

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 20, 1882, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Wednesday— July 20th. (1882)? My dear Alec:

I have not written for some days and am very sorry, think it was not exactly my fault. I am so much interested in all I hear of your progress and am most impatient to have the apparatus successfully tried. The cuttings you send me are all the newspaper reports I see, the Transcript saying nothing since the first. I sent Richard yesterday for the papers you wanted but he had to take Elise in and forget, then he went in again but could not get them, however he will try again today and is bound to succeed. I am eagerly waiting to hear the result of the doctor's examination today. Chester and Mr. Johnston were jubilant over your telegram yesterday. I was very glad but felt it a matter of course, I have never known you to fail in anything you undertook. and I have perfect faith in your ability to conceive and carry out.

Well Elise has gone, she has been waiting your return at Mrs. Gibson's but as it seemed very indefinite I had no fancy for keeping her in idleness there and so sent Johnston to find the price of a steerage passage to Paris. One steamer went today, another not until the 30th. There was no time to telegraph you if she was to take today's steamer and I thought there was no doubt but that you would pay her way home though she was a most unprofitable speculation. She was very ugly about it and quite capable of making matters unpleasant for us if we did not so I made Mr. J. tell her that I would do one of 2 two things, send her home but not pay her for the weeks over her month or I would pay her to the month and board her until then so she could get another place. She said she would do the former so Mr. Johnston went and bought her fare from here to Paris, then when she was ready to go she came and demanded her wages for the weeks which she had agreed

Library of Congress

not to ask if I paid her fare. I was very indignant and first said well she needn't go, but Mr. Johnston said you would be sure to send her and she was just going to the French Consul's and could make trouble and beside she said she had only three or four dollars in her pocket and that Mr. Johnston said was not enough so I gave her five dollars and then she went but at one time I was so excited that my heart seemed going all over me at once and I could only speak in gasps and scarcely hold my pen.

Harriet has come for one month, not expecting to stay, but so far I like her, she looks very young but her hair is much grayer than yours. Elsie seems willing to go with her and she talks and writes very well. She will be better than Maria because she will not leave her children. I think her very selfish there for what can be worse for them than association with a drunken father who yet is so nice in his sober moments that they cannot feel the horror of it and Maria has the chance of putting them in good homes and going out herself or staying with him if she preferred.

My grapes have not got off yet but hope they will this evening. I will send them to the laboratory as the basket is so large, I want Mrs. Bell to have some. Can't you persuade her to come, of course if she found the seashore very hot at Cape May that does not 3 prove it will be so here or in Prouts, there it is never very warm and we take warm clothes. Please telegraph me if I shall secure rooms for next Tuesday. You have to engage them sometime beforehand and the rooms that will be vacant then are the best in the house. On the piazza floor Cousin Sam says he paid \$10 a week for his room and board, two people in one room pay only fourteen dollars. I telegraphed you about Lina as I had told her I feared we could not keep her after the last of this month as I wanted my rooms for your friends. Unfortunately her father wants to shut up his house from the 1st until the middle of August and does not want her, nor do any of her other relations. Of course her father can take her with him and will do so, only if I can't have your mother I would like to have her stay. She is company and help when I can't go out. Chester is still here, he said he was going today as he feared his mother would go to Washington before he got home, but we got him to stay. I want him to wait until you return and then you all go camping out together

Library of Congress

leaving me at Prouts. I think he would rather like to if you urged him and his mother would wait.

With ever so much love. I am so glad you keep well, take good care of yourself for me.

Lovingly, Mabel.