

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 23, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. at Philadelphia International Exposition (June 23, 1876) My dear Alec:

I wrote to you last night but got disgusted with, and tore up the letter. My poor Alec I am so sorry for you. I felt half inclined to cry when that long letter came. It is very hard to be kept in Philadelphia so much against your inclination. I had hoped from yours and Papa's telegrams that you had begun to feel better about it, and I was much disappointed to find you did not. I know that your expenses are greater than you like and I am sure neither my parents, nor I myself would advise you to spend so much money and valuable time if we did not think it would in the end prove the true economy. I am very sorry indeed about your "poor Normal Class," I know it is very hard for you to be away from them now. But is it not possible that your visit to Philadelphia will be for their benefit in interesting people in the system and increasing the call for teachers. I am quite sure your visit must some way or other help your profession even if not immediately. If you had a professorship, or any place with a regular salary and plenty of time, you would be able to devote more of your time to preparing competent teachers of the Deaf and Dumb without regard to their payment. I know how disagreeable it is to you to take pay for a work in which your heart is and will it not be a relief if you can obtain any place that would put you above the necessity of doing so. And you are much more likely to obtain that situation if you make yourself known, as you are doing at the Centennial. Altogether it seems to me you should think of the future as well as the present and so far as I can see your visit helps ² it in every way . Forgive this long lecture. I am afraid you are getting enough of this kind now. I am very anxious to have you feel that this visit is for the best, for it makes me unhappy that you should still feel so badly about it. Poor Alec I wish I could help you in any way. If it would not have been such a waste of Papa's money and Mamma's time I should have gone down to Philadelphia this

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morning as Papa telegraphed. I felt however it would be selfish in me to take away from Mamma what help I could give her. Besides I hope you are happier now my darling. I love you very much and only wish I could have spared you that trouble, only I am perfectly sure it will all come out right.

If you get a medal you must give it to me for it was I who sent you after it. Won't I be gorgeous with the immense thing hanging from my neck!

Breakfast is ready, so adieu with much love. I will not write again unless I hear you intend staying longer than Sunday. I hope it will not be advisable I miss you dreadfully. Now don't come rushing back because I said that, it would only make matters worse if you came a moment sooner than you ought.

Lovingly, Mabel.