

Enclosure of letter from John D. Bradley to Alexander Graham Bell, March 2, 1896

At the close of his lecture Friday evening. Dr Bell informally received a number of the students and entertained them by a pleasant conversation about experiments that may be made in radiophony by the students here with inexpensive apparatus. Yesterday morning some the fellows tried a few experiments along the lines suggested, but they obtained no results owing to the lack of sunlight.

Jacksonville Daily Journal February 29/96

DR. ALEXANDER G. BELL. The Distinguished Scientist and Inventor, Makes Jacksonville a Visit.

Jacksonville has been greatly honored during the past day by a visit from the great scientist and inventor, Dr A G Bell, whose name is indissolubly connected with the telephone, the great invention of the 19th century. The gentleman is a personal friend of Dr Gillett and President Bradley, of Illinois college, both of whom had great pleasure in greeting their illustrious friend. With his usual desire to serve the best interests of the college and with commendable public spirit as well, President Bradley arranged that as many as possible should meet Dr Bell during the stay of the latter in the city, and to that end a reception was arranged at the president's house and of course, with the management of the gentleman himself and his estimable and capable wife, it was a complete success. The fine mansion presented a brilliant spectacle from 5 to 7; pink predominated, the chandeliers being draped with a wealth of pink roses and carnations. Dr Bell received with Dr and Mrs Bradley and about 150 of the leading gentlemen and ladies of the city embraced the opportunity to pay their respects to the eminent gentleman and his entertainers. The host and hostess were assisted by Mrs Gates Strawn, Mrs E P Kirby, Mrs Dr Pitner, Mrs Dr Kellogg, Mrs T P Carter, Miss Maria Fairbank, Miss H B Smith, Mrs

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W C Carter, Mrs E C Lambert and Mrs Dr King, all of whom performed their duties in a pleasing manner. Dr Bell has the usual simplicity of greatness and on this occasion was most gracious to all who called and conversed pleasantly with those who sought to do him honor and delighted all with his agreeable, plain and unostentations manner.

At the close of the reception the ladies in attendance enjoyed a substantial and delicious supper and then all repaired to

THE LECTURE.

The gymnasium of Illinois College was filled to its fullest capacity to hear Dr Bell's lecture on Radiophomy. The appearance of a man of his reputation is enough to attract a large number without much urging. Dr Bell's philanthropic work as described in yesterday's Journal , as well of his scientific achievements, make him a man whom the public delights to honor. The lecturer was introduced by Dr Bradley, who expressed his pleasure at the opportunity thus afforded the students of Illinois College and the citizens of Jacksonville to hear one who has done so much for mankind through the agency of scientific research. The subject of the lecture was the transmission of sound by means of radiation. The medium thus acting was at first supposed to be light rays, but later investigation show that other forms of radiation possess the same property. Dr Bell has been the only American to carry on investigation in this line and the description of his experiment and results were profoundly interesting throughout. He advised the young men who wished to enter on some field of scientific study, but little known as yet, to turn their attention to this means of sound transmission by which it might be that great results would be wrought out.

In reply to a question regarding the celebrated Roentgen rays he gave an account of the principles which led up to their discovery and the manner in which Roentgen hit upon the idea of their application in ways which have made his name so famous.

Answering a further question as to the future of aerial navigation he said that this means of transport in the near future was a certainty, but that he was not at liberty to speak

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definitely with reference to what had been done, as the devices in question were not his own, though he had done much work which had bearing on this subject.

The lecture was of profound interest, not only from a scientific point of view, but also to any one who is interested in the march of the advance guard of inventive thought and the prospect of the great changes which a few years may bring about. Dr Bradley deserves hearty thanks for thus bringing to the college and the town, one who has done and is still doing so much for the increase of knowledge and for human welfare.