

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 13, 1904, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks, Washington, D. C. (Postmarked November 13, 1904. AGB) Dear Alec:

Just a line while Mamma gets ready for church. Your telegram saying you would leave last of month came this A. M. I would rather you arranged for that and came a week later. I want the dining room ceiling lighted with sunken cornice lights and the cellar must be made dry. These I understand will take two weeks. I am to see Mr. Totten tomorrow and put the work up at once, but Charles objects to have us in the house or to do any cleaning until the men are out. Daisy is remarkably well and bright and there is no immediate need whatever of an operation, except the general one that when there is small pox around it is safer to be vaccinated at one's earliest convenience.

I miss you and think of you constantly. Your telegrams don't say walked to laboratory. In sending you the election telegrams I confined myself almost altogether to facts and figures from which you could draw your own deductions. Now if you telegraphed walked both ways — I'd draw the deduction you were pretty well — whereas now I have only your vague statement-all well— which simply means that nobody is down with typhoid or that ilk!

Please let me know about the receipt, and the Borglum money — only don't telegraph this as it becomes public property that way and I don't care to have it discussed. Alice Hill is here. She is a different being, she is to be married Thursday. I guess it's all right with her, she has nothing at all here and with Mr. Harris she has at 2 least a chance of happiness. I saw Mr. Hitz yesterday — he looks ten years younger than when I first saw him some eighteen years ago, it is really overwhelming. He has his hair and beard cut and came running down stairs to meet me and all his gestures were quick and alert. Do you suppose

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he is going to get married again? He and Mamma live on bread and water approximately. I begin to think this is the secret of healthy, happy old age, free from disease and infirmities and I wish you'd take a course of that. All I would suggest is that you take your bread and water regularly! But I object to your starving yourself one day and gorging the next.

I must send this now. I want so much to hear of the kites. Why aren't your tetrahedral cells ready for instant commercial use in steel construction work? All the way down I was looking at the station roofs and signal tower bridges and they all use the triangular box.

Love, Mabel.