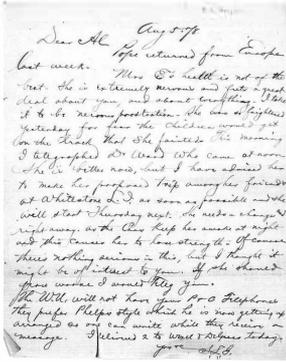


From Stockton Griffin



Dear Al

Pope returned from Europe last week—

Mrs. E's health is not of the best— She is extremely nervous and frets a great deal about you, and about everything— I take it to be nervous prostration— She was so frightened yesterday for fear the children would get on the track that she fainted—<sup>1</sup> This morning I telegraphed Dr Ward<sup>2</sup> who came at noon She is better now, but I have advised her to make her proposed trip among her friends at Whitestone L[ong] I[sland].<sup>3</sup> as soon as possible and she will start Thursday next— She needs a change and right away, as the cars keep her awake at night and this causes her to lose strength— Of course theres nothing serious in this, but I thought it might be of interest<sup>a</sup> to you. If she should grow worse I would Teleg you.

The W.U. will not have your P&C Telephones they prefer Phelps style which he is now getting up arranged so one can write while they receive a message.<sup>4</sup> I delivered 2 to Wexel & De Gress today—<sup>5</sup> Yrs &c

S.L.G.

ALS, NjWOE, DF (TAEM 15:1032). <sup>a</sup>Obscured overwritten letters.

Marion and Thomas Edison, Jr., in 1878.



1. The children were Marion Estelle Edison, five and a half, and Thomas A. Edison, Jr., two and a half years old.

2. Newark physician Leslie Ward had probably been the family doctor when the Edisons lived in that city and he continued to treat the family for many years. *Holbrook's Newark City Directory* 1871, 643; *TAEM-G1-2*, s.v. "Ward, Leslie D"

3. Mary had relatives living in Whitestone, which is located in north central Queens County. It was at this time an outlying suburb of New York City and a summer resort. John Hipple, who had married one of Mary's father's stepdaughters from his first marriage, lived there; her



*A telephone set combining a small writing desk, an Edison transmitter, and a Phelps receiver.*

father's other stepdaughter, Sarah Jordan, may have been in Whitestone then as well. TAE to Sarah Jordan, 7 Oct. 1878, and Jordan to TAE, 11 Oct. 1878, both DF (*TAE* 16:191, 225); Stillwell family genealogy sent by Mrs. J. Ellsworth Doughty, 9 Mar. 1956, EBC.

4. Prescott 1878d (p. 602) described this instrument as “a convenient way of arranging the apparatus for shop, counting-room, and various other purposes. An Edison carbon telephone, jointed to a projecting arm, so as to be capable of movement in different directions to suit the operator, serves as the transmitter, and the Phelps crown instrument as the receiver, the calls being given by an ordinary telegraph-sounder and a key or switch which is provided for interrupting the circuit.”

5. The firm of Wexel & De Gress sold arms and munitions in Mexico, Chile, Peru, and Panama, and had offices in New York City. On 25 July, J. W. Wexel had written to Griffin from New York requesting “one Edison Telephone with two Instruments, one for each end, with Instructions how to apply same to a common telegraph line. Also if we can guarantee its well working for 300 miles.” On 29 July, Wexel assured Griffin that the lines to be used “will not cross any river or water of any kind.” The telephones were to be delivered by 5 August; the firm paid \$70. Wexel & De Gress were also attempting to arrange a phonograph agency for Mexico with Charles Cheever and by October they were exhibiting the phonograph there. They subsequently sought an exclusive agency in Mexico for the phonograph, telephone, and electric pen. On 16 December, Wexel also sent Edison a Smith & Wesson revolver and one hundred cartridges as a gift. Wexel to Griffin, 25 and 29 July, 9 Aug., 26 Oct. 1878, and 9 Nov. 1878; Frederick Beardslee to TAE, 21 Oct. 1878; Wexel to TAE, 21 Oct., 22 Nov., and 16 Dec. 1878; all DF (*TAE* 19:878–79, 883, 886; 16:319, 417, 300, 470, 521); Cat. 1217:179, Accts. (*TAE* 22:745).