

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, undated, with transcript

No envelope and no date. My dear Aleck,

If today had been tomorrow, I should probably have felt sufficiently at leisure to collect my thoughts for a gossip but just now they seem so far away, I don't know how to catch hold of them. Perhaps Papa may find a letter from you in the box— otherwise we shall be anxious as to the fate of that #100. We hope now, all will go on smoothly with you, and no more occasion for nervous headaches. The box from Edinburgh has arrived (in it are some books for you) and also a very uncomfortable letter from Uncle. I fancy the long continued wet and fog of misty Edinburgh has its effect upon his brain. He is farther than ever from any idea of crossing the Atlantic or of allowing his daughters to do so. Moreover he says, as they none of them like teaching they are taking lessons ni dressmaking and . Is it not depressing to think how those nice clever girls are inevitably to be lost? He thinks moreover it would have been much better if Papa had never left Edinburgh! ! ! What would have become of V. S. in that case? Would it not have been a talent wrapped in a napkin, and a light under a bushel? Though friend, it makes me feel quite angry. I remember Uncle once told me that when a boy at School (at Greenwich) people used to fling apples and oranges to the boys in the play-ground but he (Uncle) never by any chance got one— unless it hit him. Even so now, he won't take the trouble to run and pick up a good thing. 2 Some sharper person is always before him. However it cannot be helped, we can do nothing more. Yet, if anything happened to him, what would become of the girls? He says if he moved anywhere he would rather go to Australia. I think that move would be much better than staying where he is. Carrie went to pay her long deferred visit to Mrs. Moncrief on Thursday. An Exhibition is taking place in London, and tickets by Rail for three days, are only half . She will no doubt write and tell you all about it. We expect her home this afternoon. She is suffering very much at times with her face. That ardent lover you of, has

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made a regular offer and been rejected. Nevertheless it would seem he won't take no as an answer, but tries the question again and again. Poor fellow, we are really very sorry for him, as we believe him to be a sterling, good character, and would no doubt, make a fond and excellent husband. Unless the lady determines to remain single, it is doubtful if a better opportunity will turn up. We do not know yet what the last news is from London, but a letter awaits Carrie's return, which will not be till after this is posted. God bless you my dear boy, and direct you in all wisdom. This is the constant prayer of,

Your affectionate Mother, E.G.Bell.