

## Letter and enclosure from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, August 3, 1883, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. L Please preserve the copy of my confidential note to Mr. King. AGB Cambridge, Aug. 3d, 1883. Friday morning. Dear little May:

Your telegram received late last night was a great relief. I fear the Teleg. Co.'s business is much disorganized in which case strike will be a success. Did you hear of my adventure? I left the train at Washington to buy provisions for Gertrude and Maurice who were starving. Poor Gertrude especially was quite faint for want of something to eat. The train was very late and so did not wait as long as usual at the Washington Depot.

Result — train left me there. Suddenly remembering that there was a late train from the B. & P. Depot — I jumped into the carriage and drove there. In the meantime Maurice had stopped the train and the conductor backed into the Depot but I had disappeared!!

Upon reaching the “Relay Station” beyond Baltimore — I found that the B. & O. train had not yet made its appearance — so I took my chances and let the B. & P. train go on without me. In about half-an-hour sister's train made its appearance and I startled them all with a “Hoy — Hoy” as a call to supper — which I had brought with me. After seeing them safely off I found my way to the Boston boat and arrived in Boston safely yesterday morning. I fear we are going to have trouble with Mr. King. I can only explain his conduct upon one supposition and that is that his action is caused by dire necessity — “Necessity” you know “knows no law.”

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I feel sure he is about to fail. I feel very sorry for him and I have half a mind to go confidentially to him as a friend — and say that if this is the case — and if it is through no

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fault of his — we would be glad to do our best to help him to an honourable solution of his affairs.

If he has made an engagement at a fixed salary of \$5000 per. ann. it should be possible for him to live upon less and assign to us a portion of his salary for any advance we might see fit to make. Should “Science” matters keep me here sometime — which you will find out by my telegrams — send me a telegram as to your wishes in the matter. This is all confidential.

Love, Alec.

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Personal My dear Mr. King:

I can only explain your actions regarding “Science” on the ground of dire necessity — and that your affairs are badly involved. If this is so — will you not trust me — as a friend — and let me know truly how matters stand.

I do not write as Vice-President of the Science Co. — but simply as one — who — personally wishes you well and would like to see you make an honourable solution of your difficulties.

This is a personal note — written without the knowledge of Scudder or any one else. Your note of the 1st inst. I will answer officially after due consultation. In the meantime it would give me much pleasure if you would respond to this note in the spirit I have written it. I have every wish personally — to be of any assistance to you that I can.

Yours very sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell. Moses King Esq., Publisher—Cambridge, Mass.