

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Cambridge, Tuesday, (1876) My dear Alec:

I am so sorry you have been troubled about me. I had to speak of Dr. Blake in order to give you his message, but he said my trouble was nothing, so I only told you I would be well pretty soon. I thought that would prevent your feeling anxious, and I did not like to say any more lest you would be so. The whole trouble was simply that the cold waves struck hard against me and for two days after my return I had some pain in one of the ears. I am quite well now, and only sorry you have been worried.

Of course you must stay with your mother until you are really obliged to come back. I have you all the time for so long and surely can spare you to your friends for several weeks. I can imagine how hard it must be for your mother to have her only son away from her so long and how hard also it must be for you to be away from her. Stay as long as you can, and be sure I am glad. It would be delightful if your Uncle and Cousin could visit us on their way home. I should indeed be glad to see any of your relations, and so would Mamma and the rest. We are very glad your experiments before your Uncle and your Brantford friends were so successful. I will copy the account into your book if I can find it.

Grace and I have come back from our visit to Swampscott. Grace enjoyed herself immensely and I think left the boys considerably impressed. Cousin Anna is a sweet little thing, I wonder if your mother is as small as she, she made me feel a giantoss. She is very shy, not only with me but every one else, and so we had little to say. 2 Trudie looked as usual twenty-five, but somehow I felt quite as old as she. Always before I have been oppressed by her apparent age and fineness. But she really is a strong character I think, and I like her. Gertrude is as handsome as ever. The boys (I beg their pardon they are

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graduates) young men took us out sailing in their yacht "Bluebell" this morning and great fun we found it. We raced for a while with another boat, the "Christine" and got beaten for our pains. Zalter the oldest of my cousins is Secretary and Treasurer of the Beverly Yacht Club, his father was Vice-Commodore.

When we got home to Cambridge we found Grandma better and Mamma wheeling her about. She said the two Mary's and Patrick the coachman had all gone to Kate's funeral in New York leaving her with only three servants, and Grandma on her hands. I found three letters and a telegram from you awaiting me, one of the letters enclosed Mrs. Lander's note and was forwarded from Nantucket. I presume it is the letter you spoke of as being written under a headache. Poor Alec I am sorry you felt so dismal. I am sure you will do your best in every way and in any case and no man can do more than that. And I am very fond and proud of you that you have the tender and generous heart you have toward all who are uncared for and needing self-devoted help. I wish you had means that would allow you to follow your inclinations in both ways, or that I could bring you some. But since it cannot be so we must both try hard to find some way. I take for my motto — like Grandma and Mamma, "It will all come out right." Grandma knows so, Mamma troubled and anxious, not knowing what the morrow may bring trusts and believes it, why should not we hope it.

I fear I am getting confused and therefore return in all haste to practical prose with the information it is very nice and cool now, but this afternoon after the hottest part of the day the thermometer stood just below 90. This, too, high up on the rocks jutting out into the sea of at Swampscott. It is too bad the heat followed you up to Canada, but I hope you are cool once more now.

Will Winlock has brought us some lovely water-lillies and is now out on the piazza with Grace. It is high time for Berta to return and assert her own, for this is the second time will has been here. He staid until after ten the first time and it is now half past nine.

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Goodbye with much love and many thanks for your letters. I am glad you liked Mamma's letter. She wanted to know what kind of advice she had given me and I told her just the same as usual. She is sitting now on Papa's lap in that big chair you are so fond of and that I hate.

With love to your father and mother, Ever yours, Mabel.