

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 2, 1899

June 2nd 1899. My dear Alec,

I dont know that I have anything to say, but will begin.— That's as far as I got last night. The children came in from the sponge baths, and, wanted to tell me about their afternoon's doings. They and some others got up a picnic to Marshall Hall, and had a beautiful time. They did not get home until nearly Twelve to which I decidedly objected, however i dont believe any damage was done. They went “Dutch” treat, and Elsie ordered the supper from Rauscher's each paying their proportion which Elsie said would come to some very reasonable figure. apparatus. But it Mr. McCurdy astonishing pleased last little details there are to look after before

Mr McCurdy is very much pleased with his apparatus. But it is really astonishing how many last little details there are to look after before the instrument is a really practical one, and how long they take to make. I dispair of your ever getting a fractical flying machine. It will take years after you have got one to fly or whatever you intend to call the motion of your machine. However I really think Mr McCurdy is within measureable distance of the end now. I think that he will be able to leave for New York next Sunday, tomorrow evening. He thinks that he must first have the box made of hard rubber and have the whole thing complete as as practicable working machine — though rough and capable of further improvement before offering it to capitalists..

Today promises to be a regular boiler. So far we have managed to keep very cool and comfortable, and the children enjoy Washington thoroughly. I would not however stay here for that, only to keep Elsie from drifting into something she may regret all her life long. I do thing Gilbert is fine, but how is he going to have sufficient to support a wife for years, and meawhile Elsie will be losing the best part of her life. I really think she ought to be

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married pretty soon, or she will settle into habits that will make it very difficult for her to adapt herself to life with any one.

Well goody bye. Breakfast ought at least to be ready, it is five minutes past eight.

I do love you mine own, and am as ever Yours