

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, July 24, 1876, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard (Bell) Brantford, Ontario, Monday, July 24th, 1876. My darling May:

I reached Paris at one o'clock in the morning as I wrote to you yesterday — and it was such a clear cool morning that I determined to walk home — a distance of 10 ½ miles.

I reached here at four o'clock this morning and surveyed the premises to see whether there was any chance of getting in. Finding none I spent a quarter of an hour pitching stones at my father's window without any effect. So I retired to the barn.

I found the horse's saddle and took it up into the hay left as a pillow — and, digging a hole in the hay lay down, covered myself in with hay and was soon fast asleep. I was as warm and comfortable as though I were in bed and was wakened shortly after six by the crowing of the roosters and the cackling of the geese.

Imagining I heard some one stirring I rose but found the whole house still asleep. Willie, our watch-dog, heard me and nearly smothered me with his caresses. Finally making another survey of the premises I discovered that one of the windows was unfastened so I opened it and crawled into my father's study. I lay down on the sofa and covered myself up with rugs and was soon again lost in sleep.

I was awakened by a kiss from my mother and found nearly the whole family congregated around me. The servant girl — upon opening the doors had discovered a strange man lying fast asleep upon the sofa and had of course summoned assistance.

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My father is waiting at the door to drive me into town — where I hope I may find a letter from you. So now I must close with fond love.

Your loving, Alec. Miss Mabel G. Hubbard, Siasconset, Nantucket.