

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, February 15, 1877, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Father. Boston, Mass., February 15th, 1877. Dear Papa:

Had no time during the last few days to write and I am now sitting down in despair before a pile of unanswered letters only two days old.

The papers forwarded to you will have told you of the grand success of my lecture in Salem — and that the vocal sounds sent from Boston by telegraph were audible to more than 500 people. The best proof of the practicability of the Telephone for actual use yet shown is the long account published in the Globe — which report was transmitted from Salem to Boston viva voce .

To-day an official letter has been received from the Mayor of Salem to the following effect:

“A general desire has been expressed among our citizens that you should repeat the very interesting and instructive lecture of Monday evening last on Telephony, and we shall be pleased if your occupations will allow you to comply with this invitation to devote another evening in Salem to experiments with the Telephone at such time as you may designate.”

This letter is signed by the Mayor and twelve of the most prominent citizens and scientists of the city. The lecture is to be for my own benefit.

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I am negotiating with the Governor of Rhode Island to take up foreign patents.

Must stop now with love to you and Mama.

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Your affectionate son, Alec. P. S. Please find enclosed the draft for \$200 for which many thanks.