

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Symonds Bell, May 11, 1877, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Parents. New York — Friday, May 11th, 1877. Dear Papa and Mama:

I suppose Mabel has sent you copies of Boston papers containing notices of lectures which have been a great success — excepting pecuniarily. They have done little more than pay expenses. I lecture tomorrow in Springfield and next week in New York. I am quite down-hearted at the non-success pecuniarily of all my lectures for I depend upon them to enable me to marry Mabel. I am also very uneasy about my own health. I have consulted the best physicians in Boston — and my doctor, Dr. Ellis is inclined to think the peculiar marks I told you of are serious symptoms of a disorganisation of the nervous system — and that I must be very careful. My legs and body present a horrible appearance but otherwise I feel well — but tired out. If my lectures do not prove a success — I shall come right home and rest. Mrs. Hubbard has taken possession of me for the present — and taken me away from Exeter Place where I have no attention paid to me and I can't take care of myself. If my lectures are a success — I shall go on lecturing and resting during the day — and whenever I have thoroughly recovered I shall marry Mabel and probably go to Europe. The Superintendent of Postal Telegraphs in England has just arrived in America and has written to say he is coming to see me.

Your loving son, Alec.

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P. S. I leave New York tomorrow morning for Springfield and shall be in Boston on Sunday.

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Alec.