

GRAPHIC
BIOGRAPHY

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL





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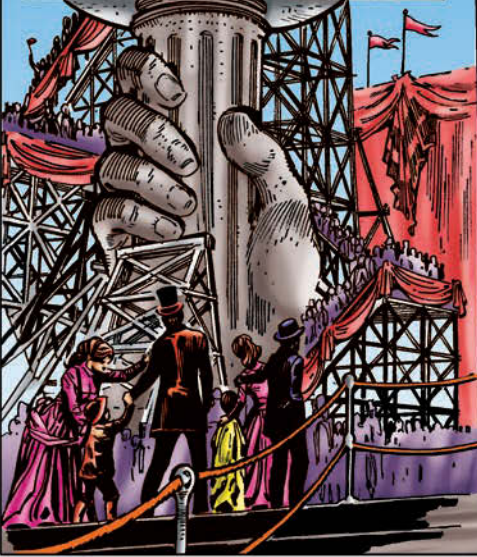
In 1876 a great centennial talk was held in Philadelphia. The guest of honor was Dom Pedro, Emperor of Brazil. Dom Pedro tried a new invention by which the human voice could be carried over a wire.



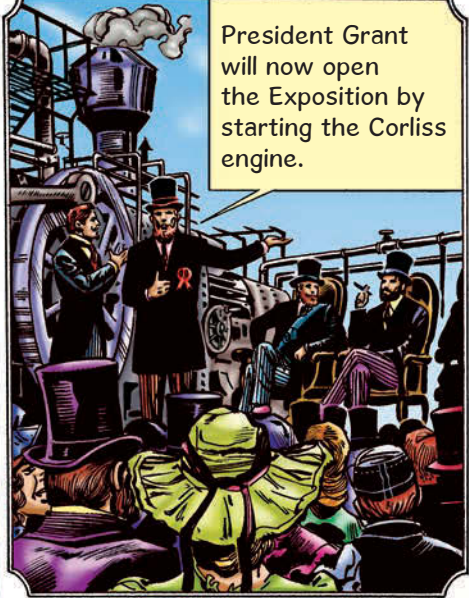
Dom Pedro thought it was the most remarkable thing in America. But most people thought it only a toy without any useful purpose.



The crowds would rather look at the hand of the Statue of Liberty. The statue was not finished, but the French sent the hand on ahead.



Or the Corliss engine, the greatest steam engine ever built.



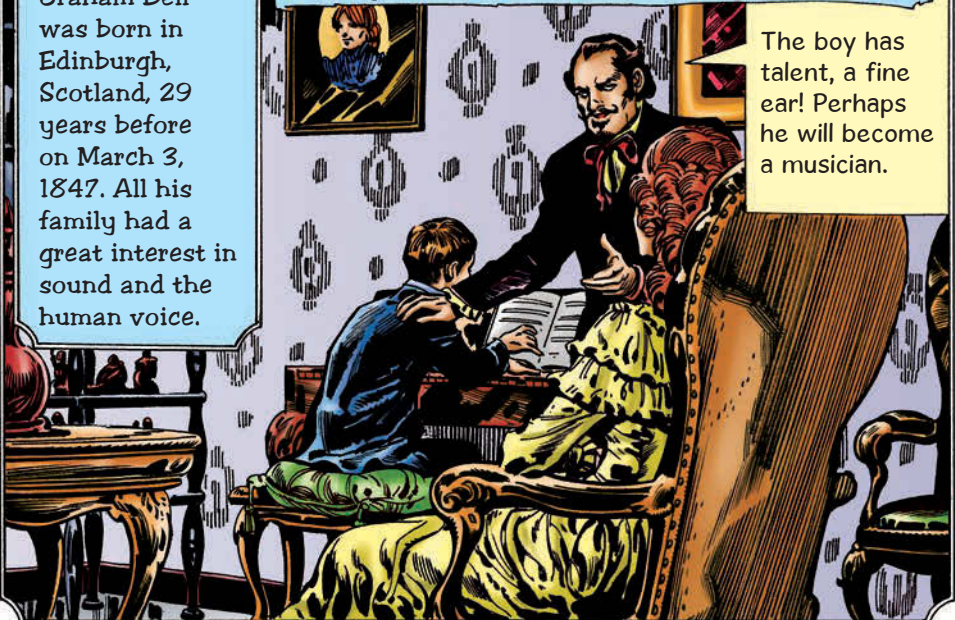
President Grant will now open the Exposition by starting the Corliss engine.

