

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 25, 1879

University, Kingston, Ont., January 25th, 79. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

I have now got half way through my course here and shall have more leisure for correspondence during the latter than the former half. I am glad that the letter I posted just before leaving home proved to be important. There is no chance of your repository of missing letters being in Canada. On my way here I had an interview with the Managing Director of the Dominion Telegraph Co. They want to take up the Bell Telephone in opposition to the Montreal Tel. Co. They are too poor to buy out an interest and yet they want to have the Central Office business. I have answered definitely that the general management cannot be transferred except on a sale of the Patent right, but I have offered to give them special terms to each of our Provincial and local Agents wherever the Agencies are not satisfactorily fitted at present. The matter will I suppose, be settled by the time I pass through Toronto on my way home. Did you find the assignments? It was posted to the care of Mr. Eustis Hubbard while you were in Boston. I suggested Mr. Wilkes to send a duplicate for your signature. Has he done so? Do you know when your case will be taken up by the Commissioners? Give me early information. I have heard nothing lately about the trials here, nor of which of the two will take place first. What about your carbon telephone? As soon as you have anything that we could introduce here, it will be important to get it, as Edison's Carbon Telephone, is being brought prominently into notice. I had an opportunity of testing the watch shaped telephones a few days ago at the University. Prof. Williamson bought a pair in Paris. Their power is wonderful considering the size of the magnet. Our test however was on a short(metallic) circuit. I tried on the same current our Canadian Rubber Hand Telephone and this was greatly superior. I am reading a French book lent me by Prof. W. which I hope you have seen as it does you justice. It is: "Telephones et Phonographes, Etude Complete de ces Inventiones, per Alfred Niaudet."

Library of Congress

I have been disappointed at not having Mamma with me here. She was about to join me when Mary took ill with sore throat. I hope it may not prove to be diphtheria. I have not managed to get rid of the cold I brought away from Washington. The weather here has on the whole been fine, though cold; sleighing is good. The sidewalks are bordered by a bank of snow, thrown up in clearing the paths, varying from two to five feet deep. I hope you will find time to drop me an autograph while I am here and give me all your news. I hope you like your house, that Mary Horne has added to your comfort, that Elsie is progressing at her old ratio, that Gertrude keeps improving, that all the Hubbard family are well, and that you and Mabel are happier every day.

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With love to both of you and a kiss to Elsie, I am,

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.