

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 27, 1888, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Biarritz July 27, 1888. My dear Alec:

I haven't written you for the longest time — because I have been hoping each day that I would have a telegram saying that you were about starting. — I want to see you awfully — People talk about being homesick at first and then the feeling wearing off. With me it is otherwise I enjoy going away for a while and don't miss anything or want anyone I have left behind at first — but as the days go by I want my friends more and more — until finally it spoils all my pleasure —. I haven't come to the finally yet but it wont be very long — Your telegrams never say anything of yourself, how you are — and what you are doing —. Of course the doing is principally work for the Commission — still I hope there is something else — I can't stand this silence much longer — I must have a letter no matter how busy you are —. Have you really no desire to make me share in your thoughts and feelings? — I begin to feel dreadfully hurt.— You even leave to Mr. Hitz the sending of your papers — do you really let him come between you and me? This is too much.

Mamma, Papa and I are going to Spain tomorrow unless we hear something from you that will make us change our plane. We leave the children here under the charge of Josephine our maid and of a lady who is to come every day to teach the three children. I like Josephine very much, and so do the children — she is a middle aged married woman — very good and kind and with no nonsense about her. Then there is Hannah and the governess who speaks English too. This place is exactly the place for the children — the sands are like those 2 of Newport, fine and hard, and the beach a very gradual slope, perfectly safe — and the surf very low. They have “hommes de bains” men who go in with the children and teach them to swim and also a large Newfoundland dog who is trained

## Library of Congress

to watch the bathers and see that none inadvertently swim out too far. The soft sands are lovely places for the children to dig and they have their shovels and pails. There are also donkey wagons, bath chairs and carriages of all descriptions. I am sure we are doing the best we can for the children in leaving them here and they are delighted. We expect to be gone about a week — Madrid is twelve hours from here.

As I hope you won't get this from being on your way to join us — I wont say anything more. Do please tear this up with your own hands otherwise I know it will be read by all the people around you, you never do take any care of my letters.

Yours, Mabel.