

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, undated, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Paris, France. (June 25, 1895.) My darling Alec:

Still no letter from you. I wish you would write dear, it is hard not hearing from you. Still Mr. McCurdy's letter which came yesterday morning gave little pictures of you that were very natural and assure me that you are well and living your life quietly in the way I know so well. I wonder if you get over to the laboratory any night. I don't believe you have slept there very much, however, I hope so because I do not like the idea at all. You will certainly not be comfortable there and will miss the change from one house to the other. I want you to cable me just what you will do so that I can make my plans accordingly. I can stay here until you come or all summer in perfect comfort, still I should prefer giving the children one month or six weeks alone with French people.

I want:

1. To stay here as we are until July 15th.
2. To put the children "out to nurse" from July 15th to August 15th or 20th.
3. From August 20th to travel with you and them.
4. To sail for home about Oct. 1st.

I do not want you to come much before August 15th because I want you to travel with the children when you are fresh across the water. If you came earlier and had to wait for them, by the time they were ready to start you would be impatient to return and all our pleasure 2 would be spoilt. And I think they ought to have that one month surrounded only by French

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speaking people. I have heard of two families that promise well. One has a little house on the seashore and there are four young lady daughters who are either fine musicians or good artists. The children went to see them in their house in town yesterday and came home enthusiastic over them. The other family is recommended by Madame Blanc and I might be able to send Elsie there with her singing teacher. As for me I could stay with Mrs. Mauro, and she will go wherever I want and I have no question but that I should have a good time with her. I would rather do this than have you come and stay with me because if we staid quietly in one place you would be dull, if we travelled the novelty would wear off before the children came and I want you here for their sake not mine. I only want to be home again with you, but for our children's sake I want you with them. Don't you think I am right? I am very very glad now that I came over because I have had my children all to myself and they have been all to me a mother could wish. At home I could not have seen them so closely. The bonds between us have been drawn so tightly now that I do not think they can ever be broken, before I did not feel so sure, especially last summer when I hardly saw my children and felt that their friends had come between us. Now I want you to come and share in their whole devotion.

Mr. McCurdy says you could not make out all of my letter, so I am writing on one side only of the paper, but it is very extravagant.

I spent all yesterday morning and four francs finding out that I did not read a notice properly. The notice said that mails for 3 Havre closed at fifteen minutes before the starting of the train at 12 A. M. I dropped out the A. M. and took a cab down to deposit a letter in time for the 18 M. train to Navre. Mrs. Mauro went with me and we went all through the station getting different answers from each man we questioned, but finally heard that the train left at night. I wanted to tell Mamma of our plans in case Grace decided to come over. Mamma said she would come if sure you did not. I thought she might come at once and I would stay with her until you came.

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The weather is perfectly lovely, warm and bright, but not hot. There is no reason for change except that I can not bear to be in the city when the country is so lovely.

My camera arrived the other day, but I fear I can not photograph our pretty rooms. They would never allow me to knowingly and unknowingly seems a breach of the great hospitality with which they have treated me. The children went to church this morning and I staid in bed until ten and enjoyed myself hugely, and we have done nothing all day long except talk and write. It is a great rest for there is not a moment that the children have not been busy about something since we came. Either it is some one of their numerous lessons to be prepared for, or they have been out with me or Mlle. Fillipe. Daisy says "Mamma do you know I don't think Papa quite appreciates us. He thinks I can't do anything but swim and that is because he taught me himself". She has said that you did not appreciate them many times. Both children are a little jealous of your appreciation for Helen Keller and I can not think it unjustified. I tell them to work hard and show you what they can do.

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Daisy has remarkable good judgement and a very clear head and she is constantly surprising me by her memory of things that had not occurred to me, things that affect one's judgement of the things to be done, as for instance the length of time required to get from the station to a place after you get there. It is her promptness and quickness of thought that strikes me.

I have taken another sheet, but I don't seem to have anything to say. I must get some books to read. I have read nothing but the papers for an age as I did not want the children to be tempted by the sight of English books. Our table is piled up with French novels and lesson books and Elsie says she wishes she had more time, she has so much to do she doesn't know where to begin. She is too busy to think of next winter's work, her cousins

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or anything but what she is about, or the religious differences between Catholics and Protestants. On this theme she constantly harps, ringing the changes constantly.

Good afternoon. I love you even if I haven't much to say today.

Ever your own.