

## Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 2, 1875, with transcript

P.O. Box 518, Brantford, Ont., Canada? May 2d, 75. (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U. S.) My dear Aleck,

Your last letter was indeed a great relief and comfort to us. We heartily congratulate you on your success so far, and hope that future arrangements may be for the good of all concerned. We came to Canada two months after dear Melly' death, which took place on the 28th, of May, 1870. I do not know if you ever received any reply to your question with regard to the possibility of having mentioned your idea to Mr. Hall. I wrote to Mrs. Ottaway a few days ago, and made particular mention of it. I know that your mind was at work upon telegraphs as long ago as when you were at Bath in 1867. By this time you will have received my packet of letters, dispatched in the beginning of last week. We hope your cousins will not hesitate to come out. I think they must have at least 300 Pounds in the Bank. That with the price of their house, put out at interest, such as ours is would bring in sufficient to keep them in clothes and pocket money, besides what they might earn here by teaching. I am thankful to say we are well though without a servant. Dear Papa does all he can to help me, and Mrs. Hartley is 2 to come once a week. With you, those who only casually meet Polly would no doubt, think her a very nice girl, but she is after the pattern of that nice girl we were all so sorry to part with, and who walked into a gentleman's bedroom to call him one morning, in nothing but her chemise: Pollie had received so many warnings and cautions against allowing men or boys to take any personal freedom with her (in the time of old William) and has been so often rebuked on being caught with the present William, alone in his bedroom under more than suspicious circumstances, during the last 15 months, that my principal regret now is, for not having sent her back to Miss Rye when I first discovered her propensities. Her future is not uncared for. We are now in correspondence with Miss Rye on that subject. From recent revelations, we can only

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suppose that the two must have been living as man and wife almost from the time they first met!! Dr. C. thinks it very doubtful if she will get over the affair!! Uncle got into the new house on Friday. He does not think of building for another year! They are really very funny folks. They were so long in deciding about the wood, after making the agreement to purchase that Mr. Brooks drew back. Afterwards they were most anxious to have it, and Brooks would not let them. By the joint efforts of Tom Brooks and Papa, the old gentleman was talked over, and the purchase made. Now that they have got it, they want to buy some other place and sell the wood!! We fully expect that one of these days they will turn about and fly off to the old country. The young ladies are certainly not suitable for Canadian husbands, or rather Canadian gentlemen are not suitable for them.

I heard of Deaf William being about here a month ago, very smartly dressed, and displaying a lot of money. He said he had more in the Bank, and that he was going to England. It is probable that the Uncle he used to talk about, as having expectations from, may have died and left him money. This is only my notion supposing his own account to be true. Having the letters to write, I must break off just now, but first I must tell you that Papa has at least 80 pupils in his class at the Ladies' College. We have not seen Carrie since last week, she was looking very well then. With fond love in which Papa unites,

Ever your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell. We have got two baby calves. The Salem paper gives a very flattering account of your Lecture. In the Dr. Blake mentioned there the Aurist whom you wish me to meet?