

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, February 11, 1894, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. February 11th, 1894. My dear Mrs. Bell:

Thank you very much for your kind little note and pretty enclosure. It is very kind in you to think of my work and send me this little "notion".

I am afraid my work here is as far as ever from being self-supporting and must be for years, but I do not know a better way in which I can spend some of our money. The distress in the cities of which you speak adds to my desire to help the people here by bringing them work which otherwise they must seek in the cities. I feel that I am trying to remove the cause of the congestion of population in the cities, while those who are attempting to relieve the distress there are trying to deal with the effects.

I don't suppose I can do very much, but at all events my girls when they go from here go far better prepared to earn their livelihood anywhere than those who have not attended my classes. I do not try so much to teach them fancy work, as you seem to think, as to give them a good solid foundation in plain sewing which will make them good seamstresses. There are very few good seamstresses as I know to my cost.

As to you wondering what I find to do all the time I will tell you that it is now half past one A. M. and this is the first chance I have had to write all day. I haven't been doing much of anything however. It being Sunday I was up very late indeed, and did not breakfast till eleven ! Then I did some work for my club, and helped Mr. McCurdy with some work for Alec until lunch. After lunch we drive to Mrs. Kennans and get her to return to dinner as it is her 2 birthday. That took up the whole afternoon. Then we sit very long at dinner and after dinner is the evening social hour, which today has lasted until now. I would

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have shortened it if I could but one can't always do as one likes. Still this has been an unusually lazy day. I have to arrange for my garden, my walls, the curtains and grading of the grounds building of other cottages and the clubs, for there are now 2, the sewing classes etc.

Now I must go to bed. Alec is very well and very busy on the Education of the Deaf.

Much love to Mr. Bell and my cousins and yourself.

Affectionately, Mabel.