

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, August 26, 1906, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks, Washington, D.C. Monday, August 26, (1906.) My dear Alec:

Many thanks for your letter. I read it to Daisy. She said David felt just as you did about giving a child his own name, but you forget that in this case the baby has it in the Fairchild. You were Alexander Bell Jr., he is Alexander Graham Bell Fairchild with no Jr. or 2nd attached and they gave him the whole name with the idea of letting him choose for himself which part of it he desired to use.

We are getting on as well as possible, considering the state of excitement David keeps us in, he nearly rivals you in that. I must confess I contributed my share this afternoon. I was left alone to run amuck among all David's bottles, big and little. All I had to do was to give the scientific baby two teaspoonsful of water with two drops of lime water in it, a simple enough job apparently, but the water had to be taken from one of three bottles and poured down the infant's throat from one of three or four medicine droppers and from about a dozen tumblers, assorted sizes, wiped with scientifically prepared cloths from one of four large bottles. As I hadn't the remotest idea which to take, the end of the matter was a crying fit on the mother's part, a great scare on the grandmother's and an intent ringing of telephone bells in the offices of all the physicians in town! No harm was done fortunately, but it was lucky. Of course I ought to have known just what to do but it was a new dodge to give 2 the baby the water before nursing and I did not know I would be left to do it.

I have just heard of Mr. Henry McCurdy's death. I am most sorry. I also heard this evening of Susie's losing her baby and this morning I had a letter from Mr. Arthur McC in which he said so many things had happened this year he hoped there would be a lull now. Quite a

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lot of news today. The Am. Association telegraphed Mamma also and she replied ending with conveying to the Assoc. the greetings of Alexander Graham Bell Fairchild.

By the way, I find that of the four children of Mamma's father's who died young, two or three died of scarlet fever.

I am so glad about the ugly duckling's performance. I hope you will press Mr. Baldwin into service. I think your commonest workmen should all be graduates of mechanical schools. Charlie was very favorably impressed by him, he thinks he has ability and that he is an all around fine fellow who could help you. Don't be afraid to pay him well if on trial you like him. I am sure you need someone.

Goodnight. It pours every blessed day here. YOURS.

Your Mabel.

Mamma hopes you will understand that the baby didn't suffer from this afternoon's performance. The "sterilized" water was good pure boiled distilled water and not some kind of poison and the droppers were all pure water droppers, etc. etc., but it's like your favorite quotation — an emphasis suggest an antithesis. Daisy is sitting up.

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What do you think What du u think of the nu fonetic spelling? Somebody writes the Times the president has put "the phat in the phire."

Mr. Mauro received the cells July 20.