

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 20, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Washington, April 20, 1879. My darling Alec:

I was so delighted to get your two long letters this morning. Only I do want to know what “?” means. What new theory has that busy brain of yours hatched? It seems to be going like Elsie's hands and feet, working working never still a minute until the bright eyes are closed in sleep. She has been so busy all day I do wish you could find time to watch her, it is a never ending delight to watch her, each day sees such an advance, some new accomplishment learned. Today she crept across the parlor to peep around the edge of the door to see where Auntie Berta had gone, and finding her crept along until she could reach her and pull her dress to be taken up. I half think she knows right and wrong for the other day seeing her with a piece of paper in her mouth I made towards her, and she turned quite around and tried to escape as fast as she could. She today crept on her hands as well as her knees before you know she would throw herself forward on her breast. She likes the little kittens so much and will take their heads gently between her little fingers, she is quite gentle with them. She is so pleased too to have a playfellow—the little McCook girl comes and stands by her wagon, and the child catches hold of her with her little hands and shrieks with delight.

Please Alec I am very sorry to be so stupid but I had to ask Mamma and Berta to help me find out all your puns. All the same I certainly shall draw that checque for three dollars and charge to you.

O before I forget Mamma saw Dr. Endlich last night and he told her that Miss Henry said she had found among her father's papers, notes of that conversation you had with him about the telephone so many 2 years ago. She felt they would be valuable to you, and had

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them copied and sent to Prof. Baird for you. Have you received them yet? I wish you would write an acknowledgement to Miss Henry it was a very kind thoughtful thing for her to do.

That drawing of yours was beautiful my child, but I want to know what your theory was. I am glad you wrote that paper, but you forget I especially forbade scoring out! You were to write your thoughts down just as they came into your mind and let the elegance expression go.

I am so glad you take Mr. Blake's illness as you do. Be careful you don't let them worry you into staying. I fear they will work harder than ever now if Mr. Blake is going. Why don't you offer them some of your inventions you want them to see that you have not been idle.

Papa and Sister are off in Atlanta, Georgia, or in Montgomery, Ala. Sister was not feeling bright, being tired out by the horrid weather we have been enduring lately and so Papa took her off to see what the change would do for her.

I have been weeding out your closet and Mary has chosen the magazines she thinks your father would like, the others go to the hospitals tomorrow. Now I am going to write to Mr. Paine and get him to write to Papa his opinion of the chances of his doing good there, by going to England.

Good bye my darling, be careful of yourself and please please keep the clock going and go to bed at one, and send for me if you are ill. I've weaned Elsie. It almost broke my heart but it "was my duty and I did" (pinafore)—

With a heartfelt of love, Your own loving, Mabel.