

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 12, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks June 12th., (1898?) My dear Alec:

I am enclosing you copies of letters I sent to Miss Yale, Dr. Gordon and Crouter and Mr. Terrell. I do not know whether you will approve of them or not but I did feel that I owed it to myself and my children to prevent the sacrifice of my husband and their father's life for an inadequate object. If I felt myself and if I found that other workers of the deaf animated by as high ideals and as deep a devotion to the cause even as you — felt that the object possible to be gained by your presence here and in Columbus — was worth even the laying down of your life — I would at least not say very much. But I cannot see that what you possibly can gain by one great effort now will counter-balance the loss of your help through all the coming years that they ought to have.

Last year at the last moment when you were leaving you in fact appealed to me to prevent your going, but I did not do it because I felt that it was then too late. You had promised to deliver a speech at Milwaukee and up to that moment you had allowed them to depend on your presence. I was dreadfully disturbed and wished that I had gone with you will I did not see how you could draw back then unless confined to your bed. It is different now. The leaders of the Oral cause have been given plenty of notice and have had time to make all their arrangements. The cause of Oralism as well as every other cause must stand or fall by it's own merits, if it can't stand without the help of one man however powerful, it is not worth standing at all.

Dear Alec I never was so in love with the work as now that I have been for the last week or so going over the history of the founding of the Clarke School. I have read Horace Mann's Report in 1843, Mr. Stanborn's report of 1865. Mr. Turner and Mr. Stone's and Papa's

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and Dr. 2 Howes testimony in 1867 — I have read the whole Senate Doc. 265 through not once but twice and in parts many more times. I have read Dr. Gallaudet's paper in the Annals for 1898 in fact I have been steeping myself in D. and D. literature and if you could be here safely or with no more than the usual risk I would be so glad. But the more I see remains to be done the less I want you to exhaust yourself now— See here — why can't I represent you? I will open my house and with Elsie and Daisy's help entertain people. I will read your Report in Dept. 16. I will talk as I never did and with Miss Yale and Miss Fuller and Dr. Crouter. Surely I can do something — Try me. Try your daughters. If anything happened to you we would be all that were left to carry on the work. Stand aside this time and see what we can do. Or if you would rather I will come up to you at once.

Of course if you give up the idea of coming down I would not let you travel for pleasure during the summer. We could stay quietly at home until September and then travel through the country going to Japan if the war was over, if not just going through the country, The schools would be opening and you could visit them and give lectures there. Now wouldn't that help the work as much as coming here and perhaps being able to do nothing. Surely the day you could not go to the Geographic meeting you could not have gone to any other kind of meeting.

Think over my proposition.

It is nearly 90° outside my window at the North side where the sun never comes and 82 in the cool and shady hall. They say it is very much hotter in town.

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As for Daisy's going South the argument was that it was not very much hotter there than here and if she was to be in a hot place anyway she might as well be in one where she would acquire an experience that would be unique all her life. It was not a question between Baddeck and Key West but between one hot place and another. I went to the Weather Bureau and got the average for Washington and Key West for the last 25 years.

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It was Key West

Maximum 87

Minimum 77

Washington.

Maximum 81

Minimum 63

She could return any time and travelling with Mrs. Porter she would have comforts she could not have in any other way. It seemed to me when you came to look at it this way there was a difference, on the one hand great advantages on the other she would be hot anyway, why not take the advantages? So I sent for her to come on — telling her however that it was by no means sure that she could go anyway. You see she is not bound to stay a day if she doesn't want to and she won't have to work any harder than she wants to and think what an experience it would be for her; how it would enlarge and broaden her circle of interests and acquaintances. Now I want so much to reach out for Elsie and can't, here is a chance for Daisy. Let her take it unless we find the danger is too great, she is so anxious to go.

Lovingly, ever yours, Mabel. June 12th.