

## Letter and enclosure from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 11, 1877

P. O. Box 518, Brantford, Ont., Can., January 11th, 77. (No envelope) My dear Aleck,

According to promise I send off two more letters of date 74, being all we can find for that year, except one of Feb. 5th, merely stating you had just received an answer from England about your telegraphic scheme, and another being the copy of a letter written by you to Mr. Hubbard, dated Dec. 7th, 74. As he of course has the original, and you have the English letter, we think it unnecessary to forward either of these. There are plenty of references to the subject in 75 and 76. You thought and spoke of it I believe long before you wrote, as your Father remembers your discussing the subject with him in 1872.

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell.

### **COLONIAL EXPANSION.**

( *From the N. Y. Graphic .* )

In October, 1871, eighteen months after the discovery of rich diamond fields on the Vaal River, the British Government formally annexed the Orange Republic to Cape Colony, in spite of the protest of the Free State authorities. Recently, the discoveries attracting a large population of English emigrants, the Republic of Transvaal has also been annexed to the colony, and without protest. In fact, the annexation of both of these African States, founded by the Boers, who were descended from the old Dutch settlers, amounts to little more than the extension of British sovereignty over them and British protection around them, preventing the depredations of slave-traders and the incursions of savages, and covering the new activities of the people with the forms of English law. The old spirit of freedom remains, and the Boers have become British subjects without the consciousness

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of change. The fact is notable as an illustration of the English capacity for colonial expansion and her colonial policy.

England has distanced all other modern nations in the number and growth of her colonies, their prosperity, and their persistent loyalty to her Government. France has no colonies of any account but Algeria, for no Frenchman imagines he can live more than a day's distance from Paris. Spain and Portugal have lost most of their splendid American possessions, and those that remain are in a state of chronic revolt. The once flourishing Dutch settlements in America and the South Seas are on the decline. But England throws out a new colony to some important point every few years, and manages to keep their allegiance and make them thrive. In this respect she excels the Greeks, who alienated most of their colonies by neglect or extortion, and equals Rome, which was the greatest colonizing nation of the Old World. And perhaps one secret of England's success in this line was borrowed from the Romans, who were all things to all peoples only to Romanize them. England has adopted the old Roman policy of a discreet adaptation of her methods to the peculiarities of each people. Ever since the American revolution tore the costliest and most precious jewel from the crown, she has practised a sagacious indulgence in the forms of her authority, provided its spirit was recognized, and its central requisitions were obeyed. These two South African republics are annexed, but the native Boers, who are Democrats by constitution and habit of life, are virtually left to govern themselves. Canada is half kingdom and half republic. The English people suppress their prejudices to add to the old and sacred title of Queen that of the "Empress of India," in order to keep up the fiction of Imperial authority among the subject populations of South-eastern Asia. Queensland and New Zealand are governed, while Australia virtually governs herself. The flexibility of English rule in her colonial possessions is remarkable, and one secret of her hold over her colonies is this wise adaptation of her rule to their conditions. Virtually a republic under the form of a monarchy herself, she can be autocratic in Hindostan, and democratic in Quebec, and aristocratic in Jamaica; and thus territorially insignificant and

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cramped by old traditions at home, the elasticity of her rule makes her the great colonizing power of the world.