

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, Eliza Symonds Bell, Melville Bell, Carrie Bell, August 30, 1869, with transcript

Copy of a letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his parents. The Angel Hotel, Crediton, August 30th, 1869. Dear P. M. M. C. & B.

“Thus far into the bowels of the land have we marched free from all impediment.”

We arrived at Exeter, after a hot and dusty journey, tired and hungry — about five o'clock Saturday evening. It then struck us we might as well open the provision parcel we brought from London.

We gussed and guessed in vain What it could contain.

At last we turned into an inn and ordered some beer. The sausages and half the bread disappeared in about five minutes.

Having washed, we started on an exploring expedit. Southernhay — Northernhay saw us in turn. The latter place is a beautiful walk. And in the day-time there is a fine view of the town to be had from it. We visited the Albert Memorial. A really sensible memorial — a museum. What I admired most there was a model of some church made from the pitts of the common rush . Even the armorial bearings and inscriptions being reproduced with marvellous delicacy.

On Sunday we devoted the greater part of the day to examining Exeter — and its Guildhall. The Cathedral we could only see the exterior of. Only a part of it is open on Sunday — and that for worship. We entered this part and shall leave the rest 2 until our return. It is a splendid building. We purchased a guidebook in Exeter.

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In the evening of Sunday we walked slowly to Crediton (8 miles) b otanizing on the way . We find no difficulty in getting a double-bedded room for a shilling !!! We are just about to start for Hatherleigh which seems to be about 20 miles from here. He We shall pass through Bow, North Lawton, Esbourn, and Jacobston. Tomorrow we hope to reach Torrington about 14 miles further. And on Wednesday expect to be in Bideford. We shall inquire at the post-office there for letters. We are enjoying our journey very much — and what makes it more pleasant is that Chess and I seem just to have the same tastes.

I am dear Papa and Mama, Your affectionate son, Aleck.