

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 22, 1881, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Cambridge, Mass. Friday, July 22, 1881. My darling Alec:

I did not write yesterday because it occurred to me for the first time that there was no use writing at five o'clock to catch the six o'clock train to Washington. I did not hear from you yesterday either by letter or telegram, which rather troubles me for the last I heard you were going to try on a man with a bullet in him. I hope your silence does not mean failure, but I had a very vivid dream in which you tried on both man and the President and failed, and of course I feel a little nervous. But of course you won't fail only I am getting impatient to have my little boy Bell back again. It seems an age since you left, I have not kept count of time and really don't know how long it is.

All at home is going quite smoothly, but I feel rather as if we are living over a volcano which may burst and overwhelm us in any moment. Annie is to take Daisy into town this afternoon to be photographed. Mr. Adams called yesterday to say Goodbye before sailing for Europe and offered to take anything I wanted to Mamma, so I think of sending a box of our grapes and Daisy's photographs, you know she has never had satisfactory ones taken, but now that she is older she may be more successful. Mr. Adams will arrive just about Papa's birthday Aug. 15, he sails July 30.

Lina is getting on very well, but we are both impatient to know whether she is to stay or not, you are keeping her father waiting also, as he must know about her before making his plans, then perhaps we may not have another chance of securing rooms at 2 Prouts if we don't take this. I am rather anxious for fear Lina may like Chester too much here she teases her unmercifully but she rather likes it and she never had so much attention shown her before, and I know she thinks a good deal more about him than she ought. I don't believe Chester

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does more than endure her while he has nothing better to do. However we see very little of the gentlemen except in the evenings. I have heard nothing more of Chester's going, but it is rather stupid for him here and I hope you will come soon. Surely Garfield is strong enough now to give away a little to your convenience. Try and persuade your father and mother to come, not with you for I want you alone for a day or two, but after that.

Much love, Yours lovingly,