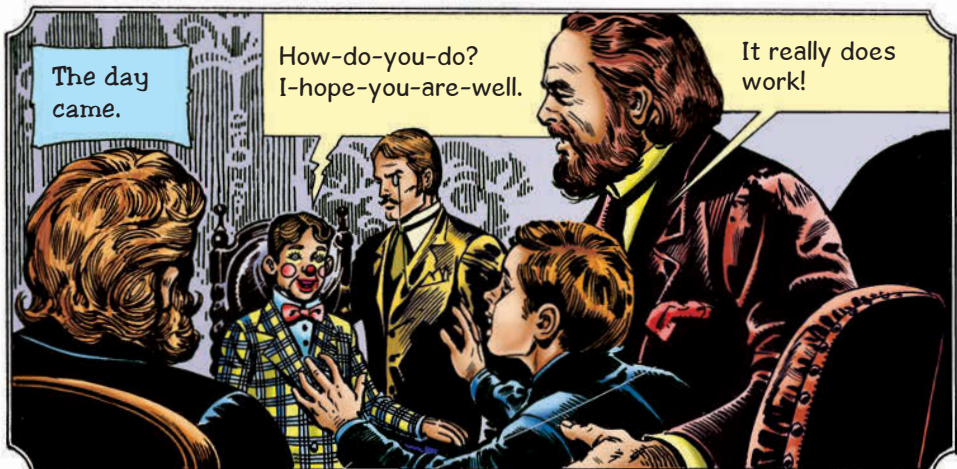
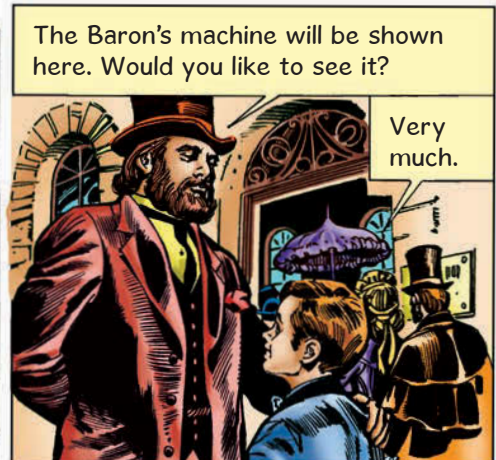
Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, 29 years before on March 3, 1847. All his family had a great interest in sound and the human voice.

Young Aleck had piano lessons from Signor Auguste Benoit Bertini.



The boy has talent, a fine ear! Perhaps he will become a musician.





At home, Mr. Bell made his older sons an offer.

My boys, if you can make a figure that talks, I'll give you a prize!

Great!
We'll do it!



We don't know how the Baron's figure works, but we can figure out from father's books how a person talks. We'll make it that way!



You make the throat with the larynx and vocal cords. I'll make the head of gutta-percha*, with the mouth and tongue.



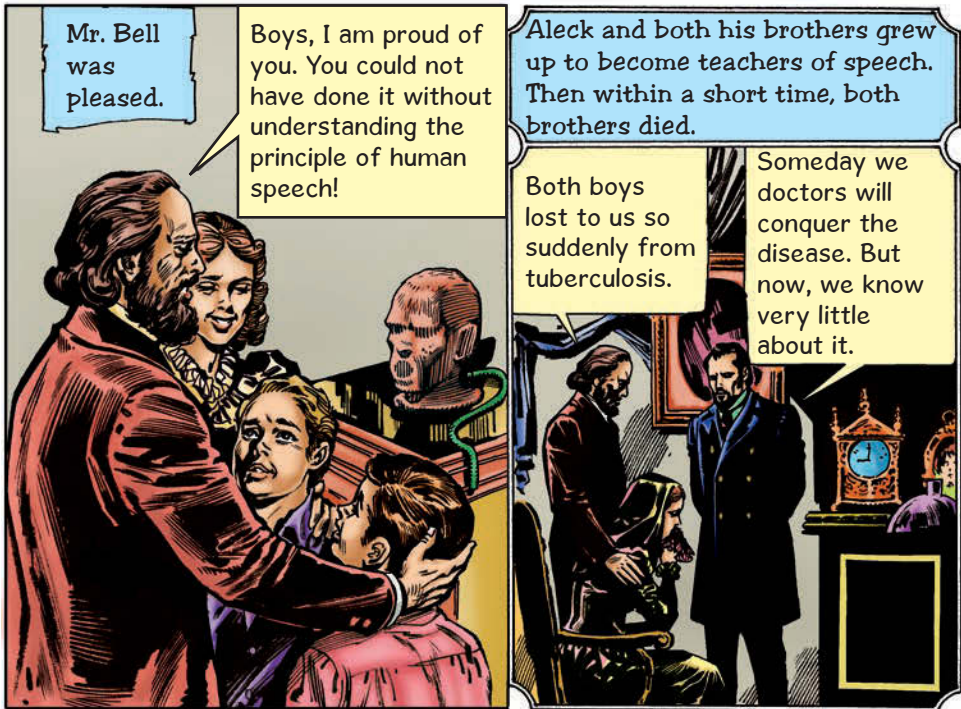
The boys worked for days. At last the time came for a trial. Melville blew air into the throat.

