

Letter from Cornelius Roosevelt & Frederic Gower to Alexander Graham Bell, September 7, 1878

Copy of letter from Cornelius Roosevelt and Frederic Gower to Alexander Graham Bell. Paris, September 7, 1878. My dear Mr. Bell:

I was very sorry not to have seen you last Wednesday when I came over from Paris with my brother almost entirely for that purpose. However that cannot be helped, what I wanted was this, The Edison and Grey with Phelps have combined their interests and have made quite a stir here by exhibiting at the Exposition before the Press and etc. They draw a very long bow and to judge from there tone one would imagine that Bell was an impostor and a cheat. I am perpareing my batteries for an overwhelming blow which will require your presence for at least 24 hours here in Paris As soon as you will mame a day when you can be here I will issue invitations in your name to a grand exhibition of your improved telephones and I can tell you that they are wonderfully iimproved. Between Versailles and the Exposition and with you here we will have a grand success. If you ever went to save any money in France from your invention appoint an early day and be on hand. But for Heavens sake don't say you will come and fail as that will ruin not only you but me and as the invitations must be sent out in advance it will be impossible to change the date once fixed, of course I shall take charge of you in every sense of the word.

I leave space for Gower who is working like a horse and doing splendidly.

Yours truly, Cornelius Roosevelt. My regards to Mrs Bell and Mrs and Mr Hubbard whom I was very sorry not to have met in Paris.

2

Permit me to endorse to the fullest extent the view and the request of Mr. Roosevelt as above stated.

Library of Congress

I feel that it is “now or never” with the Bell Telephone in France, and urgently hope that you will be able to give us your assistance in securing the benefit “now”.

Besides the exhibition which Mr. Roosevelt has mentioned, there are one or two developments in the telephone itself which I think will be worth your attention, and on which I greatly need your opinion.

Very truly yours, Frederic A. Gower.