

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 19, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue. Washington, D. C. May 19, 1899. My dear Alec:

I think I will give you a sight of my handwriting once more. I guess it is quicker after all for such a prentice as myself. Please tell Mrs. Bell that I think it was simply lovely in her to write me as she did. Her letter told me exactly what I wanted to know, and what nobody else tells me. I could not have spared one word out of it and wished there were many more. How do you like the avenue of chestnuts down to the point of rocks? I hope that Mr. Saunders will send the plants he promised, please let me know when he does.

I worked hard at my work all day yesterday, it is very interesting indeed to me, the only trouble is to know how much of the letters to leave in and how much to discard. To me almost every word is of value. Are you using the Deaf material I sent you by Maria? I hated to send it because I wanted it myself, but of course you had to have it.

Our weather continues cool, probably I suppose because it is so wet. Marian was going to play golf at Twin Oaks, her second attempt, and again the weather prevented. However he would be cavalier Mr. Deucher her "one little ewe lamb" as she calls him — came, so instead of playing golf he helped them make chocolate candy on the chafing-dish, and with the poetry (?) pretty game. He seemed to think it good fun as he did not leave until seven.

This evening the children go to the Charity Concert at Mrs. Westinghouse's. Did I tell you that she sent me some of her 2 flowers the day after the ball?

Mr. McCurdy's counter patent which as I told you his lawyer thought even more of than of the developing box patent, was granted without losing a claim. Objection was

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made to the wording of one, but that changed the patent has been ordered to issue. Mr. McCurdy wants to hold it until he gets foreign patents. He is very much pleased because he says both his patents are very broad ones and leave him a clean field. The counter arrangement can be fitted to existing cameras and is a great improvement on the little red window which I have found to my cost is not always completely light tight. Mr. McCurdy is working now to try and discover the cause of streaks on his pictures. He cannot determine what it is, but thinks it may be due to galvanic action from his brass slats. The streaks were entirely absent from his first form in Baddeck, and of course mar the perfection of the box, and he wants to correct the defect before canvassing the patent. The strange thing seems to be that the streaks are apparent on the dark parts of the pictures and absent from the light ones.

With much love,

As ever yours, Mabel.