

1 Park Monceau and listened to some very good music from a well trained band employed by the
2 government to soothe occasionally the ruffled spirits of the people.

3 July 31st. Today my birth day, "Hail Columbia." 63 and no better than I used to be. Julia not
4 able to go out. Mrs. Van and Martha out shopping. Marthas French of great service to us. She
5 has great confidence in her conversational powers and makes us believe she understands the
6 (to us) incomprehensible gibberish we hear on all sides. I bought a New York paper and sat
7 down to a long account of the Chicago Fire.

8 August 1st. Visited the "Expiatory Chapel." This building is a sort of monument standing in a
9 pretty little triangular park in the busiest part of the city. First is the portal and keepers lodge,
10 then an arcade 60 or 70 feet in length leading to the chapel. On each side of the arcade are
11 tombs in memory of the officers of the Swiss guard who were slain at Fontainebleau. The
12 chapel is a beautiful little octagonal building with a Doric portico facing the arcade. A broad
13 flight of steps lead up to the principal floor. The chapel is covered by a dome, contains a
14 beautiful altar in front of the entrance, and statues at the right and left of Louis 16th and his
15 Queen Marie Antoinette. In the crypt of the chapel is a stone marking the spot where the King
16 and Queen were buried, being at that time an old grave yard of the Madeline Church. A Mr.
17 Desclozeaux bought the place and converted it into an orchard in order to save the royal
18 remains from the fury of the populace. At the restoration these remains were removed to St
19 Denis and placed in the Tombs of the Kings. In the afternoon visited the manufactory of the
20 Gobelin Tapestry. This establishment like the Sevres Porcelain Works belongs to the
21 government, and the products are not for sale but are used in making presents to the royal
22 folks of the several nations. 3 or 4 men will work on a carpet for a room, say 25 feet square,
23 two entire years. The warp for the carpet is rolled up on two horizontal drums or rollers, one at
24 the ceiling and the other at the floor, making the threads vertical. The weavers sit in front of
25 these threads with innumerable small bobbins of different colored worsted. The pattern is
26 rolled up on a third drum over the heads of the workmen. It is surprising to see with what
27 dexterity these men will thrust those little bobbins in and out among the threads of the warp,
28 cutting off the threads of worsted so as to form a taffeta surface, which is afterwards trimmed
29 to a uniform surface resembling cut Brussels. The pictures formed in this way rival the most
30 celebrated paintings. They make another kind where the workmen stand on the opposite side
31 of the warp, and the surface is not cut velvet fashion, yet they form the pictures as perfect as in
32 the other method. After satisfying ourselves that every thing was going on prosperously, we
33 left. In the evening walked down to the Palais Royal, built by Cardinal Richelieu A.D. 1625. He
34 presented it to Louis 13th. Louis 14th gave further it to his nephew as a part of his marriage
35 portion. It had a theatre capable of holding 3000 spectators. Here the Cardinal delighted in
36 having his own productions performed. In 1781, the owner being largely in debt, the building
37 was turned into shops to increase his income. In 1793 it was confiscated and became national
38 property. In 1848 it was devastated by the mob. In 1858 it was put in complete repair and was
39 occupied by Prince Napoleon. The garden of the palace 700 feet long and 300 feet wide, has a
40 fountain in the centre and jeweler shops and other fancy establishments surrounding the entire