

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, December 29, 1891, with transcript

JOURNAL Beinn Bhreagh C. B., Monday, Dec 29th, 1891. Dear Mabel:

Good progress on the mountain. Determined not to let flying machine experiment interfere with regular work of laboratory. So suspended work on that till the afternoon.

Made plaster moulds with cold water, tepid water and boiling water. Must wait for a few days before I can decide on result. Also took plaster mould of an ozokerite record which had been moistened with alcohol.

Afternoon and evening spent by Mr. Ellis in completing flying machine apparatus. Completed at 11 p. m.

Lighted up, and retreated behind chimney of laboratory in case of an explosion. Fire hose attached to water pipe all ready for an emergency.

Flying machine did not fly. Rotated slowly that was all. Could not get up pressure enough to cause a good vigorous emission of steam. Whole apparatus without liquid weighed 620 Grammes (lose than one pound) when boiler was filled with water — and fire box with alcohol — whole apparatus weighed 1073 grammes (a little more than 2 ¼ pounds) Hope for better luck next time.

Your loving Husband, Alec.