

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 20, 1895, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B. Monday, May 20, 1895. My sweet darling wife:

I reached home only this evening — a dreary, cheerless journey from Halifax in the midst of a drizzling rain.

The weather had cleared a little by the time I reached the Grand Narrows — and then a little bit of sunshine appeared in the person of Mr. McCurdy. Mr. McInnis also was on hand — so I did not make the journey to Beinn Bhreagh altogether alone.

We landed at the Central Wharf as the clouds were settling down into a fog — and John McAuley drove us home.

Maggie was on hand with a hot cup of tea — a cozy fire was lighted in the Hall — but the great empty house seemed desolate and alone without you and Elsie and Daisy.

John McKillop and Mr. Ellis appeared for a few minutes to report progress and then I was left alone with Mr. McCurdy. He was just retiring when a man came with the mail from Baddeck. Letters and papers for Mr. Martin, Mr. Ellis, Mr. McInnis — but nothing for me excepting an old Electrical Review!

I don't think I ever experienced such a sensation of utter loneliness as at that moment — and then Mr. McCurdy took pity upon me — and handed me a letter from you ! The man had taken it to Baddeck to deliver it to me as soon as the steamer landed — but we landed at the Central Wharf — so he brought it back with the mail.

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A letter from you with the date of May 1st — had I been waiting for me here ever since you sailed — a letter of welcome back to “our dear new house.” Just as I was thinking of you — as far away — on the other side of the Atlantic — lo— you were here — right at hand — and your loving words went right into my heart.

God bless you dear — and keep you safe — and may we all meet again soon. I do not think I can stay here alone. I am troubled about you so far away — and think seriously of throwing up everything here — and joining you soon. I too have a duty to perform to you and our dear children — a duty to take care of you all — and help you. Is it right that I should leave you now — and let you all wander by yourselves in a foreign country — without the protection that I alone can give. Charles is a good servant and will do anything for you in his power — but surely you need your husband — and Elsie and Daisy their father — now if ever.

I think seriously of training Mr. McCurdy to carry on my experiments with Mr. Ellis — letting the Convention slide — and coming right out to you.

You have made me very — very happy — my darling — during all our wedded life — and I too enjoyed these few weeks alone with you in Mexico — although I fear you did not think so.

I meant to give you pleasure — but pleased myself instead. I meant to devote myself to you — but the scientific men — and old mines and etc., — were all for me. I fear that selfishness is a trait of my character. I can see it very clearly in others — but I do not recognize it in myself until too late.

It was selfish in me to let you all go to the other side of the world — without me — for the sake of my experiments and the Convention. Is it yet too late?

If anything were to happen to you or Elsie or Daisy — with no one near you to help you — upon whom you could lean — how would I enjoy my experiments then? You have been a

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good and faithful wife to me — and a loving mother to your children. Is it too late for me to show you that I really do love my wife and children above my experiments and work?

Your own, Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, Paris, France.