

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, February 14, 1885, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. L Park Hotel, Madison, Wis., Saturday, Feb. 14th, 1885. My sweet darling wife:

The snow blockade has dissolved and at last has allowed your letters to reach me. Three letters last night and another with the children's letters has just reached me. Thank Elsie and Daisy for their nice letters and I hope they will write again and put a date on their letters so that in after years they may know when their letters were written, etc.

I have got lots to tell you but cannot write at length just now. My address in the Assembly chamber I think has done good and yesterday I had a long session with both committees. My time has been largely spent in interviewing important people and disarming opposition to the bill. Everything seems to be favorable to the passage of the bill. The committees will report to the assembly on Monday and Mr. Spencer and I are hard at work writing a report for the Committee to adopt. So don't expect anything more from me till Monday. We have fully discussed the report together — so as to define the chief points. We will each write a report tonight and compare notes tomorrow morning (Sunday) and spend the day in combining the two.

This is the most important work I can do just now. I think I must act as a sort of check on Mr. Spencer — as he is so enthusiastic as to endanger everything by saying too much. I believe that the committees are so favorably disposed towards the bill that they will say anything we recommend. We are so strong in our position that we can afford to drop all points of minor importance so as to steer clear of difficulties in the House and Senate. Everything promises well. I feel sure I cannot be home before the end of next week. I wait here to assist the committees in making their reports — then visit the three Institutions of Wisconsin and try to establish a harmonious feeling among them — stir up

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the Superintendent of Public Instruction to introduce certain branches of instruction into the New Normal School about to be opened in Milwaukee so as to give us crude material from which Articulation Teachers for the Deaf may be manufactured.

On my way home I will meet Mr. Wines in Chicago and set matters going in Illinois — looking to legislation there of a similar character to that here and probably I will again visit Columbus and stir up Mrs. Mitchell (whose deaf daughter was my pupil in past years) to stir up her cousin Mrs. Hayes wife of Ex-President Hayes — to stir up other people — to stir up the legislature to make provision for day-schools for deaf children in Ohio. Your telegram just received. In obedience I go out for a walk and a think. I will then have a nap — so as to be able to sit up tonight and write a report.

Your loving husband, Alec. P. S. You put only one shirt in my valise!!!! Consult Charlie about pecuniary matters. AGB