

Bingen, on the Rhine, July 24. 1850.
 Dear papa, I hope you have written to me!

Dear Father & Mother

Dr. Gray still takes the labor of keeping up the journal of our travels; for my eyes, though much better, are not equal to writing or any such use. How much I have thought of you, dear father, during these last few days; for I never realized before the trouble of not being able to look at anything, to say nothing of the pain and discomfort. Dr. Gray has written the letters lately in my name; tho. I must say I am often quite ignorant of their contents (being ^{often} unwilling after I am sound asleep). So, I am afraid that the valuable reflections "Christmas & et morales", which I have inwardly made on so many topics, are forever lost to my family & friends. [One comfort is they will never know what they have lost]. Dr. G. keeps putting in a running commentary of remarks. I believe Dr. G. wrote briefly of our doings up to Monday afternoon, leaving us at Bonn, which is beautifully situated on the west bank of the Rhine; just where the plain country terminates, and the bold hills of the fine Rhine scenery commence. In the afternoon Dr. G. & Dr. Boerner, (a gentleman to whom Dr. G. had letters) escorted me up to Pöppelsdorf. The University of Bonn occupies the Palace of the former Elector of Cologne (1/4 mile long, with a fine lawn & avenues of trees before it (& our hotel at the foot of the grounds); and on the other side an avenue of fine trees, each side of a green ~~square~~ lawn, leads straight up to the old Schloss Pöppelsdorf; the country chateau, formerly of the Elector. It is built around a circular court. The lower story contains the museum of Natural History, in rooms still ornamented with the old decorations, paintings in fresco, & stucco-work. Part of the mineralogical cabinet occupies a quaint & singular ~~room~~ saloon, made to represent a grotto; the walls & ceiling entirely covered with crystals, shells, &c. in fantastic forms.

Upper Rhine - river - Rudesheim being nearly opposite
Giesenheim, & Wattenheim, just above - & from the hill over
the town gives a good view of Johannisberg, Steinberg, & a vast
country to the south, where the Rhine passes thro. a
fertile level country. ^(remember the Rhine flows north) This morning I went
up with me - as far as the chapel which commands one
of the finest views, but the weather is cloudy with a
little rain, & the view, beautiful as it is, is restricted -
came back to breakfast, - to which we did ample justice.
The following day - tho. favorable to Sam's eyes - forbids our
crossing the Rhine & ascending to get the view from the Nieder-
wald, above Rudesheim. So we take the boat

Bienné, Switzerland, Tuesday Evening, July 30.th

It is a long time, dear Pappa, that my journal has
been interrupted; but my eyes have not got along as well
as I had hoped when D.G. last laid down the pen; and he
must still write for me. [He would willingly have kept writing
day by day; but it has not been easy to secure time; and
above all he has feared that his horribly obscure handwriting,
which really grows more and more - would prove too trying
for any one's patience.] We are so far behindhand
now that we can only give brief & general notices of our
proceedings.

Well. Tuesday morning of last week, we took a steamer -
boat as it passed Bingen on its way up the Rhine (quicker
little things these steam-boats are to an American eye) per-
haps $\frac{1}{3}$ of the size of one of Hudson River, and a common
deck with an awning, and plain wooden seats, the only pleas-
ant place to sit, and such mixtures of all nations, the greater
part English. ~~What~~ As to the Germans, I know not what for

we would do, with their interminable smoking. —
 We passed by Rudesheim, Stattenheim, &c. and left the boat
 at Biebrich, a few miles below Mayence - took the rail-road
 which joins Wiesbaden & Mayence with Frankfurt, and reached
 this old city ^(Frankfurt) at 4 o'clock P.M. (Hotel de Russie)

Lane has gone to bed, and
 will soon be sound asleep. — no doubt — having accomplished
 a long journey. Deprived of her dictation, I (A. G.) must
 just give you a brief & bare *carte de route* of our
 last week's doings, and Lane must detail her
 observations on matters and things, at greater leisure and with
 better eyes. On this account she did not go out on Tuesday
 in Frankfurt. I roamed over the queer old town, sought
 Dr. Fresenius, — heard he had gone to Switzerland; but it
 proved the next day at noon that it was a cousin of
 the same name, and he called on us. —

