

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, October 29, 1896, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B.
Thursday, October 29, 1895. My darling Mabel:

I reached home last night too tired to do anything more than tumble into bed.

Couldn't even have the luxury of a bath — as the warm water pipe has developed a leak and the services of the plumber are required. Duncan succeeded in giving me enough hot water to have a wash before going to bed.

I noticed particularly the foliage yesterday morning in Nova Scotia (proper). There wasn't any to speak of. Evergreens of course — but the annual leaves seemed to have all disappeared — only a rusty remnant here and there — shivering on the bare branches.

In Cape Breton, on the other hand, the leaves have hardly more than turned. At least that is so here. The difference is most astonishing. Maples, beeches and etc., still green with many colored leaves showing. The leaves have hardly begun to fall yet.

If I can think of it — will try to take a photograph for preservation. The difference is so marked. If I remember rightly — the leaves are down in the New England States if not in Washington itself.

Our old ram Black Samson has become quite vicious towards the young rams. Yesterday he succeeded in killing our young ram No. 609 — from which we expected great results.

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He has been of considerable service to us already so his loss is not so great as if it had occurred earlier. The rest of his flock will be given to other young rams which have

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been held in reserve in case of just such an accident as has occurred. We have been so successful with the young rams so far that we have no further need for Black Samson and so the poor fellow's death warrant has been signed.

He objects very strongly to our arrangements this fall — and has become ugly even towards John McKillop .

Oils well on the other side of the bay. Harrington says he has come to the second oil sand. Mr. McCurdy says that there is now a greater show of oil than has been seen before — also a greater flow of water.

Ladies Club met at the Bras D' Or House last night. Miss McCurdy is now President. Papers on Morris and Du Maurier. Miss McCurdy telephones that they had a good meeting. The papers were by Miss McPhee and Mrs. Kennan. Events of the week by Miss McLeod, very good.

Don't forget to ? send Mr. McCurdy's watch to be cleaned and regulated.

Don't forget to telegraph the results of the Election.

Experiments in laboratory today very promising — but will wait further progress before reporting.

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Love to Ellie. How is Charlie? Let my mother see my letters. I know she would like to have a look at them. Must close now. With much love.

Your affectionate husband, Alec.