

NSM

253 Hughson St
Hamilton 30th May 1876

My dear Uncle & Aunt

The last time I wrote to you I was in high spirits fully expecting Mrs Bell to be reconciled but the very next letter I received from her, proved beyond doubt it was all a stratagem, and she has never replied to my last letter.

If it is Gods will that I am to have her back again, He will bring about such events as will be for our good and His glory, and I have left the issue entirely in His hands.

Seven weeks ago I bought out a little business from a man who wanted to go to the old country he carried on repairing & jobbing trade there was a great quantity of good

tools such a 2 turning lathes Smiths
forge & bellows grinding stones, emery wheels
a small engine, and quite a quantity of
stocks dies & taps. I was beginning to
get up a nice little business, but I am
sorry say that on Thursday night the 25th
the shop went on fire at 12:30 A.M. and
burned every thing up, and all that is of
any use will be some of the stocks dies &
taps. I think the fire must have
been caused from a box I had for soft-
ening steel, it was an iron box filled
with fine charcoal, and I put two small
pieces of steel into it at 3 in the afternoon
and there was no sign of fire in it
at 5 nor 6 O'clock, and before closing
the shop, I put a board on the top
of it to keep any air from it, and I suppose
the charcoal must have got red and
set fire to the board. I have a
partner with me who put all the
money he had into the business.

I have now on hand \$300 and
I should like if possible to start
up again, but it will cost more
than I have to get new tools.

I write to see if you can assist
me in any way. If I could get
the support of some of the hardware
merchants in the city by promising
to buy the goods and tools I would

manufacture a letter from you
to some of them might be of great service
or to any of the influential gentlemen
in Warhilton. This is a sore blow
to me just starting business I had
no insurance for it adding to the stocks
and getting it more complete.

I enclose one of my cards to let you
see what class of work I was getting
up. I will be glad to hear from
you at your convenience.

With fondest love to Aunt yourself
and my cousins

I remain
Your affectionate Nephew
George Mercer Bell

Bell
May 16