

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, August 1, 1881, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Cambridge, Mass. Sunday (August 1, 1881) My dear Alec:

I am sorry I did not write yesterday, but I sent a telegram instead. I am so glad to hear that you are improving your apparatus. I hope that the second attempt will be successful. I know you deserve it and poor Mr. Garfield must wish you would. I have been looking over the old papers of the first few days of Garfield's illness and wonder how he lived through them, there seems to have been so much confusion and everybody who liked had admittance to him. At one time it seems that the whole cabinet called upon him and all their wives were his nurses. I should think all the crowd would literally have worried him to his death. I have never been very ill in my recollection, yet I know how the presence of strangers has fatigued me when I have been sick and how I have felt as if a little more would drive me into a fever. My heart and mind are constantly occupied with you and the wish for Mr. President's recovery and I long to have you near to tell me all about it. Poor boy, no wonder you are exhausted and headachey. I only hope it wont make your nervous trouble worse. Do take care for my sake my own love. I am quite expecting you home this week and have asked Cousin Sum to secure rooms at Prouts for Thursday or Friday. Very likely you wont be here so soon but we must not lose the chance and I want to be there while you are camping out, it would be so much pleasanter than anywhere else alone. Of course I expect Mary to be 2 there with me. Tell her she must bring a supply of warm clothing as there are cold days there.

Thank you so much for your telegram about the Société des Telephones. I don't think I approve of the bust either, for it cannot be good, but I would like to send your picture, only I have none. Will you have yours taken either at Bell's or here. Daisy's second attempt I

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think will be successful but we cannot see the pictures before Saturday. If they are good I will have one painted on china and give it to your mother as a brooch. Isn't it disgusting about Papa and Mamma. Since they can't come, could your father and mother come in September? It is a lovely month here and we would return about the same time as they. I have written to Mr. Jeffries about our place and he said he had nothing but would make inquiries. I will write to Mr. Emery too and perhaps when you return we may have something to start upon. May I send Mamma a cheque for one hundred dollars? Papa is going to Russia and there will see so many things I would like. Please let me. You have no idea how much it takes to furnish a house and there is nothing so ugly as new houses, generally when they ought to be at their prettiest just because there has been no time or chance to collect the fancy things that give a house the home look. Of course this would be outside the Turkish carpet, curtains and dresses that Mamma has already bought for me and the children. However if you had rather not, never mind my own sweet boy, I will do anything you like. I have put all cuttings I could find of you in a little book and am now copying your letters to go there too. This book is mine you know, so send me everything you see. Mr. Johnston's brother has sent him several Washington papers, only I lost the one with Prof. Newcomb's card in it. Can you find it and send it? It was a "Post".

Lovingly, Your own Mabel.