

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 16, 1876, with transcript

3

enclosed with letter from E. G. Bell April 16, 76. My dear Al.,

I send "Expositor" of 14th, I contributed the article headed "Bell's Telegraphy" but the Editor has added the concluding sentences. I have got 20 copies of the paper. Send the addresses and I shall post them as you wish. The paper also contains notice of my V. S. Lecture. How are the punches getting on? Stick to the autographic till you bring it into practical use. Have you tried bronze powder ink yet? Would it not be possible to write with Mercury? It ought perhaps to be thinned down into a sort of liquid amalgam, say bi-chloride as an ink, white on black paper. Try also salts of iron and copper and write on paper chemically prepared so that the metal would be precipitated in the writing. Try paper soaked in solution of gallic acid and dried, to be written on with iron ink. White lead could easily be worked into an ink, try it. If a metallic ink is all you want to work the autographic keep trying till you get it. I would suspend all other experiments till the auto scheme is made a practical reality. Prof. Horsford could help you in reference to the ink. Give my kind regards to Mrs. Hubbard and family, with a kiss to dear Mabel,

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.