

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, July 21, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Manchester-by-the-sea, July 21st (1884) My dear Mrs. Bell:

I hope you received my telegram congratulating you and Mr. Bell on your wedding anniversary. Forty years seem a long time, but perhaps they seem to have passed very quickly to you. My seven seem very, very long, but the years just before seem very near. I hope you will have many more happy anniversaries.

I suppose you are going to Brantford with Alec, so I will direct this there as I do not want to miss the chance of you coming here through any fault of mine. I do hope you will come on here with Alec. It is perfectly lovely here, and I am sure you must need a breath of sea air after your long over land journey.

We are all very well and Berta thinks her little Helen really has more appetite here. The baby is a beauty and so strong and well. My Daisy is quite rosy-cheeked and both she and Elsie enjoy going in bathing very much, Elsie especially. The beach however, is such a long way off and it has been so cold here that they have not been very often, and now I have had a bathing platform built at our wharf so they can go there. Maurice is very weak now, he seemed brighter yesterday than for some days and they carried him downstairs, but it was too much for him and he has had a very hard night. When he came first just before Alec left he could walk downstairs with Papa's and the man's help, now being carried down was too much for him. At the same time he is more comfortable here than he was in Cambridge, and I think they are all glad to be here. Grace had 2 a boat and her horse and now a small cart and I think feels quite content especially as she has got Berta.

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Charlie and I have been busy photographing, with varying success. I think I must send you two that I have taken. It is great fun and we enjoy it immensely and the children are very willing to sit or stand as the case may be. Gypsey's mamma asked her if she had had her picture taken, "No" declared the child indignantly "Gyp's been graphed"! She is very bright and quick they say and larger and taller than Helen.

Please give my love to Carrie I have always wanted to ask her to come and see me, but the time has never come when I could do so. Could she send me pictures of herself and her little ones. I forgot if the baby is a boy or girl.

How does Brantford look now after being away from it so long? I hope you don't think you would like it better than Washington.

My children would send their love but they have gone down to the beach. They talk very often of you both, and will be so delighted to see you again.

With a great deal of love to you and Mr. Bell, Your loving daughter,