

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

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Jan (1877) My dear Alec:

I doubt very much if this will go before tomorrow morning as it is now past mail time, but I will write in case Patrick will take my letter to the office. I have just returned from my sleigh ride, and my hands are still stiff and cold. It has been a moderately cold day, and the ride at first was just cold enough to be enjoyable, but as we came home the wind arose and chilled us through. I lunched at Aunt Ellen's, they were very kind and I enjoyed it very much. Then Aunt Ellen gave me a piece of Danish china, very rare and valuable, she said there were none like it in this country, and she was going to give the Boston Museum another piece, she know they did not have any. We drove to Central Park and past many pretty sleighs, few very "swell" though, Gertrude said because they have so little sleighing here. I think one sees handsomer turnouts in Boston. There were many quite poor sleighs, which surprised me, as you so seldom see poor carriages at this part of the city. The people were all wrapped up so warmly, some of the most fashionable wearing delicate Scotland lace over their beads, or silk fur trimmed hoods. The last time I was in Central Park I went to trundle my hoop, and play hide and go seek among the groves with the children and Trudie and Robbie! Gertrude impolitely remarked what a long time ago it must have been. Adelheit gave me your pencil note on my return, Many thanks. I am curious to know the result of your interview with Mr. Gray. I am so glad about the government lines. Be careful though to be perfectly sure of your instruments before you give them for public trial. A failure now may mean temporary ruin, 2 remember what that means to you and me, and also to others. Papa telegraphs he will be here tomorrow, and Mamma has begun to pack up, fearing he may want her to go to Washington with him. I am so glad she will be there with you and Papa, I think she understands you both much better than you do

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each other and will help you to agree better. I hardly feel safe with you two together alone. I hope you have come safely through your first day's examination, and feel encouraged to proceed to another. Be sure you look nicely, you don't know how much depends on first impressions.

Goodnight, with love, Your loving, Mabel. I have just made those blots, I know not how, please excuse them as my letter is all written.