

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, undated, with transcript

(First part of letter missing) 1881.

I feel much disturbed by the result of the Autopsy of the President. It is now rendered quite certain why it was that the result of the experiment with the Induction Balance was “ not satisfactory ” as I stated in my report — for the bullet was not in any part of the area explored. This is most mortifying to me and I can hardly bear to think of it — for I feel that now the finger of scorn will be pointed at the Induction Balance and at me — and all the hard work I have gone through — seems thrown away. I feel all the more mortified — because I feel that I have really accomplished a great work — and have devised an apparatus that will be of inestimable use in surgery — but this mistake will re-act against its introduction.

The patients I am anxious to benefit would hardly be willing to risk an operation — even if the bullets were properly located by the Induction Balance after what has occurred.

I shall look with anxiety for the unsparing denunciations that will doubtless appear shortly in the newspaper — and I shall be glad indeed to go with you to Italy or anywhere else.

Poor President Garfield was taken to the Capital today. We all witnessed the procession from one of the windows of Bell's Photographic Establishment.

Our flag hangs at half-mast out of the nursery window and all the houses here have signs of mourning. I thought it unnecessary to ask you to show some signs of a similar kind in Cambridge. Write to me darling — I want to hear from you so much — Its seems an age since we left.

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Your loving husband, Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, Cambridge, Mass.