

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 5, 1897, with transcript

no copy in the first book Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Beinn Bhreagh, Victoria County, Cape Breton, N.S. July 5th, 1897. 7 A.M. My dear Alec:

Your telegram yesterday was very welcome, although I would have been glad if you had added something about the weather. Daisy says she did not dare tell you how horribly hot she had found it in Boston. My hope is that you will strike a cool wave.

I am so glad that you had that little glimpse of the children in Truro. I had no idea that the trains crossed there. I am discouraged that you took Susie when you knew one of my chief reasons for not wanting Daisy to go was the expense, but very glad indeed that Susie is to have this peep into the world. Rather she than any other girl. I am very fond of her and I am sure she will be very happy and learn a great deal. I hope she will help you. You are constantly in my mind and I am following you in your trip across the continent and hoping that it is not so very hot. Yesterday and the day before were sunny days although cool, but today is cloudy again.

I am troubled about Mr. Totten. I am afraid he really means to come here on his way to Brussels. Elsie is entirely heart whole however.

Daisy is celebrating the Fourth today by asking Mr. McInnis to give the men a holiday. I don't think they had much of one on the Queen's Jubilee with all the work they had to do stringing those lanterns, so I thought this was a good idea.

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Oh, I thought if you were going to be extravagant I might as well be too, so if you took Susie off to Chicago I would send Mr. Gwillem somewhere else! It's a poor partnership when one has all the fun and the other hasn't. Dr. McKeen told me yesterday that Mr. Gwillem had another fit in Sydney, yet he was in church preaching yesterday. He said it was really committing physical suicide and that for himself he wasn't going to church to look on while the process was under way. I thought there might be some other way and Dr. McKeen said possibly with fifty dollars he could get away and find a substitute to take his place for a couple of months in which he took a rest. This rest the doctor thought would be of material benefit and prolong both life and reason. So I offered Mrs. Gwillem fifty dollars and suggested that her husband took a vacation. She seemed pleased and to think that now he might go. I told her I was sure you would be glad to help them.

I am sorry to send you such a poor letter, but I got up early this morning on purpose and somehow it does not seem that it pays. Your father is well, he saw Mr. Ellis and his teeth are better but not perfect. He is glad to have the children around him.

Lovingly, Mabel.