

## Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, February 20, 1877, with transcript

Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., Can., February 20th, 1877. (No envelope) My dear Aleck,

I could not send my usual Sunday's letter as I had to write to Australia and to Laurie, but as Mabel would get one from me on Saturday I thought it would be all the same. She very kindly and thoughtfully wrote me all particulars of your lecture and the way in which it was received, and her note arrived before the papers.

We heartily congratulate you my dear boy, on your success. I am sure you have deserved it. I wish I could set you clear from all botherments of mind as certainly as I desire it. Give my love and thanks to Mabel. It is a pity your telegram for Papa to visit Boston, had not arrived on Saturday instead of the middle of Monday, for then he might have managed to be with you. As it was he could not have reached Boston sooner than tonight which would have been too late and besides that, he has to read with your Uncle at Hamilton on Friday. It is just possible the occasion for which he was wanted in Boston may have been put off, next week he would be free. We have had splendid spring-like weather for a fortnight though still rather cold. There is no particular news at home. Poor Mrs. Towles has at last gone to her rest, after long suffering. Of late she had only been able to breathe through a hole 2 cut in the windpipe. She was buried yesterday. Your Uncle and Aunt are well. Lillie was home for two or three days last week, and begins to look quite wifey. Chester is appointed to the London University, but we do not know the particulars, and Lewis has got a pension for two years on account of his broken arm. I forget if I mentioned this in one of my letters to Mabel. Two very handsome New-Year cards have just arrived from Frances via Sophie, we believe. We are puzzled to know where they could be sent from, it seems impossible there could have been time for them to come from the Cape, the nearest land the ship would touch at. Your letter of the 15th, with draft, arrived yesterday.

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We have also had several papers including illustrations and descriptions, with engravings of the Telephone, which will make its way only the more certainly for the difficulties it has met with.

I think it was John Newton who said he never knew any enterprise to succeed that was not fenced about with difficulties. We have heard nothing about your foot and hope it is quite well. Mabel being at hand is a great comfort to me. With dear love in which your Father unites,

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell.