

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 14, 1883, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Oakland, July 14th, 1883. My dear Alec:

Your telegram and letter came this afternoon and were very welcome, especially the latter for which I had given up hoping. I am sorry you felt obliged to decline the Trusteeship and yet glad for you cannot yet tell how much you have undertaken for next winter, and I would not have you overburdened.

I am so glad the punka was such a relief to poor Mr. Johnson. I have a great fellow feeling for people sick in hot weather, it aggravates everything tenfold. Now that Dr. Johnston has seen it in practical operation over one patient's bedside does he not want it for the Children's Hospital. Those long sunny wards must be a perfect furnace in summer-time, and I should like to do something to make those poor children more comfortable. You may think me superstitious but I feel as if no good can come of our wealth unless we try to do good to others besides ourselves with it. So that although the morbid desire to do something for my fellow deaf-mutes, at a distance, still continues, I do not dare oppose or discourage your doing what you can to aid them. In short I want a blessing on our wealth and on our children by making the former such to others, and doing ourselves what we can for them. And just now the first thing we can do seems to me give the means of cooling the hospitals for the sick, and for sending the convalescents and babes to the country. Can't you send the summer pavilion committee a cheque larger or smaller as the expense of the punka is less or 2 greater. I would have sent the money before but I did not understand what it was.

Sister and Berta and Maurice went out driving with Perrin and our horses this afternoon. I think you are most unreasonably nervous about them. Sister says Perrin is evidently a

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very good driver and there can be no danger in a good coachman, driving a pair of not at all spirited horses after a thorough trial. I don't mean to go myself until you come, but why the children can't go I cannot understand. They went yesterday anyway.

Many thanks for the summer nos., of English papers, the big illustrations look gay on our walls and they were altogether very welcome. Maurice I believe is much pleased by your sending him the history, whether he will have the strength to read it is another thing.

We had a fearful down pour this morning, patter, patter on the piazza roof until I felt it quite violently and began to think of Noah and a second Deluge, but this afternoon has been very pleasant. We have a sick man here given up by his doctors and his family telegraphed for — getting well as fast as possible. I am so glad for Mr. Johnson and his brother. When are my eyes to be gladdened by the sight of the partner of my joys and sorrows, I miss him awfully his loving, Wife.

Sister says seeing me writing, so you don't expect him tomorrow, she replies well the letter will keep for next time.