

than almost anything in Rome. And all this in the heart of
Paris. Another day through the Egyptian portion of the
Louvre Museum, where we descended back upon old Egypt
where I had a look again upon some old favorite pictures
of the modern French school. They do tell their story more
deeply, & it is a little curious that the French stage &
its pictures are so much less theatrical, as we call it, than
English pictures or the Eng. stage. There is a Cupid kissing
Psyche, & you see her feeling that soft, invisible kiss! And
a very sweet & pathetic burial of Virginia, from Paul & Virginia.
One day Charles & the girls went to Versailles, it was too much
for me to attempt, & they saw the Luxembourg & saw many
things I had to content myself with only memories of.
Wednesday Ev. we went to the Opera & saw the Prophete.
I enjoyed the music much more than I expected, it
was full of rich strains & grand harmonies. It was
all well acted & well sung, without any wonderful
stars, & indeed, the mother, was acted with a good deal of
pathos, & sweetly sung. Some of the men's voices were
magnificent. The spectacle was wonderful. One scene
is in winter & the peasant boys & girls come in & singing &
come on parlor seats, but done with wonderful ease &
grace, & imitation of all the motions of skating. The two
leaders went through such charmingly graceful figures
together, such a contrast for true grace of movement &

240

Palace House, Sept. 4, '69

My dear Lou,

My journal has fallen dreadfully
into arrears, & it seems an immense time to
go back & take it up in Paris, Aug. 31st! Monday
morn. we went to have our photographs taken &
Lizzie & Annie were, I think, quite successful. We
had first tried the man who has the greatest reputa-
tion for difficult people, but we found him quite
fit & grand for quiet people like us. Took an attendant
gentleman in the waiting room, & "would send you a
written notice a few days beforehand, as soon as his
engagements would allow!" They say you should sit
three months for a bust, & prepare you to sit & be sitting.
We had Nadar. Then, when that important & trying
work was over, we went to see the Sainte Chapelle, a
wonderful little jewel of colour, which has been restored
within these last few years; they were at work when we
were abroad before. Then after a good deal of fuss in
going to the office for tickets, we got into the Conciergerie,
& saw the cell, left very much as it was, where Marie
Antoinette was confined. After her trial & condemna-
tion. A dreary, dark little place, & where though a
patient, she was watched night & day. Then to the Palace

adjoining, where the Girondins had their supper the night before. They were executed - Then we went to see Notre Dame, & I was charmed with the beauty of the front, the great fringe of statues running across it - But in Paris they are rebuilding steaming down every where - In front of Notre Dame they are rebuilding the great Hospital "Hotel Dieu", & removing some old bridge that crowd upon the river - Then we went to see Napoleon's tomb in the Invalides - A wonderful museum where he lies (?) in a magnificent sarcophagus of red polished porphyry, & his great personage around him - After all that I went back to be quiet the rest of the day, & so had a call from our old landlady when we were in Paris before, Madame de Montigny, who was lively & entertaining ^{as ever} - Told me, with all a French woman's frankness, I was so changed! I was not bad looking now, I retained some good looks! But then, when I was in Paris before, I was "si jolie, si jolie!" She evidently mourned for my sake, over the lapse of years! He saw her several times, met her at dinner, & she came to call, & she was very entertaining & sharp & bright - When she saw my neat little cane for journal, addresses, &c. she admired it, & I said it was English - "Ah, no doubt! They spend their lives in unlocking & locking up, & chaining!" - "Je deteste les Anglais!" "Toujours vain!"

& she imitated the washing of hands! - She so firmly hit off some of the little weaknesses one meets! - But she lays in the shoulders of the unfortunate English all the commercial spirit which she says pervades & ruins the Paris of today, & pronounced long & eloquent judgments on the changes of French society, & its loss of wit & brilliance & intelligence - Tuesday Dr. Fay went to pass a day in the country & visit a place where was a large collection of trees, & meantime we ladies tried to finish up our shopping - Had me pleasant excursion for artificial flowers, it is a real pleasure to see how beautiful they are, & what close imitations of nature, - rose buds the roses leaves a little stained & curled by an insect, too perfect - it is involuntary to smell them! -

The rest of the week was filled up with Hotel Clugny & its wonderful & interesting collection of mediæval things, such beautiful wood carvings, & work in ivory & crystal & metals - Old armor, furniture, & embroidery & lace - State Carriages wonderfully gorgeous but very awkward things beside in, sedan chairs with delicate landscapes painted outside, & lined in some soft with velvet must have been a charming set off to a pretty creature inside, & the old building itself a delightful specimen of an old mediæval dwelling, & in each a pretty garden, in which are the remains of Roman baths more perfect

story below, & then the little framed compartments, bas-reliefs
of scenes from the Bible & the lives of saints - The room
is such a comfortable, plain, neat, little French inn!
The maid seemed to think it a pleasure to wait
upon us! And the kitchen next the dining-room was
brilliant with copper stoves, & meat-dishes -

