

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, December 5, 1879

Melville House, Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., December 5th, 1879. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

I arrived here comfortably last evening, and today I have squared up your account at the Bank of B. N. A. Two cheques came in after you left, amounting to \$86.00. The money from the Rubber Co. was received yesterday (\$20,153.42). I enclose with account, a cheque for the balance of the interest, after deducting the amount of your cancelled cheque. The Bank's commission I have of course, paid, myself. Your Mother's fortune, pending better investments, lies as a deposit in Bank and bears 4% interest. You need not keep any money at 2 per cent, in Boston, you can get 4 here, with perfect safety. Fifteen days' notice of withdrawal is nominally required, but the receipts are always cashed on presentation. I found the letter from Mr. Hubbard, which I looked for in Boston, lying here when I arrived. Our blessed "National Policy", copied from the American Tariff, has made us pay subsidy for telephone material and transmitters. Today I am informed that the Customs Department has increased the duty on transmitters and that the increase is to take effect on past invoices. Blessed N.P.! Blessed U. S. Example! Preach whenever you can against this oppressive 2 fallacy of "Protection". We are anxious to know how you like Mr. N. G. All join me in best love to Mabel, Elsie and yourself, and in kind regards to all Mr. Hubbard's family.

Your affectionate father, Alexander Melville Bell.

Your Aunt brought out, from George Minchin, an instrument of which the following is a drawing. What shall I do with it?

My dear Aleck,

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Through your and Mabel's munificent gift, I find myself today in the novel position of a wife with a private purse! And I ask myself now what will I do with it, for I seem always to have had enough, in spite of the necessity of considering ways and means, and I wonder if I can ever break myself of the habit of doing so. I thank you my dears more than I can express, and I hope and pray that your own children may reward you for your care and thoughtfulness of your parents. I shall use this money with the more pleasure, since I know it adds to your happiness, that I should do so, and in knowing that you will not miss it. I am anxious to know how Mabel and little Pet are after their travels. I hope she is delighted with her sister's prospect of happiness. Papa has not told you that Bow Park was burnt down the other night. Fond love, from,

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. B.