

Letter and enclosure from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, February 14, 1866, with transcript

London, February 14th, 66. My Dear Aleck

I saw Ed. today to make inquiry about the situation. It is filled up— but there are plenty to be had. I enclose a form which has to be executed to get you on the list of the College of Preceptors. If you wish to be enrolled, fill up the form and send it to the Secretary. But if you have determined to go in for study, don't send in this application. You can do so when you see what time your studies will leave you for teaching and I have no doubt of your getting such an appointment as you may have leisure for. I regret that you have been publishing to your friends such a Utopian idea, as that of attending Colleges classes and studying for them at the same time teaching for a living! They must think surely that the doors of your home are closed against you. I can fully sympathize with the love of independence, but not with the pride which would make a young man hesitate to accept with grateful alacrity the opportunity of devoting himself to study and fully profiting by his efforts in his father's house. Even if you did not make a penny during the time, you would be sowing for future reaping, and only adding to the debt of older obligations.

But I repeat that you can have no difficulty here in filling up any time you may have to spare for teaching. Give up, then, all thought of a situation out of London for next year, adhere to your resolution to profit by the opportunity of studying in comfort without having to think of the battle of life at the same time, and you can easily acquit yourself of any debt for the temporary dependence! If you come home, as I wish you, I shall consent to Edward's going to Elgin in your place: otherwise he cannot go. I expect a note from you to say that you will at the end of your present engagement come home where you can both

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work and watch for opportunities of profitable employment. Mama and Ted join me in best love to you and in expectancy of a “gentle answer”.

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.

COLLEGE OF PRECEPTORS.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

Offices :—42, Queen Square, London , W.C.

REGULATIONS OF THE AGENCY DEPARTMENT.

1. The College Registers are open for the reception of applications from the Principals of Schools and others who may require Assistants, Tutors, or Governesses; and also from ladies and gentlemen desirous of obtaining engagements as Assistants in Schools, or as Tutors or Governesses in private Families.
2. Blank Forms for the entry of all necessary particulars are furnished on application to the Secretary, and such Forms, when filled up, are copied into the Registers.
3. Applicants for employment are required to furnish two copies of their testimonials, to give the names and addresses of their Employers, if any, during the preceding three years, and to pay a registration fee of *one shilling*.
4. The commission to be paid by any person, not a Member of the College, on obtaining an engagement, is *two-and-a-half per cent.* on a year's salary; but in no case will the fee be less than half-a-guinea. The fee payable by Members is ten shillings only. In both cases *half-a-crown* additional is charged for postages.

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5. For temporary or non-resident engagements, the commission will, at the option of the Teacher, be calculated either at five per cent. on the amount actually paid to him or her, or in the manner provided in Regulation 4.
6. All fees must be paid as soon as the engagement is made; otherwise the Teacher is required to sign an order on the Employer for the amount.
7. Abstracts of the entries in the Registers, but without names, are printed in the *Educational Times* every month, for circulation among the Members of the College and of the Scholastic Profession generally.
8. A copy of the testimonials and the addresses of any Teachers, selected from these monthly lists, will be sent to those who may apply for them; but the testimonials must be returned to the College by the third day from that on which they are issued.
9. Principals may, on payment of a fee of one guinea, have the qualifications of Assistants tested to a certain extent by an officer of the Corporation.
10. Every facility is afforded for interviews between Principals and Assistants at the College Offices.
11. Immediate information of the conclusion of engagements must be sent to the Secretary; and any one who fails to reply to communications from the Office for the space of one week, is assumed to have entered into an engagement, and his or her name is struck out of the Register.

All communications are to be addressed to the Secretary, to whom Post Office Orders should be made payable, at the Office in Southampton Row, London, W.C.

[???] During the Midsummer and Christmas Vacations, the College, as empowered by its Charter, holds Examinations of Teachers in the Theory and Practice of Education, Ancient

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and Modern Languages, Mathematics, History, Science, and Art; and awards Diplomas to those who pass such Examinations satisfactorily.

II.

DATE. NAME, DEGREE, &c. AGE. ADDRESS. FULL STATEMENT OF SUBJECTS TAUGHT. KIND OF SITUATION AND SALARY REQUIRED. REFERENCES AND LIST OF TESTIMONIALS. 186