

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 2, 1891, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. TWIN OAKS, West Washington, D. C. May 2, 1891. My dear Alec:

How extremely annoying to have your orders disregarded in that way. It seems to me that something should be done about it, that Mr. McInnis should be held to account, even to paying the costs of the merinos that died. By the articles of your new agreements with men and manager, the manager was to be responsible for everything, and he should have seen that your orders in regard to hospital and bell ringing were obeyed. I really do think you ought to make Mr. McInnis feel his responsibility in this way. You have been very generous to him, raising his salary year by year, and giving him a nice comfortable home. Now it is time to make him realize that his duty to you is first of all, to see that your orders are obeyed, and to make him bear the expense of his negligence. I don't envy you telling him all this, but isn't this the only way in which you can get things run your way? Doubtless it was much more convenient to take care of the sheep at the top of the hill, and the ringing of the bell seemed an unnecessary bother and you would not make a fuss when you came down, whereas the men made fusses every day — consequently things were allowed to slide.

Papa thinks the surveyors stakes ought to be propped up with piles of stones. He says it is very easy to upset stakes unless they are protected by stone piles and I cannot remember that they were protected in this way.

Mr. Ellis says that he would like to go to the McKenzie 2 house, if satisfied that the members of the family who died there last fall did not die of consumption. He says there — Mr. McCurdy entered the room just then, having ridden out, late as it was to bring me your nice letter enclosing sheep diagram and the newspaper cutting you sent. This makes

Library of Congress

three things from you in one day. How awfully good you are to me. I thank you very much indeed. To take up the thread of my story — Mr. Ellis says there is consumption in his wife's family, and he does not want to take her to a house infected with consumption. If the disease was anything else he would not mind. He would like very much to take his family with him. I have asked Mr. McCurdy to telegraph you.

I invited Mr. McCurdy on a picnic with the children and me this afternoon. Why won't you come with me on long drives about here. They are so perfectly beautiful and my enjoyment would be so complete if you were only with me. I want you to see and enjoy everything that I do. Much as I enjoy life, something is always lacking unless you are by me my dear husband.

Yours ever, Mabel.