

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, March 24, 1879, with transcript

Letter from Mrs.. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. 1509 Rhode Island Ave., March 24th., 1879. My dear Mrs. Bell:

Alec and Mary have gone down to the Patent Office, and Elsie is trying to take her afternoon nap so I am left in peace to tell you how glad we are to see Mary and how much I thank you and Mr. Bell for your photographs in their pretty frames, and for the necktie. The pictures stand on Alec's bureau where he can see them oftenest. I only wish I had as good ones of my own father and mother on my dressing table. Your picture we think, a very pleasant likeness, but as you say giving a wrong impression of your size. Mr. Bell's we have seen before you know.

Papa and I met Mary at the depot, she seemed very tired but felt better after a good nap in the afternoon. I am only sorry she did not come the day before, it was a lovely warm real Washington day, since then we have had cold winds and raw March weather and Elsie has been quite unlike herself. We thought some new food we tried disagreed with her and that her teeth troubled her but yesterday afternoon she coughed a little and at night it was much worse and sounded like croup. We were very anxious for a little while but the doctor advised us through the telephone that if croup did not show itself by one o'clock all danger was over. She only coughed a little, but was restless all night. Today she coughed little, but is very quiet.

Alec came home last Saturday night to spend Sunday and intends returning tonight. The examination of the opposing parties witnesses has fairly begun and now Alec supposes they will do all they can to drag it out as long as they can. Will you please ask Mr. Bell to write to Mr. Rossburgh of Toronto and tell him that Alec unfortunately left his letters in Boston among his papers and has not his address and cannot write to him, that he

## Library of Congress

delayed answering them until he could do so in full and carefully but that he has been so hurried from place to place that he has not had a chance to do this or anything else. It really is 2 very hard on Alec this wandering around without a chance to settle anywhere I may keep Mary as long as she is happy here may I not. It will be a comfort to me to have her here while Alec is away and it see now as if he would have to spend most of his time in the cars between Boston, N.Y., Chicago and Washington the next two months so I might as well keep on here.

Thank you for writing us to stay with you through the summer and taking so much trouble to make us comfortable. We want to come and spend a month with you from the middle of May to the end of June, and then again in September and October if that will be convenient for you, but I would rather have Elsie in the Mountains or on the Seashore through July and August especially this second summer, I dread the heat for her so very much.

I have written to Chester offering him a home with us here if he should decide to come to America, but not, care to live so far from the world as Brantford. It would be such a delightful thing for Alec to have him with him. Papa is going to speak to Prof. Baied about Alec's being appointed Professor of Physics at the Smithsonian. All the other officers with whom he has spoken say a professorship of that kind is very much needed and would be glad to see Alec there.

Please give my love to Carrie and say I should be very glad to give her a photograph of Elsie but, I have none left to give away. I hope they are all better.

With much love, Yours affectionately, May Bell All my friends are very much pleased with what they have seen of Mary and think Elsie looks like her in the shape of her head forehead and eyes. The down is most acceptable I intend making a coverlet for my bed of it, next winter. Thank you.