Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, February 29, 1892, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Rome, February 29th, 1892. My darling Alec:

It seems months since you left, and yet when I count up it is not yet a week, and your long ocean journey is not half over. Are you not very tired of it already, and do you not miss me very much indeed? I had a telegram from Mr. McCurdy today, he says he misses us desperately — please say something as nice or nicer. He says it is simply scandalous that you should have had to return without seeing Venice, all of which is stronger language than I ever heard Mr. McCurdy use, so I guess he is pretty thoroughly worked up.

We all continue very well, but getting very tired sightseeing. I am not sure but what I made a mistake in staying here as we have seen just enough to realize how much there is to be seen and which we must leave unseen. Still we have enjoyed our visit very much, and very likely the children do not know enough to appreciate any more of Rome if they could see it.

We drove this morning to I. Paolo alle Tre Fontane which is about three miles from the old Roman wall and gate. I am not sure whether we went there ten years ago, twenty years since I remember the place as bare and barren. Campagna, now the churches are embowered in thick groves of the tall Eucalyptus trees, and the grounds are beautiful and homelike with purple violets and the star-like periwinkle, and everywhere the beautiful English ivy. We bought some of the liqueur made by the monks from the bark of the Eucalyptus tree, it is very good and very strong. The sun shone bright and warm after several days of rain, and the children got out to pick wild Scottish 2 daisies and dandelions and to walk up hill behind the carriage, and Elsie said it was the nicest morning she had had here. The afternoon of course was devoted to the Carnival and Battle of Flowers. The flowers are wonderfully cheap to be sure, but when you buy them by the small cart load

they mount up, and I do not dare to think how much they have cost me. I felt however that you intended the children to have a good time and they could not have stood by and seen others enjoying the warfare of flowers and been happy. Tomorrow is the last day and the Carnival does not come every year to our children. I have invited Miss Garrett to share our balcony tomorrow and she has accepted. She is very Quiet and seems to have no friends and I thought you would like me to show her some attention. I invited Mrs. Gude and Kenneth twice and the children have had a very nice little girl a fellow passenger of the Werra with them twice so after all we have had some one to share your balcony with. If only you could have been with us. The Queen has never occupied her balcony, if it is her balcony, but perhaps we shall see her tomorrow.

I had a letter today from Jack Hubbard, he wants me to find out about the Hubbard crest and coat of arms, he says Papa's is all wrong. I am going to write Mr. McCurdy and ask him to see what he can do in London.

I had the least bit of a fright yesterday driving down the corso our horse got frightened at one of the cars and danced about on the sidewalk. I was afraid we would upset the cab, but the place was solid with men and they mastered the horse almost immediately. We get out of the cab and waited till the procession had passed and I felt decidedly shaky and weak in the knees, but Elsie was not in the 3 least bit disturbed or excited. I think she is much better since you left, she has had no more nervous flushes or trouble with her tongue and yet we have worked very hard indeed, and are all very tired. I will send this to Boston.

Very much love to you my dear, Always yours, Mabel.