

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Symonds Bell, March 2, 1877, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Parents. Boston — March 2, 1877. Dear Papa and Mama:

Second lecture in Salem great success. I cleared \$149 over and above expenses — and now have offers to lecture from all the cities about.

I have asked \$200 a night which seems to be considered a fair basis for such a taking lecture. Providence wants one night on those terms. New York wants me to deliver two lectures simultaneously one in New York and the other in Brooklyn. Mr. Watson will read the lecture in one place — I have asked \$400 for it. Hope I shall get it. “Spirits” attended my last lecture in Salem en masse — and have since prophesied through mediums of the future greatness of the Telephone.

One “spirit” has sent me a “communication” through a medium — concerning an improvement in the apparatus!

I am delayed with letters of all kinds. This morning I had altogether 83 unanswered letters on my table — the accumulation of this one week since Monday. I have just disposed of 23 of them and this note makes the 24th — but I am so tired that I can hardly open my eyes.

The Telephone is to be introduced at once and I am to be appointed Superintendent with a salary for two years of between \$3000 and \$5000 — the exact amount not settled yet. \$3000 to be the minimum.

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With love, Alec. 11