

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 9, 1880

look up Herald article Melville House, Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., January 9th, 80. (No envelope) My dear Alec,

Papa and I are greatly surprised at your having no reply to the telegram you sent to Uncle Edward, and hope you addressed it to Melbourne, not Sydney. His last letter to me was dated August, 79 and I enclose in this, that portion of its contents referring to the telephone Patent, on page marked (2)—I had before told him of your having sent out the necessary documents in 78, but I suppose he must have forgotten that. I however mentioned it again when I wrote to him about five weeks ago, and told him moreover, how much it had cost you to have them properly made out. I rather wonder at not having heard from him again before this, but suppose he has less time to spare during the evenings, now that he is married. His business address is at the Treasury, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, and his private one; Tutelo-Kew, near Melbourne and so forth. What would you say to a visit there with Papa and me? With this I send you an account of the way in which my money has been invested, and which Papa thinks quite safe. We are going to Toronto this day week, and I shall take him to the photographer's for a panel photograph of himself to match mine. 2 Carrie and George were here yesterday and showed us your letter, she was looking remarkably well and took Lizzie back with her for a few days. It was one of the darkest nights we ever saw and if Mr. and Mrs. Town with their team had not accompanied George's buggy, we should hardly have allowed Lizzie to go. Are you aware that long ago, and often since, Papa offered to give Carrie telephones, saying it would cost them nothing but to attach the wire, as telegraph poles run through their ground. I also frequently told Carrie the same thing, but have only very recently discovered that the reason why George would not accept them, was because he supposed he would have to pay a yearly rental for their use! Papa and I both feel quite angered about it. Charley I think is getting a nice

Library of Congress

holiday, and I hope you will be successful in finding him something good to do which I know would gratify your kind heart. Do not let him fall in love with Miss Grace for he is such an inconstant fellow having fallen off from his late fiance No. 2. I have been spending nearly a week with his Mother, and Mary is there now. Mr. Newman of the Boston Herald, requested Papa to furnish them with a short biographical sketch of the renowned inventor of the telephone, and some account of his early days; so I have been hunting up my memory for any little characteristic humorous items and Papa is now busy adding to, and bringing the whole into form. 3 During the last few days we have had very wet and foggy weather, quite a tempest prevails just now, and the glass is still falling. Mabel tells me her sister is not to be married till the summer. I should like to make her a wedding present and to avoid the danger of transit, as well as the demands of the Custom House, I think of sending a cheque to you that you may procure something suitable upon the spot. There is time enough yet however. Give my dear love to Mabel, to whom I will shortly write. The delay in sending back the photographs has been caused by letting Aunt Ellen run off with that of Elsie (which you sent me) under the impression that I had more which however was not the case, and they only arrived from the photographer yesterday. The set shall be sent on Monday. I expect you are at present from home, but this will no doubt be forwarded. With dearest love from Papa and,

Your own affectionate Mother, Eliza G. Bell. P. S. I was mistaken about George's telephone, as Papa says he would have to put up new poles, as those through his grounds belong to the Montreal Company. He would need new poles to connect his line with ours.