

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 13, 1888, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Tours, June 13th., 1888 You bad boy:

Why can't you be sure without any words to that effect that we, none of us, were among the killed and injured on the Burgogne or you would have heard all about it. I would send you the letter I wrote you the very next day forgetting that you would sail before it could get half across the Atlantic but that it got left in Paris with some of our luggage.

As you were not to go among the sailors and officers and find out just the very worst of what happened, I do not know even yet how bad our condition really was. Papa was very ill "mal de mer" and too far gone to stir or be the least disturbed, however, we pitched and tossed. The three children and I were in the cabin over the dinning room at the time the sea struck us and knew nothing except that we had tossed heavily. I was horribly nervous, did not dare to leave the children, yet feared to have Mamma and Papa downstairs. Finally I did venture and then I saw, the lower decks were still pouring water out and six sailors in shining oilskins were carrying another, whose curly black head made me think of you with a sudden pang, down the stairs. That is all I knew except that one man was certainly killed, perhaps the one I saw and that one other was not expected to recover and five others badly or slightly hurt. We got up a collection of some four or five thousand francs for the widows.

Now is that enough and will you in return tell me something of yourself. Your telegram to Papa has just come. The Honorable Joseph Chamberlain N.P. etc. etc., must have a pretty good opinion of himself if he expects Papa to drop everything and travel up to London for the sublime delight of dining with him. We had enough of him last year. I wish you would go to the best tailor in London and get a swell suit. I wish you to look your level

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best for my sake and credit. Can't you hire a lackey to dress you and see you look nicely while you are in London. Good clothes look shabby if they are not brushed etc.

Please don't go telegraphing all over the country about that belt. I just managed to keep Papa from reading it. No — bring the belt to me yourself. I can wait for it. But if you can send the rubber tubing by mail I should be very glad. That is the part I wanted but could not cable for.

We did nothing but drive about town yesterday, today we went to Chemonceau a Chateau built right over the river Cher. It was very interesting full of old furniture and pictures but was more like a museum than a home and I did not think it could be very comfortable.

Mamma says I must close if my letter is to go tonight Poitiers is I think our next station. The children are all right, and would send love if they were not sound asleep. Elsie is interested in what she sees. Daisy very little so.

Your loving, Mabel. Please go and call on Uncle Richard McCurdy, Bucklands Hotel 43 Lower Brook St. W. He and Aunt Ellen sail for home on the 23rd.