

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, October 2, 1893, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Beinn Bhreagh, Victoria County, Cape Breton, N. S. Monday, Oct. 2nd, 1893. Little Narrowe. My dear Alec:

Will I have material sufficient to fill this double sheet with writing? I doubt it still a few words I must send to my truant spouse. How do you like your new title, I don't think I ever called you spouse before. It reminds me of the little Armenian priest who said one should only say "darling to one's spouse," and on being told that it would apply also to a person you were very fond of immediately electrified a new camera with the words "How do you do my darling!" I've told you that story before, but tell it again from a well-grounded belief that it will be quite new to you having previously gone in at one ear and out at the other!

If you could see that boy of Mr. McCurdy's playing about among the boats jumping from one to another in water over his head, you would have a nightmare for a year. Not being bothered with nerves I think it a very pretty sight.

We are staying on here waiting for five weather. I do want to go up over the mountains and hate the idea of going home until we have done so. Then why should I go home when you and the children are not there to give it the essence of home.

I am going to telegraph you to ask if I may have the walls tinted. This is not in the contract of course, being extra work, but I do hate white plaster walls so, and the painting can't be done when the house is full.

I wonder where you are, I think I will send this to the Gilsey House. I wrote yesterday to Twin Oaks so perhaps between the two you may hear from me.

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I wish you would find out what are the prospects of Mamma's operation being performed this fall as my plans depend on it.

What is Helmholtz like. Is he as satisfactory as Henry was? I am so delighted to think that you are to meet, for I am sure that your personality will impress him strongly. He has seen Edison and Grey, and all the rest of the lot and he can now the better realize your superiority. They are inventors and you are a scientific man. Please let me say this for I know it is true.

We went out sailing this morning and had a lovely time in spite of the rain, but had to come home. There will be a meeting in Baddeck on the 9th held by the principal of the Halifax Institution of the Deaf and Dumb. I thought of asking them to postpone it until you return, but Mr. McCurdy advised me not to as they would expect a larger contribution from you in that case and I did not think we wanted to do that.

Much love. Don't sit up all night, I haven't given up your getting up early yet. And DON'T reply to Professor Fay.

Ever yours, Prof. Fay's letter will be sent to Twin Oaks by this mail.