was very warm that day, & the day before - He
came for me towards sun-set, & we went to the quay to see
the view, sometimes seen, of all the Alps from
Rene & Fort Blanc - Earlier, better than, Eger & Jungfrau
had shown shadow on the horizon, but cumulus clouds &
haze had shut all out, & only imagination said, mon-
tains were there! - We went to the Bazaar to get some
last little specimens of Swiss work. It is astonishing how
the style & taste of Swiss carving is improved
since we were abroad before, it is so bold & fine
now! If only the distance were not so great & the
things so hard to carry, there would be no resisting
the temptations of beautiful, large clocks in such
carved cases, fine reliefs of birds & game, heads of
Chamois, goats, bulls, &c. & the old spoons & forks even
have such graceful handles - One's purse is all
too short for all the tasteful, artistic things one
sees everywhere - The next morn. we left Ne-
chatot at 10 - The rail-road is high above the town
& a steep ride & it - and the omnibus horses were
almost as stout & large as in our ice-carts - Such
fine horses as he have been almost everywhere in
Germany & Switzerland, in the street cabs & in
races - I remember at Chaux-de-Fonds, I thought it looked

as if a gentleman's stable were standing in the street for hire - And it is rare to see the pitiful, wretched things one sees at home or in England - And yet the street carriages are almost all so cheap!

The rail-road from Neuchâtel to Dijon crosses the Jura, & if one were not directed from Louis Vuitton & Vallée, the fine Jura & deep valley with the little stream foaming below, & the deep hollow among the high hills, & thriving villages in such green valleys would seem very striking. But the Alps make these bold things a little tame, & I confess to being a little disappointed, after all I had heard of the grand beauty of the water. ^{the lake, the travers} But it was pleasant to see everything so thriving, such signs of prosperity; manufactories & farms, & comfortable looking houses - very New England looking villages, with pointed church spires - It had been an uncertain day, raining in early morning & cool among the hills, but as we made the rapid, steep descent towards France, it grew hot, & was uncomfortable & oppressive before reaching Dijon at 4 1/2 - We had two pleasant Canadians in the carriage, one of the nicest, most kindly civil & polite young men I have seen this many a day, & the elder, agreeable & sociable - He filled up when we changed carriages & one lady dropped a long curt into the lap of my

next neighbour as she got in! - Mamma, join your long curls on safely when you go travelling! She did not know, until my neighbour said, 'Mici, Madame!' I was tired, & glad to get to our hotel, & went to bed very early - But it was a noisy place, & we were near the station, & trains arrive all through the night - & of course people must be up to attend to departing & arriving parties, & laugh & talk & keep themselves awake, & my dreams were troubled - Next morning was very warm again, & we tried to get out early to see the old town, famous in the history of the Dukes of Burgundy - We went to the Palais de Justice, the old Palace of Dukes of Burgundy, & saw old rooms & carved wood ceilings, & a curious porch, & very old carved wood doors, & a huge fire place, & such pretty flowers in the courtyard - Then by a church, the porch by a pupil of Michel Angelo, the effect of Gothic, & yet not a bit of Gothic in it, all curves & rounds! To the Musée, the largest of the old Ducal Palaces, the kitchen, with joined roof & fireplaces where 400 men might be roasted whole at once, the tower where Duke René was imprisoned, & another tower all that is left of the old building - But there is a great pile beside, & fine large rooms where the late parliaments were held, & now where are lecture galleries, &c - & the famous, elaborate tombs of various marbles & bronzes

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could be any but themselves in the carriage - Dec-
idedly the most civil & agreeable, were the two
other passengers, a lady's maid & footman - But
it is a shame for a great rail-way, especially any
that pride themselves on management as the French
do, on such a day to so crowd their carriages on such
a long route - I got in cross, & I can't say grew amiable
as the day went on. The Country is uninteresting
& tedious, great plains, hot & brown with reaped
harvest of grain & grass, endless rows of Lombardy
poplars, solid, square, stone farm-houses with high
stone-walls round farm-yard, or villages crowded
close, with white, bare streets in the hot sun -
Part of the way vineyards, but they are only trained
on sticks & cut low, & more walls around them -
As we drew near Paris it grew more hilly & more
picturesque, with more varied trees & cultivation,
& now & then handsome country houses & Chateaux,
with trim gardens & little ponds - But one is
struck everywhere with how much more vegetation
must be an article of diet than with ^{us} one sees such
immense fields of them of all kinds - It
grew fresher as the afternoon passed, & we reached
Paris at 6 o'clock. The Station arrangements were cer-
tainly good; on going through the appointed "Porte",

an officiable met us & asked how much luggage we
had, in tolerable English, advised us to take a little
omnibus, shewed us to one, told us the fare, which he
wrote on a printed ticket handed by the driver, said
the man would take ^{the luggage} ~~it~~ when the V.R. porter bro't
it, when such doors were opened. - So the luggage is
all sorted & arranged, & presently the ^{V.R.} ~~jaquin~~ brings
it, gets his little fee, ~~it~~ goes on top the omnibus,
& we were off for nearly an hour's drive across Paris
to the Athenée, where we all were last November.
Saturday I went out with Dr. Gray to do some errands
& get some things going before the rest arrived, took
orders & measured for, &c., &c. - Then we looked about
rooms, & decided to stay where we were, taking the
same parlour & bed room we had before; As Chas &
the girls would be particularly well accommodated,
& we get our meals served in our rooms at the same
rate as at the restaurant down stairs. - The 1st parlor
& three chambers for 24 francs - Then later we went
to dine at the Palais Royal, no Rue Rivoli; & went
afterwards to amuse ourselves looking in at windows
at the Palais Royal, & admiring jewelry & all sorts of
splendours & fancy things. I took a monstrous long
walk, & so have kept quiet today, except for the ^{going}
street, as quiet as a Sunday in Cambridge. Dr. G. has
been to church - Much love to you all, from Jane & self.



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane Aug. 1, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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