

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, Eliza Symonds Bell, Carrie Bell, June 4, 1873, with transcript

3rd copy Copy of a letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his parents and Carrie. 35 West Newton Street, June 4th, 1873. Dear Papa, Mama and Carrie:

This has been a glorious day for Visible Speech. I did as you suggested and spoke entirely impromptu — and words came all right. I don't understand how it is that I can speak so much more readily in public than I can in private. The Lowell Institute was moderately filled — and it is reckoned that there were from twelve to fourteen hundred present, and these all medical men. The Homeopathic Controversy has doubtless caused this large congregation of doctors from all parts of the State.

I was an invited guest at the public dinner given in the Music Hall — and was called upon to respond to the following sentiment.

“Modern Science not only gives sight to the Blind but makes the Dumb to Speak.”

A most gratifying reception was given me — and I spoke without any preparation.

I have not the remotest idea what I said — except that I alluded to the history of the Education of Deaf Mutes in speech — but somehow or other the words came all right.

Dr. De Wolf, the Chairman told me there were over fifteen hundred people present.

The Music Hall was pretty nearly full of people and tables.

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After the meeting I was fairly besieged by doctors asking 2 my advice in regard to deaf patients of theirs. I look upon this meeting as the most important one for Visible Speech that has yet been held.

A new University is being started in Boston. From bequests that have been left it will in eight years have an available fund of five million dollars. The largest endowment that any University in the country has had to begin with.

It is proposed to have a Chair for Vocal Physiology and Elocution and Prof. Monroe has asked me whether I would accept the position — and whether I would be prepared to commence lecturing next October.

He wishes me especially to ask you to give him some idea of your course of instruction at University College and in Edinburgh.

I am very tired and headachy and am just about to tumble into bed.

With much love, Aleck.