

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 25, 1887, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Halifax, N. S. May 25th, 1887.

My poor little wifie:

So you want your husband just to “loan” you some money “in a business way” — to enable you to live while I am away!

You poor dear little Mabel — is anything more wanted to prove what a selfish heartless fellow I am — to let you go on in the way I do without helping you. I regret the day we handed over our business matters to Charlie. Before that we managed nicely together — and I knew exactly how our investments stood and all about them — now I know next to nothing and leave them all to you to manage alone.

Every time I go away from home I make good resolutions — and now I have resolved to study up all our investments myself — and help you all I can — as a husband should.

I have pledged those fifty shares to Prof. Baird — and cannot in honor make any use of them myself until we know his decision. But I think it quite proper that the Laboratory should be supported out of Laboratory profits — and “Science” be aided out of the same fund — and if you like I will sell some of my Inventor's shares for that purpose. It is not fair to you that “Science” should eat a big hole out of your income every year — and that your income should be cut down still more — by large investments of Capital that bring no present return. I think there are few wives as self-sacrificing as you are — very few that would allow their husbands to take thousands of dollars from their income — to invest in unprofitable enterprises like “Science.”

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I have been suffering all day from a bad headache which only cleared off when the lawyers met hers this evening. They were the bearers of a letter of apology to Fritz from the lawyers on the other 2 side — authorized by Mr. Hind — and an offer to compromise the libel suit by paying Fritz \$1500.00.

A vigorous discussion ensued and it was decided that no apology could be received — that the libel could not be apologized for — and Fritz would not compromise matters. Nothing buy a verdict from the court would be accepted. It is understood that if Mr. Hind chooses to propose to the court — to submit to a verdict and pay damages — then Fritz will accept. But it must all be done in court — and the initiative must be taken by Mr. Hind. To this his counsel has consented — so it is not at all unlikely that the whole case may be settled in court tomorrow without evidence being taken.

However Fritz goes to the Court tomorrow morning prepared for any emergency. If I do not give my testimony to the court — I shall probably have an opportunity of doing so to the public through the newspapers — and this I trust may be of some assistance to him.

I have received you note — (actually dated!) 21st inst — and a package of calling cards for which many thanks — but no blank cheques were enclosed. If all goes well tomorrow — I shall run down to Wolfville — in search of information concerning Mary Brown (wife of Abiel Lovejoy).

I hope that Mrs. Pratt has made no mistake — but it does seem incredible at first sight that a woman who was old enough to be married in 1758 should have nephews living now in Wolfville. Her father must have been an American De Lesseps — with children older than his grandchildren. Wonders will never cease — Mary, supposed to be an only child, turns out (if all goes as we suspect) to have had no less than 24 brothers and sisters! Two crops of children spread over half a century!

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Here is a big kiss for my darling Elsie (X) — and another one for my sweet little Daisy (x)
— and a heartfelt of love to you my dear faithful little wife.

Your loving husband, Alec. Mrs. A. Graham Bell, 1759 R. I. Avenue, Washington, D. C.