

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, September 12, 1875, with transcript

Melville House, Brantford, Ont., Sept., 12th, 1875. Dear Miss Mabel,

Many thanks for the kind note which has just been forwarded to me from Salem.

It seems so strange to me to be again in Canada. I can almost believe that the past few years have been a dream and that I have been living quietly at home all the time.

Changes there are however, and great ones. My sister-in-law (now Mrs. Ballachey)-has left my father's house and now lives some miles away in a home of her own.

In place of being alone in Canada we now form quite a colony of Bells. My father has an only brother to whom he is greatly attached. The two have been separated since childhood — only meeting occasionally at Christmas.

Now that both have arrived at years when they feel themselves entitled to rest from the fatigues of active life — they desire to be near each other once more.

My uncle therefore came to Canada last year accompanied by his wife and his four youngest children with the intention of remaining permanently if the climate of Canada should agree with his family. I presume he is satisfied for he has just purchased the 2 property adjoining my father's, and proposes building upon it.

Since my last visit home three other cousins have arrived in Canada — and now reside with my father and mother. These three young ladies — (Lizzie, Mary, & Louisa Symonds)-are doubly my cousins.

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Their father was my mother's brother, and their mother was my father's sister! Their parents are both dead and they have come to Canada to make their home with us. It is six years since I saw them last.

My cousin Lily Bell, in referring to the double relationship subsisting between the Symonds-family and myself, said that she was glad I was not doubly her cousin. She would rather have her cousins separate! She did not want one twice over !

You will be glad to hear that my father and I have come together as we have not done for years.

I felt rather like the Prodigal Son as I neared Brantford. Although I had not mentioned what day I should reach home my father had guessed it and was in waiting at the depot with his carriage.

If he has not killed his fatted calf for me he has done everything else to make me happy — and to show his affection for me.

It is to me a new and delightful sensation to feel confident that I can approach nearer to him than the outside of his heart. My mother is well and glad to see her “boy” once more.

Great changes and improvements are manifest at home.

My father is specially proud of a trellis-work portico in front of his veranda over which (last year) he had trained vines.

All those who saw the luxuriant growth of the plants last Autumn — for he left them unpruned — prophesied a failure of fruit for this season. But now he points in triumph to his portico absolutely loaded with beautiful grapes.

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It has been calculated that there cannot be less than one hundred pounds weight of fruit on this portico alone!

I am having a very pleasant time at home. I am in the saddle the greater part of every day as I have a horse for my own special use.

I am afraid I shall have to run away if I am ever to return to the States — for my parents and my cousins will never let me go peaceably.

I presume that you are now in Bethel — and that Mr. and Miss Hubbard have returned from the White Mountains refreshed and well.

Please remember me very kindly to all at home.

I shall be glad if you will tell Mrs. Hubbard that I have not forgotten her request about Mrs. McCurdy's 4 stair-railroad. I have a few thoughts on the subject which I shall send to her soon.

With kind regards, Yours very sincerely, A. Graham Bell. P. S. Please remember me to Miss True if you should see her. Miss Mabel G. Hubbard, Brattle St., Cambridge.