

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell and Alexander Graham Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, August 26, 1877, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Plymouth, August 26, 1877. My dear Mrs. Bell:

Your letter of August 6th., reached us only last night. Alec was so very glad to hear from you, he must have been longing for news from you all exceedingly, poor fellow, just now he is suffering pretty severely from an attack of indigestion, brought on by the prolonged excitement and overwork of the past ten days. He has not been feeling well since we left Glasgow and day before yesterday he was so faint and sick that I sent for a Doctor. Last night he seemed better but was very sick again this morning, still the Doctor thinks he will do well now and does not think it necessary to come again. He is better this afternoon but very weak and tired. I hope he is asleep now. He asked me to write to you as he could not. I believe my Mother will send you my last letter to her giving an account of all we have seen and done in the last few days. Since Wednesday we have stayed quietly at home, only going out for a drive or two and once to dinner. Sir William and Lady Thomson called to see us Friday. Sir William wants Alec. to open the winter course of lectures in Glasgow University and wants him to spend a week experimenting in his laboratory and Lady Thomson has asked us to stay with them at their house. Both Alec and I have quite lost our hearts to Lady Thomson she is so very kind and pleasant and Sir William too seems lovely, a gentle kindly man. She is taller than he and seems to take such good care of his. They all say how much he owes to her. They have been married only about four years, his first wife was an invalid for some time before her death and he married again two years afterwards. The story runs that when Sir William was busy about the laying of the Atlantic Cable he stayed sometime in his yacht off the island when

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Lady Thomson's father lived. He made her acquaintance there and they devised a system of signals by which they could telegraph to each other when he was in the yacht. After a while he sailed away but when the cable was laid he came back and carried her off, his bride.

A gentleman, Mr. Whitwill of Bristol wants us to stay with him there 2 for a few days and we had intended passing today there but of course it was impossible for Alec to leave. We had a nice little plan all arranged to visit Exeter, Bristol Bath, Gloucester, Stratford-on-Avon, on our way to London, but I am afraid it will be all upset now. We think Mr. Reynolds has sailed in the Steamer "Parthia" which will be due in Liverpool Tuesday or Wednesday. I am inclined to wish the vessel will be detained by headwinds or something, because as soon as Mr. Reynolds comes Alec, must go to work again and he ought-not.

Clifton Down Hotel, Bristol, Friday.

I just add a few lines today, that Alec is much better now. He will finish my letter and with love to all,

Your loving daughter, Mabel Mabel wants me to finish her letter for her but I scorn this small piece of paper and shall write a letter on my own account. I post this just now, for I think it may go off sooner than if I detain it to add any more.

With ever so much love, Alec.