

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 21, 1894, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Volta Bureau, Washington, D. C. May 21st, 1894. My dear little wifie:

You haven't sent me your Halifax address — so I don't know how to communicate with you. If you are not comfortable don't hesitate to come down to New York — you must not run any risk on account of difficulty.

Will have to go somewhere else to write this letter I am afraid. Mr. Hitz's — charge' d' affaires' — a Mr. Howe (Hows that!) — is neither deaf nor dumb — certainly not dumb. He can't let me be for more than a few seconds without talking. The quiet V. B. is no longer quiet to me. Mr. Howe imagines that I know everything about the Bureau — and wants to hear every little detail of complaint — about the way the new building has been built — after it has been built! Really feel irritated — because the good man cannot understand that I want to be let alone — and I don't want to hurt his feelings by telling him so.

The operation is to be performed today — Monday — at one o'clock. Your mother is so well and bright and strong — that Dr. Barnett thought it should be performed as soon as convenient. Your mother is the bravest woman I know — (excepting perhaps one other) — and is just as cheerful as she can be. Your father too is full of hope. I telegraphed Rochester yesterday that I did not think we should ask or expect your father to leave his wife on our account — (The A.A.P.T.S.D.) — and suggested that it might be a wise plan to have the Board meeting here — at my house — instead of New York. It has been called to meet at New York 2 (Murray Hill Hotel) Wednesday morning 10 A. M. Would you not like me to bring Elsie and Daisy with me when I return. They cannot well go to Twin Oaks — or

Library of Congress

to Grace's house — and school closes next week — so that they would only lose two — or perhaps three days of school.

They want to come. We could either sail from Boston for Halifax on Saturday — or stay in Boston over Sunday and go by train Monday.

Poor Major Powell is in the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He has had to have his arm amputated again — Abscesses had formed at the ends of certain nerves causing him excessive pain and etc. Removal of abscesses has rendered reamputation of the arm higher up — advisable.

I go to Smithsonian this afternoon at two o'clock — and Prof. Langley and I will run over to Baltimore to see Mayor Powell.

Interruptions too great — must stop — To be continued in our next.

Your loving husband, Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, Baddeck.