Wednesday morning we went to Mr. Bethmann's to see Lau-
 naker's beautiful statue of Ariadne — probably the very
 finest modern statue — and Lane was most delighted with
 it. — and after strolling through the more ancient parts of
 the city, went thro' ~~the~~ the Cathedral, which is neither
 large nor elegant; but remarkable as the place where some
 sixty German Emperors have been crowned; and for curious
 effigies & memorials of some of them.

Geneva.

I got too sleepy to write at all plain, & went to bed. —
 To continue with great brevity. After looking about
 Frankfurt & seeing Prof. Fresenius, came back to hotel,
 and at dinner we were recognized by Dr. Jerome V. C. Smith
 of Boston (with his wife &c.) — who told us the startling news of

the death of our President, and the confusion of the wretched
Prof. Noltes. That afternoon we rode on by railway thro'
Darmstadt to Heidelberg, had an hour & a quarter, which
we devoted to ascending to the Castle in a carriage, & in
viewing one of the most picturesque and imposing ruins, & a view
from its terraces one of the loveliest views that we ever saw.
Our plan will bring us back to Heidelberg again. Over the
Neckar, on our return from Munich: when I saw, with better
eyes, many more her acquaintance with a scene that
enjoyed delighted greatly, as it surprised her, for somehow I
had not led her to expect anything so fine (tho' I highly
enjoyed it long ago). - Coming back to the station, we
went on two hours more to Karlsruhe that evening, -
got into grand quarters at the Hotel d'Angleterre, most
sumptuous apartments, which made us fear an inflammation
of the bill: the latter however proved to be quite moderate.

Thursday morning, after an early breakfast, went
west on by rail-road to Kehl, left our luggage took a
carnage over the bridge of boats, across the line of the
French Republic (?) into Strasbourg. Saw Schimper,
went to a hotel. I saw noted till dinner. Then went to
the Cathedral, viewed the grand front of this imposing struc-
ture, and the wonderful spire, the tallest in the world. -
were much struck with the grandeur of the interior, ably
lighted by stained glass the greater part of it 400 or 500 years
old. After visiting the Museum of Nat. Hist. and arranging
with Schimper to meet him in Switzerland, where he is
to pass, with his wife (a Swiss lady) a long vacation,
we took our carriages & returned to the Baden side of
the river, and came on to Saverbourg that evening, reaching
it in a rain. Having the good fortune to arrive early, from
the station, we were shown into the best room in the Zabrischer

Hotel. - while the English clergyman, wife & friend who were so
white skin to us at Bonn, were obliged to take up with ^{very} inferior
accommodations. Prof. Braun, on calling next day &
noticing our apartment, told us that when last he was in it -
a week before - it was occupied by the Prince of Prussia.
Still it was not so well appointed as that at Karlsruhe.
It cost only 5 florins ~~per~~ for 3 days. = \$2.00. - Prof. Braun
(the brother of the former Mrs. Ascher) was very kind to us.
He is a very interesting man, of charming manners, his wife very
sweet and charming, his children most engaging. Saturday
afternoon we took a carriage and with Prof. Braun rode
up a beautiful valley to the Hölenthal (St. Vallee
d'Enfer), a rocky and wooded gorge of very striking scenery,
- wild & majestic, rather than terrible as its name imports.

Sunday morning. Visited the beautiful St. Catherine's
during service, heard the music, and came back in time
for both of us to attend the English service held by Rev.
Mummett, the English Chaplain in the hotel. In the af-
ternoon I saw and I visited the ~~Cathedral~~ Cathedral
one of the finest in Europe that is well preserved. Here nearly
every part, and all the stained glass of a most curious kind,
is perfectly preserved; and the spire, tho' not so high as that
of Strasbourg is as labiate and lighter, as it were of woven
stone threaded, - and even more beautiful. I saw had before
a good view of the exterior yesterday, as we drove round it on
returning from the Hölenthal. At evening we went down
to Braun's house to tea - one of his colleagues wife joined us,
and another friend, who spoke tolerable English: and we had a
charming evening.

Monday morning. Braun & I climbed the hill E. of
the little town for a fine view of all Messgen (we had already
climbed the Schlossberg on the South side): & returning, we
took the cars for Basle - (at the end of miles in the mountains).

Passed the afternoon & night at the great Hotel Trois Rois on the banks of the Rhine (Prof. Meisner being on a journey to England). The Lord before this decided, especially as the ride to Hohenheim, appeared to have an unfavorable effect on Louis eyes - that we would not go from Basle to Zurich & so into the Bernese Oberland, but lay still & repair from using them till they should get quite well. This could be best done at Geneva, where I could be employing the time well in De Candolle's herbarium. And afterward we can take the Alps, nearly as well, recasting & transposing it a little. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday we rode from Basle to Birmen (56 miles) in Diligence through the Münster Thal, the grandest & most picturesque scenery of the Rura, & I am was able to see it pretty well. - Was tired, but the ride well along lakes of Birmen & Munchthal.

Wednesday. A ride of 3 ~~hours~~ ^{hours} brought us to Neuchâtel at 11 o'clock. A.M. - The Berthoud were in the country, 3 leagues off of fortification, for I am preferred to return here later. Prof. Lindt, who received me most cordially took me (with Mr. Coulon) up the Chammont, 2500 feet, but the Alps were obscured by clouds, at least all the higher alps, & we had no fine view of them; otherwise the view was very fine. - The returned by the great boulder Pierre-a-Bot. all asked after Agassiz with much interest. Excursions are planned for us when we return. * *

Thursday. Steamboat down the lake to Yverdon; Diligence to Lausanne; & then Steamboat down the Lake of Geneva to Geneva: a fine time. Settled most comfortably at Hotel des Bergues. -

Friday. To-day (Aug. 2nd) found De Candolle, who has kindly assisted us about everything, called here to see I am. - Shall see other acquaintances to-morrow, & go to work. Have looked about with I am & enjoyed the fine view of the lake & near mountains from our windows. But Mt. Blanc is still veiled. Greatly disappointed at finding no letters here from home: tho' they were to be sent here by Mr. Ward to-day. - even before the distinguished oculist & physician Dr. ^{Maunoir} ~~Maunoir~~, (who married a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Jarvis, formerly of Boston) has yet come to see them. - We hope she will soon be able to write, & give you from day to day all the bits of intelligence & other remarks upon things which constantly amuse or interest us. Believe me to remain ever yours

To All the beloved - affectionately & faithfully

Saturday Morn.
Dr. Maunoir has just called, & thinks there is no very serious trouble, but that may soon be removed - Inflammation of the mucous membrane, I think he said. He is very pleasant - Asked greatly about Dr. Jackson having known him through his son James whom he knew well in Paris - He hopes I may soon be able to write again, for I miss it very much. - Dr. Gray fears you cannot read his writing, besides its taking so much of his time - Most of the time when he is flying about, walking & visiting, I am quietly in our rooms & as I must be idle, it is sometimes rather tiresome, & I long so much to sit & have a quiet chat with you all - I try to fancy what you are all doing in Beverly, in Boston, in Litchfield. I am certainly greatly improved in health, & to my great delight gaining flesh - It is very tantalizing to pass through this beautiful scenery with my eyes shut - I felt almost like crying when I came down the Lake of Geneva, for then I could look at nothing - I long so too to tell about a thousand things one forgets if they put off - I think if you trace our route on a map it will help you much - I am longing for letters, we have had by some mistake none for a fortnight -

Gray writes sometimes some of the general news for me seem to hear nothing through now more in the way of English papers - must tender love to all from your ever affc. friend.



Gray, Asa. 1850. "Gray, Asa July 24, 1850 [to Loring]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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