

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 30, 1891, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks West Washington, D. C. (May 1, 1891) My darling Alec:

Again no word from you. I want some letters every day, please don't imagine I am content without them. My thoughts are constantly with you and Beinn Bhreagh. I am sure the sheep are safe in your care, but there are so many other things in which I am equally interested, the warehouse, the roads, the workmen's cottages. Why cannot the gardener's cottage go up at the Point. I am most anxious to get the gardens there started as soon as possible. It will only take eighteen months or at most two years to build our house, but five is all too short an allowance for gardens to grow to real beauty and they will not be begun until the gardener is close at hand.

Here is the order of importance in my mind. I do not say, infact.

1. Roads,
2. Warehouse
3. Gardener's cottage
4. Mr. Ellis' cottage
5. Workmen's cottage
6. House

I say roads first because I want them this summer, not wide ones but good narrow ones over which a good strong pony in a village cart can go. Then comes the warehouse. Mr.

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Ellis' cottage does not seem immediately imperative if those two other cottages can be obtained temporarily. However, we must provide decent places for our work people before we build a big house for ourselves.

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I have been in town nearly all day shopping with Mamma and putting away things in the house.

I have been trying this evening to give Paps the benefit of my experience with your sprained ankle. Charlie with tremendous difficulty got the plaster bandage off and then I bound it up again, not in plaster! I am wondering what Dr. Kerr will say. I could have done it better I am sure if Mamma and Charlie and Grace hadn't been laughing and criticising and teasing.

I have written to Dr. John asking to be allowed to have Elsie in virtue of your absence. I don't expect a favorable reply, especially since he allowed her to go to the circus and she was upset. I think it was "strordinary" that he ever permitted such a thing I wouldn't.

Lovingly yours, Mabel. April 30th 1891