

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, March 23, 1903, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. March 23, 1903. My sweet little darling wife:

I love you. What makes you so good to me after all these years I wonder. Three lovely letters from you and not one from me — and now you are reduced to begging a dictated letter — typewritten by my Secretary — with only the beginning and end in my own handwriting!

You poor little girl — I wish I could write this with my heart instead of my hand — you make me ashamed of myself.

This afternoon we had an informal meeting of National Geographic Board to confer with Mr. Bailey Willis, relative to his departure for China. He heads a Geological Expedition sent out at the expense of the Carnegie Institution to China. He is willing also to represent the National Geographic Society — and we have decided today to let him be our accredited Representative and to place at his disposal such sums of money as we can raise. His expenses are paid by Carnegie — but there are many things he can do for us in a geographic (not geologic) way. He will report to Carnegie concerning geologic matters — and to us concerning the people and other matters not coming under Carnegie and etc.

I have invited Mr. Ziegler to dine with me here — Friday evening — and meet some members of the National Geographic Board — in reference to a representative of the Society on his 2 Polar Expedition. Have not heard from him yet. Have asked him to be our guest here. If he accepts — I must return from New York at once. Have to be in Philadelphia Thursday to meet Mr. Crouter and Mr. Davidson and settle matters about summer meeting of Association. The illness of Dr. Westervelt and Mr. Booth — and the inaccessibility of Dr. Gordon and Mr. Johnson leaves Miss Fuller the only member of the Committee on the summer meeting available. She recommends abandoning the summer meeting until next year when it could be held in St. Louis in conjunction with the Exposition. Will discuss this with Crouter. Matter must be settled now as the Association Review will come out in a few days.

Leave here Thursday at 11 A. M. Lunch at depot in Philadelphia at 2:30 P. M. with Crouter and Davidson. Leave Philadelphia 3:50 P. M. — arrive Jersey City 6:08 P. M. — and make straight tracks for 26 W. 47th Street — where I expect to arrive about seven o'clock. After a look at Daidums — may I have the pleasure of — eloping with you — somewhere — anywhere. Dine at Riceadonner's Italian Restaurant — go to the theatre afterwards — and then anything you like. If Mr. Ziegler accepts my

invitation — and I should know by tomorrow — I shall have to return immediately Thursday night by midnight train — or by early train Friday morning.

If he does not accept — then — I'm at your disposal. I should like to see Dr. Davenport to find out exactly what was accomplished by the operation. Would like also to see 3 Hutchinson's device to aid the hearing — and see another invention — The "Pneumoalito" — a machine propelled by serial propellers. I almost hope Ziegler will decline — for then I can run off with you somewhere — and have you all to myself for a day or two at least. Your mamma and Gypsey arrived last night — saw them today — but could not meet them last night as Mr. King dined with me (I promised him not to go to sleep!) — and spent the evening with me over Census matters. Love to my brave little girl. I hope she may now be permanently well — and both arms and my heart as well — to my darling little wifie.

Your, Alec.