

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 12, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1509 R. I. Ave, Washington, March 12th, 1879. My dearest Alec:

Thank you ever so much for your two most welcome letters enclosing the checques. No I am not going to spend my money, in fact I am aggrieved at your telling me to put it in the bank. Can't I invest it in something? How much money will you need for your book, all that, more, or the interest of that and my Bell Tel. Co. dividend? Have you sold my 700 shares? I am anxious to know myself the happy possessor of \$20,000 cash down. Then I will invest five thousand (perhaps) in something fearfully safe and unremunerative and say that is for my marriage settlement. Only I will reserve my right to use it if hard pressed. The rest will invest in something quite safe, but with high rate of interest. Please let me know that my shares have been sold, I am sure I have given you time enough.

Go on with your article in your letters to me. I have left the letter behind at Mamma's and cannot remember very well what you said, except that like the advertisement of a story you stopped suddenly at the most "thrilling" part. I think it a very good idea. Don't stop to criticize. Write on just as the words come into your head. Don't look back, but send it on to me and by and by when the whole thing is finished, go over and over it as much as you like. The subject matter being there, there will be no danger of your losing the "thread of your discourse." No matter how poor the language may be, how inadequate to express your ideas. Leave that — put down the ideas themselves the best way you can at the moment, going 2 on until you have them all down before you, then — clothe them as you will. Do please go on, it will be a good way to get into practice for your book. Please try and let me feel that "It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good" and our being separated may not be wholly a misfortune. If it will help you to write how glad I shall be.

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Please write little George Sanders to come home with you whenever you come. I bought Mamma a dozen ice-cream plates price \$7.00. She has saved me much more than double that buying me things so I don't feel I came within your displeasure. Elsie gives her picture in a frame if only the picture will come. I have sent Willie and been down there myself every day and they said yesterday they had sent it up. They didn't. Breakfast is ready now, so with very very much love, ever yours,

Lovingly, By the by did you sign the checque to your order? Mamma has the checque, but a sudden horrible thought entered my head — what if it is not signed?