

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Symonds Bell, May 12, 1876, with transcript

Boston University, No. 18, Beacon Street, Boston, May 12th, 1876. Dear Papa & Mama,

There is nothing like a bold front after all. I feel myself borne up on a rising tide. The meeting at the Academy was a grand success.

I had a telegraph wire from my rooms in Beacon Street to the Athenaemic building, and my telephonic organ was placed in my green reception room under the care of Willie Hubbard.

When the proper time came I rose to address the dignified assembly of grey heads before me and telegraphed to Willie Hubbard for some music. While I was speaking out burst the notes of the "Old Hundred" from an instrument upon the table to the delight of all.

When I spoke of the simultaneous transmission of musical notes I sent a telegraphic signal to Willie and in response came some full rich chords — and then an air with its proper accompaniment.

Everything was most successful, and when I sat down I was somewhat surprised to be greeted by a hearty round of applause — which, I am informed is such an unusual thing in the Academy, that Mr. Scudder (who has been a member for 12 or 14 years) says he never knew such a thing happen before.

Next day came a letter from the Institute of Technology asking me to repeat the address and the experiments before the Society of Arts on Thursday evening the 25th of May.

Mabel is well. Mr. & Mrs. Hubbard have arrived from N. Y.

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Mr. Hubbard leaves for Washington tomorrow.

Love to all.

Your affectionate son A. Graham Bell. Prof. A. G. Bell, Brantford, Ont.