

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 24, 1877, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 10 E. 14th. St., Tuesday, April 24th.(1877) My dear Alec:

Mamma has just said we will go out and get something by and by when it is cooler it is too hot now. Doesn't this bring up to your mind a picture of summer, the warm midday sun streaming hot on the pavements and newly put up blinds drawn close, the windows wide open. It is only April, yet this has been our state since Sunday.

Thanks for your letter. You poor Alec shut up there chaffing against the fetters that kept you from working out the ideas knocking so hard inside your head. I did not mean to keep you in such torture. Instead of pacing up and down your room like a caged "polar bear" why didn't go for a long hard walk into the fields. I never forbade your doing that, and I am sure you would have felt better when you came home thoroughly tired out mentally and bodily, and ready for a good long night's sleep.

I return the telegram, keep it for Papa. Why in your answer to the invitation didn't you address it to Mr. Longfellow, it seems to ignore him, and his is the greatest name on the list.

When you come to New Haven be sure you are as clean and nice as wax, Mr. Salisbury is just as particular as he can be, and I am anxious you should make the most favorable impression. A favorable one you will make anyway. If you cannot decide which of your coats is the new one ask Mr. Watson to help you, you must not let me find a spot or speck anywhere. I'll do my best to look nicely too and give you leave to criticize me all you please. I am afraid I shall not look as well as usual, this weather has been very prostrating to us all. 2 I am quite well only do not feel very bright and am inclined to wish New Haven

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and Saturday in particular in Jericho. Excepting indeed for my new dress which promises to be very pretty and has as long a train as over I desire. Only pray don't put your polar bear foot on it first thing. Mamma and I will be in Boston for your lectures there perhaps Papa too. We heard from him from Charleston today, he will be in Washington tomorrow. Sister we expect Thursday, but Papa will be detained.

Auntie and Mr. Marsh went out to ride in the park last night.

I mailed my yesterday's letter just in time, I saw the postman leaving the box and made a rush at him.

Are your other telephone lines working, you say nothing about them. Does your new improvement prove a success. Uncle Ric, (Mr. Richard McCurdy) says the principal thing in telegraphy needed now is a system by which messages can be heard only by the person for whom it is intended. Now all the messenger boys and hanger-ons around every office can read every dispatch by the sound, it has grown to be a perfect nuisance. I wish you would go out and thank Mr. Norsford for procuring your invitation.

So your cousin is engaged, you had better write and congratulate him without delay or he will have broken the engagement and perhaps be in love with someone else before your letter reaches him.

With very much love, Yours ever, May.