

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 22, 1898, with transcript

Letter from Mrs Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Twin Oaks, May 22nd., 1898 My dear Alec:

You are an awfully good boy to write me so often and I love you dearly. I had a letter from you today and it was very nice. It seemed like a river in spring breaking out of it's icy bounds and gushing forth bright brilliant sparkly dashing over- overspreading the ice, a river of warm hearted love. In the next the ice was over all again but I know the river is still there warm underneath the motionless emotionless ice. Do you say this is a lot of sentiment. Well if you think my letters are short and you would like large ones — I must fill them with something beside facts for I have few of these.

I feel troubled about Mr. Lindsley and afraid to say or do much for fear of setting Elsie more in his favor. Mamma says Charlie told her he is not liked among men, that he is mean and not careful about paying his little card debts and that they could not put up his nomination for some official position in the Metropolitan Club, the feeling against him was so strong. I thought him very off hand to me last night and rather lacking in courtesy and I am sure he is aware I do not like him, but Elsie told him he might come to see her again tomorrow. Do you think she ought to be friends with a man her Mother does not fancy? He is very clever and Elsie thinks him a great Society man and favorite. I am sure she does not care for him yet — I am so afraid she may.

I am sorry not to have been able to keep you supplied with war news but the newspapers haven't given me any. I might have telegraphed this morning that the Monterey had been ordered to go to the Philippines but after the delay about the Charleston I thought I would wait and be 2 sure it wasn't an abortive start.

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I find by the "Recollections" of my father's step-mother that there was a picture of one of my ancestors, probably Gen. Mascarena at Halifax in 1835 and Mamma thinks it is still owned there by Mascarenas — Can't you make inquiries for me? My grandfather Hubbard would never travel on the Sabbath, no not even to be in time for his Wedding, but he got nicely caught once on this trip to Halifax. He had to cross a bay to get to the place where he was to stay over Sunday it was 5 Saturday evening, the sail generally 2 hours long. The Captain advised waiting until next morning as there was no wind, but no he would onwards, so he embarked in the sloop his wife and year old baby, two ten year old daughters and invalid friend, without waiting for their dinner, as sure were they of a good supper across the bay. Well they started and when a mile from shore the wind died completely away and they were becalmed and there they staid until 6 next evening! No one expected them on the Sabbath of course and they had to walk a long way on their arrival. How the baby lived I can't imagine. They did get some milk for him but it was spoilt.

After all my letter is written. I am glad Mrs Bell is interested in the sewing school. Please give her and your father my love and keep your share,

Yours ever and ever, Mr. Langley called on me today. I think he wants to go to Beinn Bhreagh and to go to Japan with us.