

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, September 3, 1882, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Baddeck, Sept. 3d 1882. My dear Mrs. Bell:

I was very sorry to hear of your most unfortunate accident. It seems such a shame that such a thing should have happened to interfere with your recovery. I trust that all ill effects will soon pass off, although I am disappointed that my telegram this morning did not say that you were quite recovered yet. I knew Alec would be worried and so telegraphed that he might get the latest news when he first heard of your accident.

We were expecting Alec all day yesterday in a vague way, but when he did not come at bed time we gave up any thought we had of seeing him and went to sleep. At 1.30 A. M. we were awakened by all the dogs barking and a ring at the bell, a new acquisition used about once in a fortnight, and found Alec there, a strange-looking figure in sailors oilskins and broad Pyreanian cap. I am afraid he might have been more welcome at another time, still we were very glad to see him and he seemed glad to be home again. Of course because this is the only time that we would have been glad of it. There was nothing to eat in the house and the three poor sailors had had nothing since they started on their return early in the morning! They managed to support life on beer and bread and butter and meat bones and preserves however, and then Mr. McCurdy and Mr. Kiesel went to bed on my two very comfortable couches. Today is our first really perfect day for a long time. The sun rose in a cloudless sky and the water lay so still that every line and form on the hill opposite was reflected so perfectly that it would have been impossible to tell which was reality and which pictured.

My sailors brought home a cargo of six hundred oysters gathered by themselves in the bays around the River Dennys. They think I shall find no difficulty in keeping them alive in

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the salt water until wanted. I feel very rich in provisions, for my vegetable garden is a great success, so great that I exchange some of my produce for fish and cake at the hotel.

My friend Miss True has been spending some time with me, so I have not been lonely during Alec's absence. She goes Wednesday and I hope perhaps her place will be taken, though not filled, by Mr. and Mrs. George Kennan of Washington, whom we expect this week or next.

The children are very well and happy, particularly on a rainy day when I allow them to go out barefoot. They are busy with the McCurdy boys help in building a camp in the woods and many and wonderful are the treasures collected to furnish it, flour, sugar, salt, raspberry vinegar, crackers from the menage and the little fingers have been busy hemming table cloths and napkins to furnish forth the hospitable board. I am very sorry none of my cousins could come this year, perhaps next year we will be more successful.

Give my love to Mr. Bell and thank him for his letter. I hope he is quite well now. Love to Mary.

Your affectionate Mabel.