

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 2, 1901, with transcript, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. HOTEL ROYAL, Rome. Rome,le May 2nd. 1901. My dear Alec:

Your telegram has just come. I will send Charles down tomorrow to find when the steamers sail and then cable you, asking you if I can wait a little so as to go to Berlin. It is so indefinite to be told to come home and then not to be told when to. I do not suppose you mean me to come to Washington if Elsie is well, and wait until she is ready to go to Baddeck, for there is no place for me to stay there. I thought she was safe enough for the present, so that I could let Daisy have the Berlin visit. I have not at any time wanted to stay beyond the last of May, and I thought these few weeks would mean so little to Elsie and you, and so much to Daisy, Gipsey and Mamma. Have you thought of this? That neither Mamma nor Gipsey could have had this trip without us and Charles, so we have been able to add a great deal to their lives. Grace with her inexperience and all her children cannot do this. I thought I was helping Mamma at a time when I could best be spared, I recognize that the time will never come again, that my home duties will grow more numerous now, and I cannot again leave you and Elsie and my home, but I did think I could this winter and this spring since it was too short for opening the Washington house, and too early for Beinn Bhreagh. Elsie will need me more in the autumn, then she will be my first thought, just now I believed I could still think of Daisy and Mamma. Your telegram does not convince me that my point of view is wrong, on the contrary I think I am right and you 2 wrong, still if you think I ought to return I will do so. But you don't at all realize what a happiness it has been for me to be with Mamma and to feel that I have been necessary to her. I have left her for you all these years, at last I have had her again, and at a time when it has been the greatest satisfaction to me to be with her. If I left you I gave you to your father, and just as now your plans are dependent on his, I would like to make mine

Library of Congress

dependent on Mamma's just for this month of May. You have been awfully good in letting me stay away so long, and I would not have thought of asking for these weeks had I not felt that they could make very little difference to you while they made all the difference in the world to Mamma, Daisy and Gipsey.

Lovingly, ever yours, Mabel.