

## Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 2, 1863, with transcript

Home, March 2nd, 1863. (No envelope) My dear Aleck,

Every year since you came into the world to bless us, I have most fervently wished you on the 3rd, of March, many happy returns of the day. This is the first time I have had to do it by letter, but be assured my heart is in the wish no less than when the word of congratulation was printed on your cheek. God bless you my dear boy, and may you ever be as happy as I have tried to make you during your past life! I shall add my usual gift to your Bank book, at the first opportunity. Meantime I send you an addition of half a Sovereign to your pocket money. I trust you will receive it safely. I wish you could be with us to see the gorgeous aspect of our City on the W. It will be the finest display in the Kingdom. But you will have plenty to look at in London also. The day must be a holiday to you that you may see all you can. No such day is likely to occur again in our time. Make the most of it. We miss you sadly when we assemble by the fireside at the cottage, but we are reconciled to your absence by the fact that you are good to grandpapa and have been a great comfort to him in his illness, and also that you are making good progress in your studies. You will have cause of thankfulness all your life that you had the benefit of such a training as my father has lovingly afforded you. Time presses and I must close.

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Wishing you many happy returns of the 3rd, of March, I am,

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell. P. S. Mamma sends you a present of a couple of neckties that you may feel Mother's handiwork, if not her arms, around the neck she loves so well. A. M. B. You will find the money and one of the ties.