

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 3, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. (Nov. 3rd 1896) My dear Alec:

It's half after one but I must tell you of our election day. I really had no business to telegraph you early in the morning afternoon as I did, because my information was picked up in the street before any official reports has come in. Fortunately the states really seem to have gone as I said.

Charles began listening at the Long Distance Telephone at seven and all through supper he sent us bulletins of New York state. After supper Elsie, Lina and I staid in the little reception room and watched the letters as they fell from Charles fingers. Later Aileen and Ninie came in and Ninie staid while Aileen and I went down to the Ladies Club for a few minutes. We did stay until eleven and had a "fine" time. A pretty little operator wrote down the bulletins and Mrs. Hanley read them off, and I stood by her and looked over her shoulder. Every one was very quiet and there was very little cheering, and that of the most decorous kind, still I think nearly every one was for McKinley. I tried to get a telegram off to you at ten when something positive came, and the little operator said she could and would send it for me, but after waiting an hour I gave up and tried the regular telegraph office. I hope you got it all right. By that time the list of republican states was so long that I thought the best I could do was to claim everything through Hanna. We wanted to go down to see the fun on the Avenue but Perrin demurred. However some of the more reckless still said they would go and I was 2 going too, but when we heard that Mrs. Justice Field's carriage had been stopped just outside the club we concluded not to. Others did go however, but later reported that they could not get further than 14th St., and not near enough to see the bulletins. We staid until after twelve and were not the last to leave. I can't begin to tell

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you how nervous and anxious I was when we began watching. All the gentlemen here seemed so nervous and anxious, hoping all things, but also fearing all things. I do not believe the election is as satisfactory as could be wished, a really satisfactory one would be a landslide so great as to bury the silver question so deep it couldn't bother us any more. Everybody was so nice to me at the Club, and I seemed to know nearly every one so it was very pleasant. How I wished all the time that you were here to share the fun.

Ever lovingly, Mabel. Nov. 3rd 1896.