

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, 1871, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to his Parents. (First page missing) December 1871 ?

of Papa's letter, it has certainly had the effect of making me very ill. I was so excited as to get little or no sleep — and on Wednesday I actually was awake all night . I was so utterly exhausted next day that Mr. King and Miss Fuller at once noticed that I was ill, and sent me out to the country. I have been at Newton Lower Falls since Thursday only going into town for about a couple of hours on Friday.

The Exhibition, I am afraid, will be an entire failure — so much depends upon me personally. I am now working without any hope of producing a striking impression — for I have only 3 days to work up any effects. If it was possible to give up the Exhibition I would do so. The plan of the Exhibition has been altered so that less work may fall on me. Instead of being entirely a Visible Speech Exhibition as at first intended — Visible Speech will only be a part . I am thoroughly prostrated and disheartened. I think I shall at once go down to the sea-side at Longbranch — (at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Wallack) — and not visit Hartford or Northampton till on my way to Canada.

I received the other day two little books from two gentlemen of my adult class. The note which I enclose is very touching — and shows that they do appreciate what I have done. They have been taught by signs and so their knowledge of written language is very limited. Please preserve the note as I value it. I am anxious to hear any news about poor Jamie and of Widdie. With love.

Your affectionate son, Aleck.