

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 21, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 904 — 14th. St., Washington, D. C. March 21st. 1879. My dear Alec:

I am disappointed in not hearing from you today, it makes you seem so far from me. I wish you could send just a postal, if no more each day. Come back to me my own sweet love just as soon as you can, I want you so much. I had a telegram from your father this afternoon saying your Cousin will be here tomorrow morning. And Annie has given me a month's notice, all because of Mrs. Pool I went over to see her this morning, and she told me there was a perfect plague of scarlet fever and measles through the town and she thought Annie had better be careful how she brushed against or spoke to other nurse maids as it might bring infection to Elsie. I of course told Annie, and brought down a perfect explosion on my head. It was no use anything I could say, she wasn't going to have any one interfering with her, she thought Mrs. Poe altogether too fast, she would be housemaid, would starve rather than be interfered with, finally she wrote on a piece of paper that she desired to leave in this day month. Mamma says if I cannot be sure of keeping her through the summer it is better she should go now, while the baby is strong and well for later on when Elsie is getting more teeth and is feeling unwell it would be very hard on the poor little thing to have a stranger around. Well as Sister says there are as good fish in the sea as were ever caught, and let's hope we may find one. It has been hard living above a crater never knowing when the explosion may take place. Annie was as pleasant as possible this morning. O dear it is hard and I do long to see more 2 of my little girl than Annie will let me. Dr. Johnson said he thought he could find Annie another place. But how can I go to Boston with a strange nurse, Elsie might be sick there. Papa has engaged a pretty little pony phaeton by the month and we are all looking forward to many pleasant drives.

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You won't be too attentive to Mary Symonds will you. You don't know how dreadfully jealous I can be, and when you are talking or playing anything I don't understand I don't like being shut out for a long time. Dinner is ready so adieu. O — I've invited Cousin Sam here for the meeting of the Nat. Academy. When will it be, and where is your paper I want it.

With a heart full of love, Yours ever lovingly, Mabel. Don't hurry home before your ought, I shall be busy and happy with Mary.