

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 19, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. East Gallery, Main Building, International Exhibition, Phila. Pa. Cambridge, Monday, (June 19, 1876?) My dear Alec:

Yesterday's note was a shabby affair, if I had had time I should have attempted another. I do not know though if I am capable of a better one today, my principal idea continues to be one of thankfulness that you are in Philadelphia. After that I only know that pulling up gimp tacks and sewing a sofa cover are hard and tiresome things. Gimp tacks may be the best things to hammer down, but they certainly are the horriddest little wretches to unearth. I amused myself by thinking how nice it would be if you could invent a Gimp Tack Puller. But I should be quite content to go on pulling those tacks all my life if you could only finish your telegraph and get it recognized. You don't know how much my heart is in your work or how anxious I am that you should succeed. I want so much that you should take your proper place among scientific men. I don't think you care very much about it, but for my sake and for the sake of others who may depend on you, you ought to. That first remark looks so selfish I am inclined to tear up the whole letter, but I have no time for another note before closing of the mail and besides what is for me is for you also. Well there is no use my talking for I know you are doing your very best, and I only wish I were there to see you dear.

We are very busy again. The men have put down the new matting in the children's room, and are now putting down the carpet in the halls and on the stairs. Mamma and I have taken off the red 2 cover from my sofa and are putting on a white one for Sister. Don't tell her though. I think Mamma wants to surprise her. O dear I shall be glad when this house cleaning is done, poor little Mamma looks according to your favorite term "like a ghost."

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Don't urge Sister to come home with you if you return this week, Mamma does not want her to come on until the work is done.

Poor Alec I am afraid you must be both tired and melted out. Never mind when you return it will be with the feeling that you have done your duty and that you are a long way nearer the time when you will be free to make your own way. It must help your profession and Visible Speech too and if you care very much for it (?) will thus bring our union nearer.

Goodbye I must post this (which is a great proof of my affection for it is burning hot) and then return to the long seam.

Lovingly, Your May Ber takes this down after all and you must take the intention for the deed.