

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 15, 1899

MAY 15th 1899. My dear Alec.

I was very glad indeed to get your nice long letter of the 9th. I wont say that it was worth waiting for, or you might feel justified in making me wait as long again, which wouldnt do at all. Why did you have to have the whole side of the laboratory annex taken down to let the monster kite out? why wouldnt it have done to take the thing a part and put it together outside? It seems on the face of it that wold have been better than leaving it exposed to the storm afterwards. I am sorry that yoo are not satisfied with Mr Kennedy, but not surprised. I am afraid I did not expect much goodout of Perth. Perhaps however he knows enough to teach somebody that would go ahead. Isnt it funny that none of our importations have been successful,—Gifford, Martin, Kennedy. I hope the rule wont always hold good because I want to get a really good gardener sometime, and he will at least have to be imported to teach. I want to go up to Beinn Bhreagh early next summer perhaps in April and not leave until December.

I dont know that I have anything very much to tell you this bright morning. Yesterday Marian went out to ride horse-back with Captain Squires. She left at half-past ten, and did not return until half after two, but she said that ??ry had not been riding all that time they went to Chevy Chase where Daisy arrived with hee hair all down her back.

She went upstairs in to the dressing room got fixed up, and then sat a round in the big reading room, and had chicken out on the lawn, got called over the coals by Charlie for being out riding on Sunday, to which she replied that she was shocked to see him working on Sunday, to which he rejoined that he was only reading light literature, said light literature, Daisy said consisting in two very big ledger like lookinm tomes.

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Saturday evening Captain Squires and another man came in in the evening, and invited us out to Chevy Chase. We went and found an informal dance of Club members and their friends in full blast. It was a very nice experience and Daisy as well as Elsie had a good time so I hope that she will be willing to go again. I great many of the men wore their "pink" coats and were very pretty. Why do the men call those bright scarlet coats "pink" I wonder. Last night MR and Mrs Brachear, the telescope man, and his wife, Dr, and Mrs Day took tea with us. It was one of the pleasantest parties I have had this winter, and only your presence was waoted. They are all so nice Dr Day so full of spirits, and interest in every tthing, and Mr and Mrs Brachear so thoroughly good and unconventional so evidently proud and fond of each other although she is avery big fat plain old woman and he aplain quick little man. I liked them both very much indeed, and felt so sorry that Mr Brachear did not see you, he is so evidently anxious to do so. He seems to take a really childlike pleasure in the great men that he has known, and been friends with.

I had a very nice letter from Mrs Kennan this morning, but I feel sorry that she did not say that you had been over to see her again, it is so hard for her to be all alone and suffering, and she ii always so good, and helpfull when anybody else is sick, it does not seem right that she should be neglected when her hour of need comes.

Now I must go on with my work. It is still so cool that we cannot sit out of doors evenings or have the windows open at breakfast, and Mr McCurdy has just announced that he is most frozen at night, and must have another blanket.

GoodBye Love to your father, and Mrs Bell.

Ever yours Mabel