We left at 10 1/2, & were soon at ^{Boulogne} ~~London~~, found the
sea as smooth as it sometimes is, when one keeps on deck by
shutting one's eyes & thinking of nothing, though Dr. Fay ag-
gravated people, by promenadeing the deck & eating paper
in the most formal manner - The boat was so crowded that
a seat seemed a favor - It is a shame on that great water,
the accommodation is so poor! - We got some lunch at
Folkestone, & then Chark & jostled by express to London,
finding also plenty of dust & cinders - One goes fast, &
that is all one can say of praise - We went to the
Charing Cross Hotel, an enormous, new affair, modifying
old fashions so much as to have a dining room where one
could go for meals, & to need not take a parlour. But our
chamber was barely room to squeeze round, in with the feet
English bedsteads - What asks they are! - Dr. Fay was
found to be much at home, northen was last autumn,
& found Prof. Godwin & Lovings there - And next morn-
ing we moved there - We had to have a parlor, & it was by
no means cheap - But London is not cheap -

Find much love to you all, from your ever aff. p.d.

(2)
position to the leaders in the ballet-dance which fol-
lowed, where all to admire. Seem'd to me de force, &
brilliant flashes & changes of the different gay colors in
the dresses, & extraordinary displays of legs at right angles.
It seems as if now-a-days the taste for pure beauty were
diminishing, & what catches the eye of people admiring,
are strange contrasts & bright flashes of color & grotesque
outlines - But one scene where a portion of a cathedral
is introduced on the stage, & some boys of girls throwing
flowers, & dignitaries & attendants, soldiers & trumpeters,
the crowd of spectators are all before you, is very enjoy-
able! The music is very grand, & all is so carried out.
K. & L. said it was more impressive than any of the
Easter ceremonies in Rome! - It is the crowning of the
Pasquet - I suppose there were more than 200 people
on the stage - You may imagine how large it is - But
I was disappointed in the theatre as far as spectators
went; it is dingy & dull-colored, & gay dresses & effects
seemed quite lost - Sunday was a great day, the
100th anniversary of Napoleon the 1st's birth day, the
fete day of the Empress - I did not get out in the morn-
ing, but the whole went to church & then to the same to
hear the grand Te Deum, & saw something of the gay
streets hung with flags; & the Exp. the illuminations &
display of fireworks was very superb - But unfortunately the

ties & cold & little impediments in eating all came to a
clinique, & I had to go to bed. - And so Paris was pretty much
over for me - I got out the day before we left for one time
look at some of the pictures in the Louvre, the beautiful
Titians, Leonardo's Mona Lisa, Rembrandt's lady, the
Rococo gardeners, the beautiful Cascade Landscapes, &
the enchanting Murillos - But the girls had to complete
my shopping, & I must leave the rest undone - I ad-
ded to one's fatigue the impunctuality of most of the
work-people - The dress-maker was to come to town at 8 o'clock
& it would be nearly ten! The gentlemen waiting for us
to go out, & evading the idleness of needing all their things,
breakfast a brace of things arriving, & the same shush
fit home in the City, bills to be paid, other things did
not fit around to be altered, dear me! I am glad it
is all over - However it was generally all right in the
end, & things quite satisfactory, though the last day
our dresses kept coming in parts, first the back of
one & the corsage of another & the over skirt of a third,
& it was not until 10 at night everything had ar-
rived! - But meantime the packing had gone on, the
boxes for Liverpool, & the things to go to England with
us, what the girls needed for their journey, &c. &c. &
the chow cleared up - But my great disappointment
was, Dr. Gray that we must give up the excursion to

Brittany, & let C. & the girls go alone if they would, which
at last they decided to do - So Thursday ^{Aug. 18th} noon Dr. Gray &
I departed for the Northern road, & they for the western -
We had seen some Americans in Paris, Mr. Dennis, &
Frank Bartlett, &c. - But we had no time to make calls
or be polite, & all the regular American inhabitants were
out of town for August - One thing was greatly in
our favor in Paris it was so cold! Just think in
August of wrapping up to go out at noon, as I should
the 1st of October at home! -

Dr. Gray & I were to stop at Amiens for the night,
& we got there in time for him to go & take a look
at the grand Cathedral while I was lying down,
& then I had a walk there ~~from~~ before dinner, & first
went round the outside behind, & then in & seen the
grand arches & columns, the magnificent east wall
windows, such a mass of confused & yet regular
brilliance & colour that would be dazzling were
it not so soft, & the finely carved stall seats,
the curious stone bas-reliefs ^{on the outside walls of} ~~surrounding~~ the choir
one the story of John the Baptist, whose death &
the subsequent scenes of Herod's, & send a photo of
You must look at it with a microscope - Next
morn. we went again & studied the front, so mar-
velously rich; especially the porch, with rows of
figures above, then smaller series & a different



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane Sept. 4, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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