

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, undated, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. (Washington, D. C.) Monday (November 22, 1909.) My dear Alec:

I've been mean about writing, but I have been busy and tired. We had a strenuous Saturday and Sunday and most of the important things have been divided up. We got through with mutual good-will instead of quarrels. At one time I thought Gracie and I were in for a fight, but I guess we will work out all right. You know I have taken the Corot, paying twelve thousand dollars for it out of my share. I hope you won't object. I am glad to have it. I would never buy anything very handsome myself because you don't care for such things. I can't buy them alone so this is really my only chance.

We have divided the principal pictures, engravings, bric-a-brac and some of the fancy furniture. Grace and Charlie are to take the house and Grace has taken of her share most of the prominent things around, so that except for the bedroom most of the house will look just as it does now. Helen and Gracie leave a lot of their share to help furnish and I will leave the dining room table which Mamma gave me. It belonged to her mother and is an especially fine piece of mahogany.

It is lovely weather here, but enervating and we are all very tired. I am glad you are not here, at the same time it felt lonely to be the only one without her husband or some one especially interested in her. So I got Daisy to stay as my assistant.

They gave Bert a silver sword that always lay on Mamma's 2 library table. The experts had pronounced it the finest piece of the kind they ever saw and declared they believed the South Kensington Museum would gladly give five hundred dollars for it. It has a beautifully chased silver sheath and we all thought Bert would be just overwhelmed, but

Library of Congress

all he said was that a sword seemed such a queer momento of such a gentle lady! That of course is one way of looking at it. What we thought was that it was an unique thing and showed what a collector of unique things she and Papa had been. You are to have your Encyclopedia Britannica and where do you want it, here or in Beinn Bhreagh? We have not distributed the books yet, and I don't know if I will get the ones I want or not.

Grace is on the verge of nervous prostration, but every one else is well. I can't believe it is only just a month since the accident, I can't half realize it, we are so hard worked that we can't stop to think and that is the only way we can get through. We worked from 10 A. M. till 6:30 P. M. Sunday.

I am sending you a paper referring to the Board of Ordnance tribute to Dr. Langley, isn't it too bad it is a few years too late. Daisy worked over your distance and speed tests and thinks she understands them, I was too tired.

Wasn't it fine the way those miners at Cheny behaved?

Much love to you all, Mabel.