

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, August 22, 1906, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B. August 22, 1906. Mrs. A. Graham Bell, 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. My darling little wife:

The days pass like a dream and here is Tuesday with no letter written to you or Daisy or David. But you know my heart is in the right place and that I love you all very dearly. I have wanted to write something nice about Alexander Graham Bell Fairchild but haven't been able to bring myself down to black and white. I feel sorry for the poor fellow with such a long name imposed upon him with never a distinguishing mark for himself. However proper it may be for a child to bear another person's name why should he not also have a name all of his own. I felt this so strongly in my boyhood that I adopted "Graham" for myself. I would recommend the revision of the name. While I would be proud to have him bear the family name of Alexander or my own name. Graham — I really think he should have a name of his own — not in the family — that he may make distinguished. I have been quite distressed about Daisy as it seems you avoided answering my telegrams asking for full statement of her condition. Everything related to "baby" and I could learn nothing about Daisy excepting the bare fact that she was on the verandah. I became so anxious that I seriously thought of starting for Washington but McDermid quietly made inquiries at the telegraph office and found that 2 all the telegrams about "baby" really referred to "Daisy." Orangedale reported the word as "Daisy" but the telephone converted it into "baby" in Baddeck.

The first result of your absence was one of my old Light headaches or rather eye-aches — my room not being darkened. I have survived, however, and have been much excited over the very promising experiments with the Ugly Duckling. Today we made 12 trial trips

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over a measured course of 150 meters — with four passengers on board. Prof. Grosvenor, Mr. Bodwin, Mr. Ingraham and myself. I estimate the total weight of apparatus, including passengers at about 1000 kilograms. It seems strange that the little one-cylindere motor used should be able to carry this load at all by means of serial propellers but the Ugly Duckling moved with a velocity of about 4 kilometers an hour — which I think promising for a baby performance. We will try propellers of different construction tomorrow and hope for an improvement. Grace, Gracie, and Gardiner have just returned from a cruise to Long Island with Elsie, Bert and Mrs. Grosvenor. Much love to my little Daisy and grandson Alec not forgetting my boy David too.

David's article on polished rice in the Saturday Evening Post is, like all his articles I have read, exceedingly well written and interesting.

Your loving husband, Alec.