

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, June 22, 1902, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Beinn Bhreagh, C. B. Sunday, June 22, 1902. My darling Mabel:

Just a word to say that I love you and miss you dear. Your picture — standing on the steamer as you sailed from Baddeck — is with me yet — and I can't for the life of me understand how I managed to be on the wharf and you on the steamer with a widening gap of water between us! It all happened so quickly — I expected to go with you to the Narrows when Miss McCurdy appeared and you told me to go. I remembered that Miss McCurdy had telephoned that she wanted to see you on some important matter and would go with you to the Narrows — so the idea crossed my mind that I was not wanted — and had better go home to bed. The steamer was just leaving the wharf — in fact had left — when the impulse seized me to jump ashore. I was no sooner ashore than I wanted to be back again but it was then too late — and the steamer was off with you on board waving good bye “Au revoir” and not good bye — for I won't be long away from you now. I am only waiting for your report on our dear little Daidums before finally deciding my plans. In the meantime I have been busy on sheep charts and arrangements for permanent marking of the lambs to be kept and disposition of the flocks.

The new kite frame 9 metres long is practically completed — (about 29 feet long) — and I hope to be able to try it as a support for about 80 of my metre kites — before I leave — unless you telegraph me to come right away.

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If Daisy is ill — it would be much better to give up the idea of her sailing for the present. Take her to the sea — side until after the Minneapolis Convention unless you wish me to give that up — and then I can pick you both up and Miss Sicard too — and take you

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all wherever it may be best for Daisy to go. If I can try my new kite frame with 80 or 100 kites attached so as to test the practicability of combinations on a large scale — and so assure myself that the theory is correct — then there must be a long wait for the next step. I can give out the plans for a building in which to construct the completed apparatus and go abroad with you while it is being built. The erection of the building will necessarily take some time — one or two months at least — and by that time we will know where we are — and what our plans are to be. I could then return to Beinn Bhreagh or stay abroad with you all — as seems best.

Au revoir my little wife — and love and kisses for Daidums.

Your loving, Alec.