

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 13, 1908, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue. May 13th 1908. My darling Alec:

If you send me many more "I am lonelys" I will have to take the train instanter for Hammondsport. The chief reasons why I don't are, Mamma and the feeling that by going now I might undo all the hard work of getting well, and that would hardly pay unless you were ill and needed my care. I don't like to hear of cold and stiff joints. Please do swallow "holy water" by the demijohn. Did you get some I ordered sent from New York. Why don't you ask Tom to come and stay with you. I think it would be a great pleasure to him and that he would keenly appreciate your desire to have him with you. He couldn't propose it because he could not afford to pay his own expenses, but I am quite sure he would be immensely pleased, he is very sensitive to that sort of thing. I don't suggest either Douglas or Casey, because these are Casey's last days of boyhood and I am sure he and Douglas want to be together. Your account of the vain waiting for good weather conditions is pathetic and the telegram today is doubly pathetic. Don't I know just how it all is, haven't I been through it all so many times. Somehow I always dread the vast preparations for historic occasions for almost invariably your best results are obtained when you are not expecting them. Oh I am so very very sorry, it seems hard you should have to wait so long for success.

Dr. Thayer has just gone he is vastly pleased with his patient and says I needn't lug a nurse to Toronto or anywhere, it is only that I would be more comfortable to have one on hand against 2 any family emergency in Beinn Bhreagh. Also he even advises my sleeping out of doors, hurray!

Library of Congress

Please do your part to being well I am awfully worried about your cold and stiff joints and am sure that you have been indulging in red meats and drinking no water. Mr. Wm. Lang says he expects to live to be 200 years old since he has turned vegetarian and water drinker he feels so much younger.

Much love to you my own dear one, Mabel.