

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, April 19, 1877, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Mother. Boston — April 19th, 1877. My darling Mama:

I have a sudden gush of home feeling and I want to see you all so very much — but there seems no prospect. There is some hitch in the Titusville affair — so that I am making other arrangements at present. I have entered into arrangements with Mr. Fred A. Gower of Providence to go on a lecture tour through the States and Canada with my telephone upon terms similar to the arrangement enclosed made with Mr. Vanderlip for New York. Please return Vanderlip agreement immediately.

An invitation of the most splendid description has been presented to as by the most eminent citizens of Boston to give lecture upon the Telephone here in Boston. It is signed by the Governor of Massachusetts — the Mayor of Boston — the President and Scientific Professors of Harvard College — ditto of Boston University — ditto of Institute of Technology — and by Longfellow, O. W. Holmes, James Russell Lowell and others.

Mr. Gower has made arrangements with me for three lectures in Boston — and at the same time three lectures in Providence, Worcester and Manchester (New Hampshire).

I am to lecture in Music Hall, Boston and expect audiences of not less than 3000. Mr. Gower one night will lecture in Providence — connecting his hall with my hall by telegraph wire 40 miles in length. Next night he lectures in Worcester (43 miles away) and the 2 third night in Manchester (55 miles distant).

Under my contract with Gower these three dual lectures will bring me in certainly \$1200 and probably the total will be between \$2000 and \$3000.

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I want you and Mama to come to Boston and be present at these lectures. Should these — my first Metropolitan lectures prove as successful pecuniarily as we anticipate I shall spend the summer lecturing and in the autumn marry. Then go to Europe for my honeymoon — accompanied by Mr. Gower and my Telephone. By giving lectures in Europe I can excite a practical interest in my inventions and probably shall then be able to dispose of an interest in my foreign patents advantageously to capitalists. In the meantime I am running the risk of losing my foreign patents altogether by non-payment of fees. I cannot induce any one to take up foreign patents except upon terms that I do not care to accept. I have sent to England to-day to complete my English patent. I don't wish to have Mr. Ellis publish particulars till then — as such publication would prevent my patent from issuing.

In securing Canadian Patent — it is necessary to have instrument in operation in Canada within a few months. Would you not like to have a line from Uncle's house out to your house? The expense of running the wire on the poles already standing by the roadside as far as Mr. Brooks' house and of erecting poles with wire from there to your house could not be very much probably would not exceed fifty dollars.

If you (Papa) and Uncle would like it I will offer to give you a pair of Telephones and to share the expense of the wire with you. It would be a protection for you too away out of town as you are. What do you say? Will you do it?

With much love to you and all my cousins.

Your loving son, Alec. Mabel is still in New York. I want there to see her last Friday and stayed over Saturday and Sunday with her. I lecture in Lowell, Massachusetts on the 25th inst. — and Mr. Gower and I lecture simultaneously in Hartford and Newhaven — Mr. Watson being at Middletown half-way between. I am guaranteed \$400 for my Newhaven lecture besides half the profits. AGB. Return Vanderlip agreement at once please. Who is Charlie's Edith? Have you seen her. Please give particulars. I have more than sixty letters

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to answer so good bye. Alec. I lecture in Boston May 4th, 7th and 8th. Can you come? Of course you will be my guests here? AGB.