

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 14, 1870, with transcript

Boston, Mass., Monday, Nov. 14th, 70. (A. G. Bell, Esq., Box 280, Brantford, Ont., Canada.) My dear Aleck,

I have just come from the day-school for Deaf Mutes. The system of V. S. is altogether new to the teachers, and there is a strong desire on their part to do the best they can, and if possible excel other institutions. You could not desire a better field to try your hand. I said I should like you to come over for a month, and thoroughly ground them in V. S., and Mr. King is to make the proposition at the next meeting of the School Committee. He asked what fee you would expect, and I said I was sure that terms would be no obstacle, and that you would leave the question of remuneration in the hands of the Committee. I am to go another day and meet the members of the Committee at the school when something definite may be arranged. Mr. King thinks he can get a similar opportunity for you at the State School at Northampton, and probably in some others, so that you can fill up three or four months. Won't this be delightful? You may usefully employ your spare time in preparing diagrams, and devising plans of teaching, for I feel confident that an arrangement will be made. You would require a set of diagrams such as Miss Hull made for her pupils, on a larger scale however.

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The number of pupils is 38 and the school here, and there are three teachers, all ladies. Mrs. Davenport has just called. She sends her love to all. Mrs. Lander is in New York, and I think it most likely that I may turn homeward after closing here. I am glad to get a good account of you from Mamma. My dearest love to her and Carrie. Do., do. to yourself. Why don't you write?

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Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.