

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, May 22, 1885, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. 1500 Rhode Island Avenue. May 22nd 1885. My dear Mrs. Bell:

Isn't it about time you heard from one of us again? It has been a great pleasure to hear from you and Mr. Bell so often, but we have been ashamed to think how little you have had as equivalent. We have been at Atlantic City, as perhaps you have heard. Alec had reseola German measles, and "very well" ? oo as the Dr. expressed it. He was pretty miserable and inclined to think himself a very sick man for some days. On Friday however, after a feverish night and a day spent in bed he got up at three P. M., went for a walk on a cold, raw afternoon without an overcoat and at nine P. M. announced that he wanted "to get out of here," so we packed up and at 2 minutes past ten were at the B. and P. station just as many minutes too late for the train. Fortunately there was another train leaving at twelve and already on the line, so we went there and went to bed. At seven we were in Philadelphia and Alec looked and felt another man. We went out to Atlantic City and on Sunday sent for the children who came Monday, Alec staid until Wednesday and returned Saturday morning bringing us home Monday. He is quite well again now and very happy in his school. He has changed his parents class to four P. M., and has besides the regular attendants twenty Normal School girls, and Prof. Fay and Gordon and two other people from Kendall Green. I don't think much of "the sweet girl graduates," in fact I would hesitate about admitting one of them into my house as servants, and 2 I think Alec too is very much disappointed with his raw material, but says it is too soon to judge.

Have you and Mr. Bell heard that Alec is third on the Committee of the National Academy to advise the government about the Universal Day, the erection of the Naval Observatory and of the new transit of — something — expedition. He is the only Washington member

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and it is a great honor. Tomorrow night he gives his address to the philosophical on "Clicks and Clucks" and I believe he has forgotten all about it! Elsie says she is going to give a "speech" too, she is going to invite her friends and address them tomorrow just like Papa! She says she knows what to say and I have a good mind to encourage her and see if the Bell talent for speechifying has descended to her.

(rest of letter not copied)

Always affectionately, Mabel.