



8.13.90.

Dear Lodie,

Sorry you are having such a struggle with your electric bell, and wish I could get at it for about 5 minutes, think I could soon tell you where the trouble is.

From the fact that it worked so nicely and with such a good current after you had fixed the battery there is evidently no trouble there, but you can easily test this either by the tasting process or by loosening one of your bells and connecting it up with your battery on short circuit.

When you do this disconnect all your wires from the bell and battery and run new connections for your short circuit. The idea of this is to be sure there are no cross connections anywhere. It would seem to me that there may be a short circuit or cross connection on your wires now, which will cause your battery to become exhausted and so long as this cross remains it will not regain its strength. If you find on testing it on short circuit that it does not show any strength allow it to stand for 6 or 8 hours on open circuit, and then try it again, then if it rings all right you will know that there is some cross on your connections somewhere that closes the circuit and runs down the strength of the current and finally exhausts it. If it does not ring on short circuit then the battery is faulty somewhere probably and you had better pack it up and send it to me. If you do this you might as well at same time send the bells and push button or door fixture and I will put them all in order. Been out of town and pretty busy since my return reason for delay in replying to you. If you send the things to me, spill out all the liquids from the battery, especially from the porous cups, each of which have probably a couple of holes in the top.

Yrs Affty

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Edgar Hoover".