

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 6, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 904—14th. St., April 6th. 1879. My dear Alec:

I was very much, Ber with hand on heart sends her dearest love. Mary sends love also. Berta has been doing her silliest best to bother me to death and has only now left me in peace, for how long I know not. I was so disappointed that you did not come home yesterday I did feel so unhappy about that nurse for Elsie. Yesterday the woman with whom she has been living called on me while out and praised her so highly that Sister and I went to see her. She could not say enough of her, but that had the very contrary effect from pleasing me. She said she was such a remarkable woman, could be housekeeper or your secretary or anything she had in mind to. I am not certain but that she could play on the piano! It all sounded as if she were just the woman to take everything off my hands, and leave me without responsibility or authority of any kind. Now that is just what I dread, I want a good capable nurse for Elsie but nothing more, no one so very smart and knowing that I have nothing to do. Do you understand, I am afraid she may offer advice and suggestions where it is not her business to do so. I have no doubt she would make things easy for me, but I don't want things made easy for me I would rather struggle through until I know how to make them myself. Do you comprehend. The trouble only—I forget what trouble I meant. I have been down to send my telegram to you, I thought before agreeing to go to the expense of her board until the 23rd., I had better ask you about it. I hope you will understand and help me I feel so unhappy about it, she seems very pleasant and when she called today Elsie seemed quite to like her, but I so dread presumption, 2 I do want to be entire mistress in my own house. I had to telegraph for she has another place waiting for her as housekeeper, and I have promised to give her an answer before 9 tomorrow morning. I am so sorry you had such a headache, but why

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will you sleep in a light room. It seems strange to me that you would rather have a frightful headache than take a little trouble about the blinds, or in choosing a dark room. Never mind about Col. Reynolds. We personally know nothing greatly to his discredit, and it is none of our business what he may have done or do so long as our affairs are not in his hands, I am sorry for him he was always kind and friendly to us personally, and we know how hard he worked and how broken down he was when we saw him last, we don't know how much he may have suffered. I am so glad you think things are going on so well with your law suit. Oh your papers I sent for have come, and the Philosophical Journal and Telegraphic Journal review Mr. Prescott's work. "The Teleph. and Phono and other Nov.?" and analyze Mr. Prescott's motives pretty well. The telegraphic

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