

## Letter from Alexander Melville Bell, Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 13, 1872, with transcript

Home, May 13th, 72. (A. G. Bell, Esq., American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, Hartford, Conn. U. S.) My dear Aleck,

I would recommend you to keep up your terms. V. S. has a long arrears to bring up before the outlays in connection with it are reimbursed. "While the sun shines make your hay". In a short time many of those you treat will become your rivals. It will be time enough to reduce your fees when you can no longer get them. But be guided by circumstances. If pupils present themselves who can receive a definite number of lessons and no more, you might regulate your charges by time, but I would not at present offer to do so. An oral imitation, however brief, is invaluable to a beginner, and some pupils may master the system in a very few days. I would make \$100.00 the minimum for the shortest course of lessons, say eight or ten days, and charge \$250.00 for a month's instruction. These terms will not be thought excessive under existing circumstances. Be careful and not enter into more work than you can accomplish without fatigue. I am sorry you have such hot weather so soon. Here the weather is moderate and delightful. We are very busy out of doors and Mr. Sanderson is a great acquisition to us, in doors and out. We all like him exceedingly and he is getting on well. I read twice last week but did little more than clear my expenses.

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No appearance yet from Vince. I told Mr. Brooke today and he is to write a "sharp letter".

All well. Dear love from all.

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell. My dear Aleck, The missing Ladies' Journals were directed to be left at the P. O. at Hartford. Enquire particularly for them. Two more accompany this letter. Be careful in leaving off your accustomed clothing for the weather

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may be as variable in Hartford as here. We were obliged to have a fire last night. Ever your  
fond Mother, E. G. B.