

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, March 19, 1891, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. 1336 Nineteenth Street, Washington, D. C., March 19th, 1891. Mrs. A. G. Bell, Shelburn Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J. Dear Mabel:

Thanks for nice undated letter received this morning. Cannot find it just now and I forget whether any queries require answering.

Gallaudet's reply came this morning and I enclose copy. I am now at work preparing my answer. Thought it best to write simply a brief note tonight (copy enclosed) asking what he means by "important facts," etc.

I have a shrewd suspicion that the "important facts" alluded to will be found fully discussed in my argument before the House Committee — but think it best to get him to make his charge definite before replying.

Think Gallaudet has lost his head — and has become so mad as to have forgotten all I said about hearing teachers — and Sign and Oral Methods, etc. — although it was said in his very presence.

The most charitable explanation is to suppose that he has forgotten.

If the "important facts" turn out to be the facts that he proposed to receive hearing persons and to teach both the Sign and Oral Methods — and I suspect they will — it is a most extraordinary thing that he should not remember my discussing the questions — and comparing the Eclectic Training School — to a Nat. Theological Seminary in which all religions should be taught, etc. Can it be that he fails to perceive the distinction between his plans — (which I have given him full credit for) — and the plan before Congress —

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which is limited (by the language 2 used) to the training of the graduates of his college. We shall see.

I enclose letter received from George Kennan. I also send Report of Miss Fuller's school containing your father's address. I am much pleased with Miss Fuller's statements about "Reading" — on the first page. Did you attend to the request of Dr. John Mitchell?

Good night and much love, Alec.