

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, November 10, 1896, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B.  
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1896. My darling Mabel:

Went to bed last night about one o'clock and though I tossed about for a long time — Duncan was able to get me up about nine o'clock this morning — and I commenced work at laboratory before ten o'clock! Am much pleased with day's work. 45 experiments and all satisfactory.

New apparatus works well. Would like to give you a summary of progress — but I want to go right off to bed (it is now half—past twelve). I cannot delegate my experiments to others because they are “ experiments of discovery ” (if I may coin the term) — and not mere mechanical repetitions of experiments to obtain more accurate averages — by multiplying the observations.

If I can only manage to get up in decent time for forenoon work — I will double my crop of experiments. As my time is so short I think it will pay better to abandon night work for the present and put in my time on experiments.

In talking Astronomy with George — he told me that he used to think the stars were holes in the sky through which light escaped from outside. A pretty — and I think — an original conception.

A? in luck with my sheep — some of the most important lambs will themselves have lambs next year. A clear gain of a year in my selection.

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The leaves are coming down wholesale now — hardwood 2 groves nearly bare. Orchard however still green — although two or three trees show faded leaves. Fine clear bracing weather today.

Susie, Georgie and Douglas all well and having a happy time too. I enjoy their presence too — for somehow or other I have a tender spot in my heart for children. Susie is really quite a remarkable musician. George and Douglas have been hard at work taking photographs and developing and printing them themselves. Lucien seems to be going on well.

How long should a man's legs be? Old Abraham Lincoln thought that was a very serious question. Some, he thought, should be longer and others shorter, but of this he felt sure — that a man's legs ought always to be long enough to reach from his body to the ground!

McKinley made an application of this to the next Republican Tariff Law.

Mr. McInnis is in a very nervous state — anticipating a return of his ailment. I wonder whether it would be of any benefit to him to go to Halifax or Boston for advice? I am afraid — that — rugged as he looks — a Life Insurance Company would decline to insure his life.

Your loving husband, Alec.