

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, October 26, 1870, with transcript

Copy of a letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his father. Melville House, Brantford, Ont., October 28th, 1870. Dear Papa:

Got home all right. The box of books — George is just going into town to send off. A. G. B. having a slight cold Mama won't let him go out himself. I enclose a copy of Invoice from which you will see the number of books sent. I also send by Post — a few lists of books — the rest will come with the box of books. Went to Belleville thinking there would be a collection of people connected with the Deaf and Dumb present at the opening. Found however that the Rev. Mr. Smith was in no way connected with the Institution — and acted upon his own responsibility in writing to me. Found the meeting a purely political one. However succeeded in interesting the Principals (Dr. Palmer and Prof. McGaun) in Visible Speech. Dr. Palmer has promised that the system shall have a trial by means of an experimental class at the Institution when articulation comes to be considered — which will not be till the spring — as they will require all the winter to get into working order. Prof. McGaun gave me a letter of introduction to Dr. Howe which I forward to you for you to deliver. Dr. Howe is the chairman of the Board of State Charities. He has the appointments to all the Deaf and Dumb Institutions in the States in his own hands — and could forward the system if he were interested in it. I should not personally object to teaching Visible Speech in some well-known Institution if you would get an 2 appointment — even if it was not remunerative. Dr. Howe was the teacher of the celebrated Laura Bridgeman the Deaf and Blind Mute.

George waits. Glad to hear of rush for tickets. Hope all the lectures may turn out as well. Letter received from you this morning. Love from all.

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In haste.

Your affectionate son, Aleck.