

## Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 14, 1875, with transcript

Home, March 14th, 75. (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U. S.) My dear Al.,

Now that you have got out of your bustle with Washington arrangements you will have time for a gossip. Who is "lovely Lizzie"- the subject of your experimental telegram? Anything on the tapis? Remember that we have now no daughter-in-law, and that we can get one only through you. You have now no sister-in-law, and you can get one only through your "lovely Lizzie, or whatever may be her name. I don't know whether Carrie thought of the severance of old relations by her marriage, for "marriage breaks what marriage makes". I fancy not, for the day before she changed her name she happened to speak of Aunt Ellen. Davie remarked to me afterwards, "This is the last day Carrie will be able to use that phrase". Poor girl! She has undertaken a life she is not fit for. I did all I could to save her, and now I can only hope that her hardships will be less than I anticipate. When will you know the result of your application for a patent? I hope you will speedily arrange your interests for a sufficient consideration, so as to escape the worry of continued negotiations. A thunderstorm has just commenced (9P.M.). We have had a gentle thaw for two or three days, but now there will probably be a rapid breakup of the ice. We shall have frightful 2 roads for a time, and I expect such a flood as we have never seen. I fear that the West Brantford flats will all be under water. The legal transference of the adjoining Bush (8 acres) to Davie is only waiting the recovery of some missing papers. The dale portion of the lot is all cleared, so that you now have an open view from the bank. It is a lovely site. Building however is a slow process, and will be an expensive one. It will be very advantageous and comfortable to both families to be such close neighbors. In "Scribner" for Feb. I see a notice of Prof. Whitney's "Oriental and Linguistic Studies"-second series-containing a review of Visible Speech. I wish you would see the book and if you think

## Library of Congress

it worth while, get a copy for me. How did you manage to get away from your classes? Have you resumed? Anything new professionally? Let me have a good long letter about V. S. and your teaching. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson were here this week. A coming event is already casting its shadow before! Dave and I have three nights in Toronto shortly, probably next week. Love from both, as ever,

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.