

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, October 17, 1875, with transcript

Copy of letter from Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell to her son, Alexander Graham Bell
October 17th, 75 P. O. Box 518 Brantford, Ont., Canada Home, October 17th, 75 (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U. S.) My dear Aleck:

Writing day has again come round and with it the first snow of the season, which descended from such a leaden colored sky, we expected more than the mere sprinkling that actually fell. The weather has been cold and raw for the most part of the week, and it is a mercy Papa is none the worse for being continually out of doors watching the cistern sinkers. Of these there are four, one at each end of the front verandah, one behind the large hen house, and one by the stable. Papa met the Governor General at lunch on Monday last, at Dr. Hunter's and was much gratified by the visit. The Hon. G. Brown however was not there. Dr. Hurd lectured in Brantford on that day, and slept at our house. I believe he comes back next week, or rather this week, to repeat the lecture by desire. He is trying to get up a reading for Papa in St. Thomas. Your Father reads at Woodstock on the first Friday in November. Uncle David returned from his tour on Saturday, 100 dollars out of pocket!! That is awful work is it not? We expected him and Aunt to be with us today, but the weather was too coarse to send for them with the probability of their venturing out. We trust to your promised caution in taking good care of yourself this changeable weather. A renewed cold now, you might not get rid of during the winter. I suppose today you are at Cambridge, oblivious of everything but the fact of being with Mabel. We are wondering if you have heard yet from Mr. G. Brown. I have letters this week from Mrs. Ottaway and Marie Eccleston, the latter giving an account of herself during the past nine months. Capt. Boskell whom the Doctor never expected could live to see the last May, is still about, a little 2 better than he was but still in such a precarious state that Marie is prepared for his dying at any moment. She has been his close attendant for the last four or

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five years. She writes from the Isle of Man where they have lodgings. Their house in Mona Crescent being let. Old Mr. Ross, of 10 Marquis Court, is dead. The younger of his two daughters is married. The son is living away from home, and Miss Ross is now alone in the house. But Marie thinks Miss R. will not stay there. Mrs. Parker (Maggie LaMotte) has four children, one son and three daughters. She is Marie tells me, very much put about for want of servants, which are hardly to be got in a manufacturing town. Marie adds "Thanks for Aleck's address, perhaps some day when he chooses to let old friends see that their places in his estimation have not been filled by new ones, I may make use of it." It would appear that she keeps up a correspondence with Sam MacBurnie, for she tells me of his having spent an evening with her brother last spring.

Papa has told me to enclose the accompanying Lecture. All well in Town I believe, ditto our own girls. Papa says Dr. Hurd is not to deliver the same Lecture, but another.

Fond love from all around, and from, Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell