

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 19, 1870, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell to her son, Alexander Graham Bell, dated Sunday — June 19th, 1870. Sunday — June 19th, 70 (A. G. Bell, Esq.) My dear Aleck,

Received your telegram yesterday afternoon — “the sale” we suppose included the pictures for otherwise there could not have been enough furniture to fetch 63 Pounds. We are all glad it has been so satisfactory. Why do you think of coming up by water — when you have a return ticket? If on account of luggage, Papa says it will cost more to send it up from the docks, than by luggage team from Edinburgh, and besides that the delay in your appearing will cause much inconvenience. Papa cannot finish up the sale of the surplus books or Music till you have selected what you wish to be kept — the same with the clothes — and nothing can be done towards furthering the preparation for Auction of furniture, till these are out of the house, and the portions we intend to take away packed up. Papa has ordered the Van to be here on Tuesday to take away books and music (expecting you would be home before that) so that he must counter order it, if you are not here. At all events there can be no need to waste time on the water, you will soon have enough of it. We find that we can embark from London in one of the class ships which the Baser family use in their frequent trips across the Atlantic. The rate for luggage is moderate, and they undertake to send it all through to our final destination, without extra charge or any further trouble to ourselves. Papa has settled to start on the 21st of July — so you see there is no time to be lost in getting ready. Mr. and Mrs. Radford will I think accompany us. You require many things for your outfit, which I cannot even begin till you are here — neither can Carrie unpack and repack her box till she gets the key.

I hope my dear boy, that you are well, and have taken no cold in consequence of the bad weather which I understand you have had. I am very anxious to see you. Have you

Library of Congress

thought of leaving word at the Post Office that all letters are to be sent to 6 Gardener's Crescent. Grandma will hand this to you. She is just now asleep on the Sofa in anticipation of her night journey. She is very well. Let us know at once when you and the rest of the luggage will be here.

I expect we shall be obliged to take a lodging for a week, as after the sale we shall have nothing to use. That is to take place on the 14th. Papa is packing up and getting together as far as his pupils and professional preparations will admit of. I only trust he will not overwork himself. He has sold the pictures of "Burns" for 9 Guineas. We are all pretty well, and unite in fond love.

Your ever affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell