

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Symonds Bell, January 13, 1877, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Parents. Washington, D. C., January 13th, 1877. Dear Papa and Mama:

Your letter directed to the “Rigg House” reached me for a wonder. How did you manage to get the address “Rigg House”? I do not remember sending that address and I thought I sent you this address (711 — 14th Street) by telegraph. The Rigg House is where we take our meals.

I have sent to you a copy of my testimony — cross-examination, etc. The letters enclosed to me are of no use. If you can find anything bearing upon the subject of an earlier date than July, 1873 it will prove very valuable. Anything descriptive of apparatus from October, 1873 up to the spring of 1874 might be valuable — but the earlier letters will be of most importance. I will have no difficulty in proving everything back to November, 1873 but the experiments made in the winter of 1872–3 will be more difficult to prove.

I have been kept here by my examination and cross-examination twice as long as I expected and since then I have been detained an unwilling prisoner by doctor's orders. The very evening I should have left for New York I unfortunately slipped in the street and doubled up my left foot under me — hurting the ankle so much that I had to be assisted home. It was impossible to leave that night — and the surgeon who came to see me next day thought that I should be kept here a week or two. However thanks to Mr. Hubbard's tender nursing I have been detained only three days — and tonight the doctor has fastened on a stiff anklet to support the ankle so as to permit me to travel. I leave for New York at nine o'clock — and shall pick up Mabel in New York tomorrow morning and carry

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her to Boston with me. My ankle is not much hurt — and if I take care it will be all right in a few days. The scientific men of Washington have taken great interest in me and in Telephony.

The venerable Prof. Henry entertained me at the Smithsonian Institute with accounts of his recent researches in Acoustics and plied me with questions in regard to the Telephone — tried my instruments and had down his whole family to see them and he wants me next time I come to Washington to visit him and stay at his house. He also invited me to lecture on the subject before the Philosophical Society last Saturday which I did standing on one foo t — the other being at that time disabled. He had published the subject in the papers and there was a full meeting of venerable philosophers and scientific men. They were enthusiastic in their expressions of congratulation.

I must now close to pack up. I have been busily employed since my accident upon Congressional business!! — and have been helping Mr. Hubbard with his report upon the Postal Service of the United States. With much love.

Your affectionate son, Alec. Prof. A. Neville Bell, Brantford, Ontario.