

Chicago Feb 2nd / 75

My Dear Popr,

As you are perhaps aware
Mr Bailey sails for Europe early in March
to push telephone matters there. Among the
first questions that arise will be the legal
status of our case, and every thing will depend
upon our being able to show that our patents
already obtained in England subordinate
all those taken out recently with reference
to speaking telephone.

There is no question but that Bell has
anticipated us in matter of time in his
specific application for speaking telephone
purpose, But if we are able to show a
connected history of the progress of the
invention beginning where Reid left off
and carry it to the point where speaking
telephone proper began, and to show that the
work that we did was necessary to make the

speaking telephone a possibility and that in fact we antedate all others in conception and description of this particular invention, thus establishing our equitable rights even to the latter; - it will go far towards placing us upon a solid foundation over the water. I send you an extract from letters by Mr Brengle who is travelling for Bliss now in Europe. He says "I called on Mr Reese when in London and we had a little chat in regard to telephone matters. I mentioned what you had written in regard to Gnyags and Frank Pope's conclusion - after an exhausted examination, Mr Pope said - "we know when Frank Pope gives his opinions that there is no occasion for further examination and I am prepared in this case to believe he is right," I think he does not endorse Bell to any great extent" This letter was written from Paris Jan 15th/78 to Mr Barton. Do you not think it will be a good idea to have in addition to your resume which Mr Bailey takes with him an opinion from Mr Gifford?

Now we come to another matter to which I wish

you would give your serious attention. If it should seem best in two or three weeks after Mr Bailey arrives in England and he should cable ^{for} you to go over there, could you do so? and at what price &c.

At an interview in Chicago with Messrs White and Bailey it seemed to be the unanimous conclusion that we should have to be represented for a while at least by an expert not only in the scientific but legal features of our case.

I saw another letter from London written recently indicating that there was already a strong party advocating the introduction of our telephone and claiming that Bell's patent had been invalidated there by the publication made by Sir Wm Thompson made previous to Bell's application for patents. The letter went on to state that if this proved to be the case the only solid patents left would be those of Gray. I feel sure that one of two things can be effected if matters are pushed, that we can occupy the field independently or from a consolidation with the other party.

Please answer soon and oblige.

Yours truly
Elisha Gray