

1 April 14th. Purchased a lot of photographs of the most interesting buildings and things in general. Went
2 to the tailors to try on my new coat. Mrs. Van nearly through with her shopping. That long promised
3 "Paris doll" for our little Grand-Pet was purchased to day. We would like to buy the entire stock of some
4 toy shop for presents to the numerous little folks who have a claim on our attention. As the custom
5 house at New York is an institution of which I have a very limited knowledge of my duty to them or theirs
6 to me, I shall not attempt to smuggle any article subject to duty, not even to the value of a pin, and will
7 therefore purchase what I want at home. Mr. and Mrs. James Long called on us this evening. Had a very
8 pleasant visit with them. Propose to return the compliment by calling on them to morrow evening.
9 Paris appears more brilliant and animated than it did to us on our first visit. Perhaps it is because we are
10 now on our way home and on that account we may look upon every thing with a more pleasurable eye.

11 April 15th. Purchased tickets by way of Dieppe & New Haven to London. Met Mr. James Turner – packer
12 of Chicago. He proposed that we take a trip in the Paris sewers as he had obtained a ticket that would
13 admit two persons. Started at one o'clock. Passed down a flight of steps in the side walk near the
14 Madeline Church. (These trips are made twice each week; charge for each person two dollars.) Arriving
15 at the foot of the stone stairway, we found ourselves in one of the principal sewers. It is about 20 feet
16 diameter and 12 feet high, in the bottom a canal about 12 feet wide with quays, or side walks, on each
17 side 3 ½ feet wide. The canal was filled with water with a current of about 60 feet per minute. There
18 were 150 persons in our party. Barges or canal boats were ready to take us on board. These barges are
19 well fitted up with cushioned seats and carried some 25 persons each with full arrangement of brilliant
20 oil lamps. The barges are towed by men running along on the quays, or side walk, with short tug lines
21 attached to the gondola, or barge. A run of about a mile in this large sewer brought us to a transverse
22 one. Here we left the boats and went on board of rail-way cars carrying 12 persons each for a trip in the
23 transverse sewer. This sewer is about 10 feet wide and 12 feet high, canal & quays similar to the first
24 mentioned. The canal about 5 feet wide, the rails are laid on the edge of the quays, and the cars cover
25 the water. We were trundled at a rapid rate through this sewer, the men running at full speed on the
26 narrow side walks. Large gas and water pipes are suspended from the walls on iron brackets and
27 numerous smaller pipes run along the ceiling of the sewers. After remaining over one hour in this, to
28 me, very interesting department of the city, we arrived at a large well lighted room with an iron spiral
29 stairs by which we ascended to day-light & found ourselves 2½ miles from our starting point. Ladies
30 have finished their shopping. They have now to pack their trunks, and tomorrow evening we take our
31 final leave of this intensely interesting, gay old metropolis.

32 April 16th. Our continental trip is finished. Left Paris at 8 o'clock this evening and arrived at Dieppe at
33 12. Went immediately on board the steamer for New Haven.

34 April 17th. Left Dieppe at 6 this morning. Had a very pleasant and prosperous trip across the channel
35 and arrived at New Haven at 12 o'clock. After lunch took the train for London where we arrived at 2
36 o'clock. Have pleasant rooms at Mrs. Wrights (our stopping place last July). Went immediately after the
37 music box, forwarded from Geneva last fall, and found it all right. Now, for a little reexamination of
38 London. Then for home across the "perilous sea."

39 April 18th. Sunday. A beautiful day. Mrs. Van and I feeling the need of quiet and rest did not go out.
40 The girls went to church, both morning & afternoon, and would have taken me off to the Westminster
41 Abbey in the evening, but I declined, and they reluctantly gave it up.