

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 11, 1877, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel Hubbard to Mr. Alexander Graham Bell. April 11, 1877. My dear Alec:

Thank you ever so much for your splendid long letter which has reached me at last. It was worth waiting so long for. The cuttings mailed in Providence came at the same time and the newspapers followed.

Poor Alec I am so sorry you had such a hard time of it but after all it came out all right. I suppose your faith in your lucky star is increased. I am sure too that if your sky seems cloudy just now the sun is shining behind the clouds and will come out soon. Mamma did not seem to have noticed any discomfiture on your part she said on the contrary that you looked and spoke very well and wrote Papa that she was not ashamed of her son-in-law.

Paterson, N.J. Tuesday. Mamma called me away to see about our trunk yesterday and I did not get another chance to finish my letter yesterday. We reached here safely last night and are anchored for the next few days.

Last night Dr. March showed me some of his cases of surgical instruments, hope he will never have occasion to use them on me, I prefer to swallow bottlefuls of disgusting drugs rather than see a knife run into me.

Ellie is such a cunning boy you would enjoy him thoroughly now he talks and talks and is never so happy as when he is learning new words. He is full of life and glee and delighted when a slide of his down the stairs made Mamma involuntarily scream.

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I wonder if you were all tired out after the lecture and if you have recovered from it's effects yet. I am quite well, you may be sure if anything was very wrong with me I would tell you.

I wonder if we shall have to live in a little manufacturing town like this in another such rickety old house.

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I have not an idea in my head. It is a bright cold day but the grass is green and Auntie Kittie showed us some sweet smelling violets from out of doors.

Have you read anything about the Jewett Murder of which the papers are so full. I read up all about it Saturday night and in consequence went to bed all in a tremble.

I brought my little telephone here it was such a good idea of yours, everyone admires it extremely and thinks it a beauty. I had to show it to one person I did not trust, Sanford Marsh, Berta's admirer. He has such a disagreeable face,-if he had been an electrician I should have refused to show it to him.

Do you know I dreamed last night I was in Chicago and in a big building I forget the name now and I saw a sign marked E. Gray electrician and inventor of the telephone-Lessons in electricity given. I opened the door, found the yankee-looking man ruling a drawing of his invention and then signing it and giving it to a pupil as an autograph. Then he began to explain his system and I stopped him telling him who I was and offered to leave the room, but he told me to stay and report everything he said to you as he desired to be open and true to you! I was quite pleased with him.

Are you really going to repeat your lecture in Providence-Can you expect to have such a large audience again. Apart from the wonder and novelty of your telephone was there anything most people would care to hear. When do you give your Lowell Lecture?

I must go now and see Ellis in the tub- don't you envy me?

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With ever so much love, Ever yours.