

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, June 9, 1880, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. L 904 — 14th St., Washington, June 9th, 1880. Dear May:

Many thanks for your letter received this morning and for the telegram that came to-day.

What is the meaning of it?

“Don't decide anything until you hear from me”! Don't decide anything ? Why I have decided ever so many things only this morning — and have — I am afraid — unwittingly gone astray. I have been hard at work asking my selenium to decide a point for me to-day — but I suppose it had some inkling of your telegram and to oblige you it absolutely refused to decide the point submitted to it one way or the other. Perhaps however your telegram has reference to Dr. Daruch? And perhaps he has charmed you so much with his cottage that you are ready to leave your poor husband and spend the rest of the summer under his hospital roof. Is that the way to spell hospitable? Never mind — he is a doctor — and it comes to all the same thing. I have acted upon this supposition and have not as I had intended to do — started for something — town (!) in Virginia — recommended by Mr. Pollok. I do hope that you have investigated the cottage and if you have been pleased with it I hope you have not hesitated to pack up your things and remove into it at once. I am anxiously awaiting news. I wrote to you yesterday that Charlie's Patent had been allowed. I telegraphed for him last night and he is here now. The final Patent office fees were paid today and the Patent will be issued in about 3 weeks. In the meantime the foreign 2 patents are being prepared so that they may be applied for the same day the Patent comes out here. Mr. Pollok will require about \$1500 but how I am to raise the money I don't know as I can't sell Continental stock to advantage. I think Charlie is now on the high-road to success and that Berta will not have to wait very long. I enclose letter from Uncle

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Eustia with enclosed cheque. Make it payable to the order of "self" and then endorse it on the back. "For deposit only to the credit of my account with Riggs & Co. — and forward it to Riggs Bank with a note requesting them to deposit it to your credit. I enclose note received from Van Brunt and my answer to it.

Dr. Davidson — a leading scientific man here — is about to leave Washington for a year or more. He occupies a fine home close to the British Legation and at Mr. Pollok's suggestion has written to me to ascertain whether I would like to rent the house furnished. Mr. Pollok thought that as my Laboratory will be on the end of our lot that we would like to live somewhere near until our house is built. I shall see Dr. Davidson tomorrow and report proceedings to my little wife. I have no time to write more. It is now a quarter past nine and Charlie will post this letter on board the train and I will resume interrogatories to my selenium at the laboratory and I hope it won't prove such a cross -examination as it was this morning.

With much love.

Your own, Alec.

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P. S. I hope you did not forget to post those letters about the dividends. No answers have yet been received. Perhaps we better pay Uncle Eustis out of Capital — In which case you can draw \$1000 more and until we want it you can let me have it for Charlie's Patent office fees abroad and when you want the money sell the Continental stock. Cannot finish Van Brunt's letter.

Good night. Love to Lina.