

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, October 3, 1870, with transcript

Copy of a letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his father. Brantford, October 3, 1870.  
Dear Papa:

Just received the enclosed from Boyd Egan & Co. I found that the Grand Trunk had "paid on" \$80 on account of goods! What is the meaning of the "freight" charge mentioned by B. E. & Co. was the freight from London not paid? I enclose the first advice note received from G. T. R. This I have paid and got the cases. One is that containing Stand., etc. Another the large case containing ornamental table and pict. Another the laboratory — sadly smashed I am afraid. Not opened it yet however. Saw some crystals dropping out of it. If Custom Officer had noticed that Mr. Randall says he would have opened every box. I passed the whole 27 cases at the Custom House duty free except the books — I paid \$5 for them. I leave you to write to B. E. & Co. as I do not know about the freight from London. The lawyer, Mr. Webster sent up on Thursday night to know whether you could lend \$1500 immediately at 8 per cent to Mr. Baldwin of the Eagle's Nest Territory on the security of his property worth at least \$12,000. I said I did not think you could as your money had not arrived yet from England — but I would let them know on Saturday. I went into town early on Friday morning and telegraphed to you at Brockville (hoping that you might not have left) asking whether you considered it worth while borrowing from "R. of Paris." Mr. Randall has been staying with us for some days. I spoke to him afterwards about it and he said he would be happy to make the investment for you if I liked. Not hearing from you and 2 finding from Mr. Randall that 8 per cent might be obtained at any time — I considered it best to let the matter drop. So I told Webster that if there was any special inducement in the way of interest I could obtain the money for him, but that under the circumstances I would not take the responsibility without hearing from you. We are all well and hope you are. The Radfords have notified that they will be here on Wednesday.

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Mama will have told you of our journey to Sour Springs and the Indian church in the Bush. A most awful road. One wheel now in a mud hole above the axle tree! No escape then jolting over a lot of trees laid side by side across the road. Mr. Randall with all his experience never saw such a road. The Wyes were picnicing with us. We came across a Rattlesnake 26 inches long and with 5 rattles which Mr. R. and I killed. Mr. R. has taken the body minus the head (which we never touched but left in the bush) to Paris with him. (The rattlesnake I am told could have bitten through a boot). The boy is with us. We like him. When you are in the States you should purchase a water proof rug, a mackintosh, for the buggy. It is needed. Costs about \$2.

With love.

Your affectionate son, Aleck. Prof. A. M. Bell.