

## Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 29, 1875, with transcript

Copy of letter from Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell to her son, Alexander Graham Bell November 29th, 75 Brantford, Ont., Can. Home, November 29th, 75 (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U.S.) My dear Aleck,

We cordially congratulate you upon the good news conveyed in your letter of the 25th, which was received this Afternoon after mine written yesterday was posted. I trust that Mabel is really destined to be the wife best suited for you, to whom I have so long prayed you might be directed. I have just written to her, but we all think that anything more than that just at present would be premature. Better to wait awhile till matters are a little more advanced, before addressing Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard. Mabel will of course show you my note. It is delightful to know you are so well. Be very careful of cold, you do not say if you sleep naturally and well. Papa is busy over his papers, he and Uncle David read in Brantford tomorrow night. Charley it seems had a days holiday on Saturday and of course ran home. He was to have returned this morning to Toronto, but felt too ill to rise from his bed, and Papa thinks it doubtful if he will be any better able tomorrow. He is very feverish. The weather is excessively cold today. I suppose the reception you speak of, is something akin to the German method of engagements. In Germany betrothal cards are printed with the names of the contracting parties and the date of their betrothal. These are sent to every friend and acquaintance. How different it is in Scotland where engagements matrimonial are kept secret till the very last. At least it used to be so, more than now perhaps. When I was young it was the aim of lovers to throw dust in everybodys eyes regarding their mutual feelings. As the maiden says to her lover in the song "Dome as ye ware na coming to me". Papa and your cousin unite with me in love and in sympathy with your happy feelings. I am dear Aleck,

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Your affectionate Mother, Eliza G. Bell.