

London March 2. 1911.

Acc. 976

Dear Mamma,

Last Sunday I asked George
Paincross to come down to Halsey St. to
dinner, we went in the afternoon for a
walk in the Park. The Albert Memorial in
Kensington gardens is now coming on towards
completion, most of the scaffolding has been
removed & the Prince's statue is I believe in
place, but still covered over. There are 4
before great groups of marble statuary
on pedestals at the corners, representing
Europe, Africa, Asia & America, one of these
is now on its pedestal & looks remarkably
well. The whole appearance of the memorial
is however I think a little too heavy, & there is

far too much gilding & fainting about
it. Almost everybody seems to say it is
rather a mistake, & not suited to the climate.
Something massive would have been much
more appropriate. In the evening George &
I went to St. Barnabas, I think I have
told you of it before, it is quite a "high" Church
& as I had not yet been there this winter,
I thought it worth while to go to hear the
singing. It was quite worth while as the
singing was very good, & the sermon peculiar.
Last week the great vestment question
has been decided against the Ritualists,
& the Preacher, speaking from the raising of
Lazarus, took occasion near the end of his
sermon to discuss to the subject of the late
judgment. He got quite excited over it &
was evidently very earnest. He finished
up by saying that, never before had they
known that they were so bound round

by the graveclothes & napkins of a state
just barely Christian, & that if they could
not retain these ceremonies which were necessary
to the due performance of worship, only one
thing remained, to lose them & let them go.

All the ritualists in London were I
believe turned to nearly the same word
in their sermons last Sunday.

The weather here has been quite fine &
springlike lately, & the bushes in the parks are
taking on a green tinge from the swelling
buds.

The Peace between France & Prussia is at last
signed, but every person & every newspaper
of whatever shade of politics joins in deprecating
the barbarous terms which Bismarck has
forced on France. One of those which has been
rather in favour of Prussia all along, now
says, that Prussia had it in her power to
bring about a peace which might have lasted
for an indefinite time, but that by reducing

France to be a mere tributary & vassal
of herself, she has laid the seeds of war in
Europe which will probably keep it in
perpetual turmoil for the rest of the Century.
That it has been a war on the whole
damaging to Prussia for though she went into
the conflict with the sympathies of the civilized
world, & France was the aggressor, she has
come out with those sympathies completely
& entirely reversed.

Please excuse the writing of this letter for
I have had to write it with a quill with a
most wretched point. The Government is
very saving & only allows Mr Reeks a quill
for diem, which we are privileged to use
in the library when he is done with them.

I had meant to write more, & to some
of the others, but news failing must stop.
By wishing best love to yourself & All,
This weeks mail as usual now, is late, &
has not come to hand.

Your affectionate son
Gray.