

Letter from Mrs. C.I. Comfort to Alexander Graham Bell, February 18, 1889

ack Feby 22/89 Wilmington, N. C. 18 February 1889. Prof. Bell, #1336 — 19th St., N. W.,
Washington, D. C. Dear Sir:—

I have been recently informed by my friend — Mr. S. I. Irvine — now sojourning in your city, that you are the “originator of a system of teaching deaf children the art of talking.”

As I have a little daughter who will be 3 years old in June, and who is deaf, would be pleased to know more of your system.

A short time ago we became painfully aware that our daughter was deaf. We had her ears examined by a prominent physician of this city who pronounced her totally deaf. As this physician is no specialist (there being no such here), we have not as yet given up hope until opportunity presents itself to consult some well known Aurist of the north.

We do not believe that she was born deaf; she does not act like a deaf and dumb child; can cry and laugh like other children; and there is an absence of that one monotonous sound so peculiar to deaf and dumb mutes. She daily says one time “Mama” and other times “Papa” in long continuous stretches, but unfortunately does not seem to understand their full meaning. The child makes all her wants known by taking one of us by the hand and leading to the place where what she wants is kept, or by pointing her finger at desired articles &c. She is very quick of perception notices every little jar, like shutting of doors, a slight knock on the floor &c. Would also state that she at present tries hard to talk.

Will be pleased to have your opinion and advice in this matter, and to state what can or ought to be done until we can have her thoroughly examined by an Aurist. If there is a skilled Aurist in Washington, we may be able to bring child on at an early day for

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examination. I have been advised by physicians here to take her to New York City for examination.

Any remarks or suggestions that you can offer, will be highly appreciated by

Very respectfully yours, C. J. P.S. Is enclosed stamp for reply. #111 South 7th Street.
Wilmington, N. C. Refly Mch 21/89