

## Letter from John D. Philbrick to Alexander Graham Bell, October 7, 1871, with transcript

duplicate Copied from a collection of Biographical material on file in "Dr. Bell's Room." Copy of a copy in Dr. Bell's handwriting of a letter dated October 7, 1871, from the superintendent of public schools in Boston, to Alexander Graham Bell. The original of this letter is also on file. City of Boston. Department of Public Instruction. Superintendent's Office, City Hall, October 7, 1871. A. Graham Bell, Esq., My dear Sir:

I congratulate you most cordially on the success of your experiment in the application of the science of Visible Speech, which was developed by your father, to the instruction of the pupils in our Boston deaf-mute school. Heretofore, instruction of deaf-mutes in artificial articulation has been wholly imitative and empirical, and although the system is extensively employed, it has produced useful results only at the expense of incredible labor and patience on the part of both teachers and pupils.

You have, by your experiment in our school, proved the practicability of producing in congenital deaf-mutes perfect articulation, with vastly less labor than has been required to produce only imperfect articulation. What is still more wonderful, if possible, you have succeeded in enabling deaf-mute pupils to modulate the voice, by giving a higher and lower pitch and the upward and downward and circumflex inflexions.

What you have done in the short time you have been engaged in our school, has convinced me that the Science of Visible Speech is to become a powerful and an indispensable instrumentality in the 2 instruction of deaf-mutes. I know of no greater step of progress, in this specialty of education, than this you have introduced, since the days of the Abbe l' Epee, and Samuel Heinicke.

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Very truly yours, John D. Philbrick.