

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, June 19, 1898, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B. Sunday, June 19, 1898. Mrs. A. G. Bell, Twin Oaks, Washington, D. C. My poor dear little wifie:

Your note of June 12th, received last night — also another brought by Mrs. Kennan.

I really don't know what to do about N.E.A. I feel it my duty to go down to Washington but I am afraid of the journey. I feel very much better and have been making strenuous efforts to bring my weight down — with only moderate exercise. Have not had dinner for days. I have my usual breakfast — and then at 6 P. M. have two cups of tea and three marmalade sandwiches. So far haven't wanted anything more — but I have kept away from dinner table. Weight now 232½ pounds and coming down. If I could only come down to 210 pounds I think I would be safe — but I don't think I have time now to reduce weight to that figure — and I am afraid of starting things up again by anything like smart walking. I feel as if I *could* walk smartly but I am afraid to try.

Hard at work upon statistics relating to the Deaf — for if I don't go down — I shall have to send a paper. My present intention is to leave here for Halifax on the 28th — attend the closing exercises of the Halifax Institution — June 29th — and then go right down to Washington so as to have a few days before the meeting. Don't worry me dear — 2 and don't worry about me. I will take care of myself and won't come if I don't feel well.

Your loving husband, Alec.