

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 24, 1917, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Washington. April 24, 1917. My darling Alec:

I wish you were here. Washington is at its loveliest, which is very lovely indeed. It's just right for motoring and I want to go through the country with you.

I was so glad to get your letter of April 19. Isn't seventeen a very small part of thirty one? I wonder what the average number of lambs are kept on an ordinary farm.

By the way why not utilize an old Italian "Little Priest" in your trench heating experiments. It's up in the attic at the Point somewhere over the big tower room. John McDermid could easily find it. It would hardly do for such a makeshift place as a trench or dugout, but would do to try out the experiment. You remember I used it in Florence, they hung a pottery bowl full of live charcoal inside and put it inside the bedclothes.

I sent a box of our flowers, carnations and roses, to Mr. Balfour with a note welcoming him and the others to American in your name and mine and I promptly got a nice little reply from one of the secretaries saying Mr. Balfour was so much pleased etc. I was mad I wasn't on hand to see them when I arrived but the Evening Star said nothing, at least not in headlines and I had economized on the Washington Sunday Herald which did have it in big headlines. The whole route was lined with automobiles and the streets with people. I could kick myself. I might just as well have been 2 there and one of the papers is mad also, says that one of the first things the new censorship did was to refuse publication of Mr. Balfour's arrival and it was so stupid for how could it help the enemy to know. No one knows at what port he arrived.

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They are sending out 2000 copies of my poor little appeal.

I have the English and French flags out on either side of the American. Unfortunately the English flag is the merchant flag but no Union Jack was obtainable.

Much love. Your Mabel.