

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. (1876?) My dear Professor Bell:

Many thanks for your esteemed favor of the 20th inst. Since you bring the weight of your professorship in support of your plan of writing in V.S. I bow in lowly submission!

But do not say nothing more about it, on the contrary say I can't bear to have you spend all your evenings laboriously copying all that out. I don't care a fig for the Professor, but I do care for my Alec and I will not have him working so hard when he ought to be asleep. It is selfish in me to need interesting letters from you to keep me reading and my love is not worth much if it cannot keep me at work on disagreeable things for your sake, write to me now and then a page of Visible Speech and I will eke out the defects of a short letter by reading over the old ones. You ask if your letter was exhausting. Yes indeed — it was quite easy reading it, but when I came to study it and try to make the sounds [???] ! it took me three quarters of an hour by the clock and then I failed completely.

Mamma says I try so manfully to read your letters aright that no one can understand a word I say — Pity me.

I am in a great hurry as it is most six and the mail closes then. Remember to bring your “uniform”. I wish you would have the telephone placed so you can listen standing it would be more convenient for the people after the lecture and you would look better just bowing your head a very little not bending down or sitting.

Goodbye — I return Mr. Gower's agreement. Mrs. Cary had a fit on hearing Papa was coming and so he did not see her.

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In haste, Ever yours, Mabel.