

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, August 27, 1893, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Mother. Beinn Bhreagh, Cape Breton, N. S., Sunday — August 27th, 1893. My dear little Mama:

So you have caught the Flying-machine craze too! A flying watering-cart spinning through the heavens — and dropping down rain upon the hungry fields — is quite a fascinating idea — but unfortunately quite difficult of realization. Water is heavy. Still as you say — nature manages to lift the water up and send it down in refreshing showers — and surely the ingenuity of man should be able to accomplish this — for limited areas — in a season of drought. You have sown the germ of an idea in my mind and perhaps it may bear fruit some day.

Beinn Bhreagh is now looking at its best — and I wish you could be here to enjoy it with us. My pleasure however is marred by Mabel's continued weakness. She came down stairs to-day and spent the afternoon lying upon cushions on the bottom of a boat while Elsie and Daisy and I took turns at the oars. The doctor assures me she will be well and strong again soon.

We are all glad to be home and only wish you could all be here with us. If you are interested in flying-machines I shall have to write to you sometimes of my experiments. Somehow or other I find it more easy to write of things than of people — of ideas and experiments rather than of the every day events of life. Good night.

Your loving son, Alec.