

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 28, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Please take notice. Tuesday, January 28th., 1879. My darling Alec:

How can I tell you how disappointed I am that we shall not see you for such a long time yet — Tuesday has been the goal of all my thoughts and hopes and wishes — and now I am put off “some days longer” My darling I long for you so much you dear big black fellow (take care that the worry and excitement now doesn't turn your hair gray!)— and yet I am glad so glad that you will stay and be with Papa when he comes. Please take care of him and bring him safely home again. I don't know but I feel as if they were not all friends of his on the board of directors and I feel so badly about it. You will be kind to him won't you my darling? — Papa says it is not unlikely they may turn him out. I do think it would be a mean shame if they did. I cannot help feeling that in spite of all he may say and do, as President he cannot escape the responsibility of the acts of his officers and that the public will hold him to blame for all Mr. Sanders' mismanagement. But the members of the Board of Directors ought to be able to make the distinction. If they are after careful examination satisfied that the department that Papa personally superintended was mismanaged, let them dismiss him. I for one don't want my father where he is not wanted. But if it is only the finances that are in such confusion I think it would be an act of greatest injustice if they turned Papa out. It was not for him to dismiss or interfere with Mr. Sanders as he could and would with any other treasurer. The Co. was Sanders and Hubbard-. I feel that so far as I am concerned I did a very unwise thing in letting Papa send his letter to you in the way he did. Of course you think I have deliberately ignored your request to keep the letter private. All I showed him was what you said about the affairs of the Company and 2 about Mr. Forbes. You expressed no opinions yourself and if Papa thinks you thought he mismanaged, it is for some other reason. The personalities no one has seen. I told Papa

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you thought Mr. Sanders vaccillating because I thought it would please him to have you agree with him and that you liked Mr. Bradley better but on my word of honor that was all. I felt sure it was only your duty and mine to let Papa know just how things were going.

I began this letter at half past seven A.M. since then your bright letter of Sunday has come. I am so glad you were better satisfied with Mr. Smith's conduct than you expected. I am going to take the letter down to show Papa when this is done and Elsie asleep.

Baby slept badly last night and did not seem quite right but is bright and happy this morning and so hungry. But she has not yet regained her rosy cheeks and I am going to see the doctor again.

No I did not hurt myself with the filter so don't be alarmed.

Yesterday I invited my whole family to come and dine with me, and square our account as I had dined there every day for some time past. Then I invited General and Mrs. Poe to come in in the course of the evening to see Mamma and Papa, which they did and Mamma and all said they thought my tea party a very pleasant one, only we all wanted you so much. It was all my own idea no one knew what I had done until just before they came when I had to confess before I could get Mamma to order any cake for me. One good result is that Mrs. Poe has offered to take Berta to the President's reception. Papa and Mrs. Poe got on the Indians, agreed, and were happy.

Do go to see Cousin Mary it is very rude not to when they were so kind to your wife and yourself.

With a heartfelt of love to you from, Your loving wife.