

1 27<sup>th</sup>. Explored Westminster Abbey & Houses of Parliament to day. It was a huge undertaking  
2 for one day, but we accomplished it in a very satisfactory manner. The Gothic style of  
3 architecture adopted for the House of Parliament was in my judgement a mistake. The great  
4 magnitude of the building gives the details a trifling and flippery appearance, yet those details  
5 taken by themselves are very beautiful. The old Westminster Hall and St Stephens Chapel for a  
6 part of the Parliament Houses. The architect was instructed to incorporate them as best he  
7 could in his designs for the new buildings. And it was on this account perhaps that he adopted  
8 the Gothic for the entire building. The Westminster Hall built A.D. 1097 is a very large Gothic  
9 building with open roof in one room only. This hall is full of historic interest. Here Anne  
10 Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey, Mary Queen of Scots, and many others were tried & condemned. At  
11 the south end of this hall a broad flight of stone steps leads up to what was formerly St  
12 Stephens Chapel – now a spacious corridor leading into the Parliament House. Statues of  
13 eminent men adorn each side of this grand corridor. The room for the meeting of the House of  
14 Lords, about 100 feet by 45 looks very like a show shop of trifling, carved panel work, and  
15 gilded gimcracks. There is nothing about it that would indicate that it was the Deliberative Hall  
16 of the Peers of a great nation. Turn where you will, you find fine carvings in walnut or oak, very  
17 beautiful of itself, but senseless to my mind of any impression of fitness for the place. We now  
18 crossed the street to the faultless old Westminster Abbey, and here we had ample reason for  
19 admiration and reflection. I do not propose to describe the building or its innumerable  
20 monuments. Our senses were nearly overpowered with the historic events connected with  
21 those lying low beneath the pavement on which we trod. Mrs. Van sat down on a projecting  
22 base of a column and sang in her own sweet voice that plaintive old hymn, “Princes, this clay  
23 must be your bed in spite of all your towers, etc.” It stirred up thoughts suggestive of the  
24 vanity of all human greatness. Got into a carriage and drove to the east end of London to  
25 examine the Great Docks and see where the Poor of London live. Satisfied with our  
26 investigation, and with the labor of the day, returned to our home very glad that to morrow  
27 would be Sunday.

28 28<sup>th</sup>. Hired carriage and drove to Mr. Spurgeons Church. Were disappointed in not hearing the  
29 celebrated preacher, but heard a good sermon nevertheless. We were notified that Mr.  
30 Spurgeon would preach the next Sabbath.

31 29<sup>th</sup>. Went by rail to Hampton Court some 3 or 4 miles. This is a Palace built by Cardinal  
32 Wolsey. The buildings cover a large area of ground, are of red brick with cut stone trimmings.  
33 Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> becoming jealous that Wolsey should live in a finer palace than his own, that sly  
34 old Fox made the king a present of it. There are many portraits of eminent persons and many  
35 not so eminent. Charles 1<sup>st</sup> by van Dyck a very fine picture. We saw a grape vine here 90 years  
36 old yields 3000 bunches of grapes per annum. It covers the ceiling of a large grapery and was  
37 loaded with fruit at the time of our visit. The parks and grounds belonging to this palace are  
38 very extensive and beautifully laid out and well cared for.