

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, March 6, 1878, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. 57 West Cromwell Road., Wednesday, March 6th., 1878. My dear Mrs. Bell:

I am very tired tonight and cannot attempt to do more than send you a most hearty "Thank you" for sending me the things. I am so glad to see the silver. I had no idea it was so handsome, or that there were so many pieces. It was so kind in you and Mr. Bell to give us such a handsome wedding present. But will you be very much disappointed when I say that delighted as I am to have it with me, I am not nearly so pleased, as to have the dear little "relic of Alec's babyhood". I already be in to y? understand enough of a mother's feelings to realize how you must have treasured this little dress, and I can appreciate your kindness in sending it to me now—I hardly think I could have done it. How hard it is to imagine my great big Alec for whom I have just had such difficulty in getting stockings big enough— a wee tiny thing and going inside that little wrapper. Yet I suppose it is quite easy for you. I wonder what kind of baby he was — if his own little one will be anything like him. I shall be so impatient to have you tell me. Thank you also for the mattress and pillow, they are as soft and nice as I expected, and the pillow cases so pretty, with the lace and three bows. Were those blue bows selected with any purpose I wonder? The bedroom slippers are very nice. Did you make them for us yourself. I never saw anything of the kind. Alec is in the House of Lords now and cannot send any message about his slippers or the "Bosom friends" Meanwhile may I say that the chest protectors are the softest and nicest I ever saw. I should not think Brantford would be able to produce such things. They certainly are a great improvement upon the flannel one he is wearing and it will not be my fault, if they are not very dear friends of his.

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Such a time as Mary Home, Emma and I had to open that box. Mr. Bell was evidently determined that no unlawful hands should have time to pry into it's contents. The express left it in the basement hell, and we three women 2 spent a good hour attacking it. I leading with such light pioneer work as driving a screw driver between the boards, Miss Home with a hammer helping to make large the parting and Emma's finishing with a big butchers knife. We worked hard for our reward, and I at least thought I got mine.

I have little news to tell you. Lewis came three days ago, and called next day, but hearing callers voices upstairs departed faster than he came, and did not venture in again until seven yesterday when Alec had invited him to dinner. He seems very shy and we did not get much news out of him. Beside he left immediately after dinner as he had not yet had a chance of seeing Chester. I think I have secured a very nice servant Alec advertised and they came in shoals all the morning but Miss Home saw them so I had no trouble, only deciding upon the nicest looking. I have yet to see the mistress, otherwise all is settled.

Alec has been to Portsmouth and been shown all over the Man-of-War Vernon and Thunderer and been put in the temporary command of a boat and crew, of whose respectful salutations he appears to have felt very proud. He has gone to the House of Lords with Mr. Beattie a friend of his and I do not expect him back until late.

With very much love to you and Mr. Bell and the Miss Symonds,

Affectionately, Mabel.