Maaa-maaaa.

It works! Blow hard, Melville!

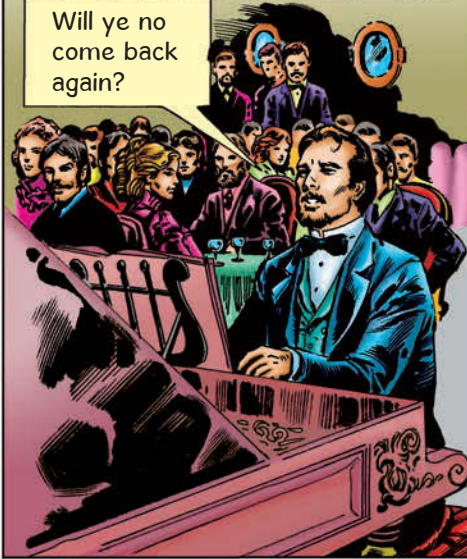


* a tough plastic substance from the latex of several Malaysian trees that resembles rubber



So Mr. Bell gave up his London career, and they sailed for America. Aleck performed at the ship's concert.

Will ye no come back again?



They reached Quebec on August 1, 1870.

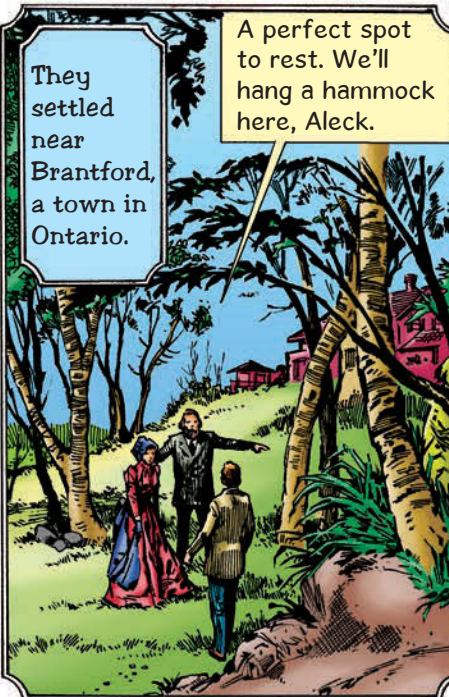
Smell that air!
You'll be well in no time!

I'm sure you're right.

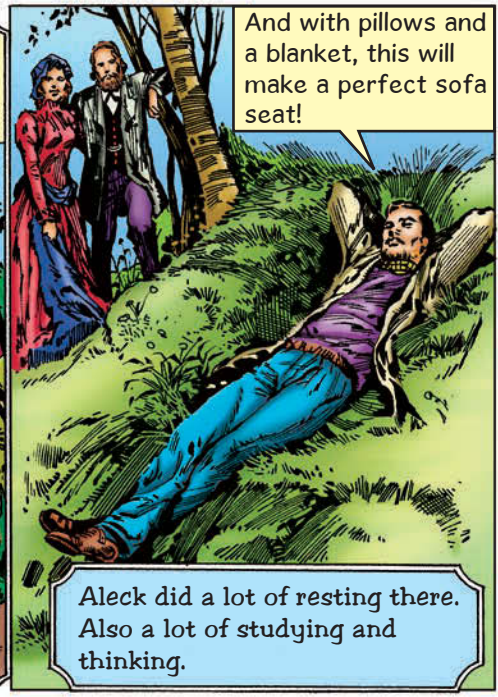


They settled near Brantford, a town in Ontario.

A perfect spot to rest. We'll hang a hammock here, Aleck.



And with pillows and a blanket, this will make a perfect sofa seat!



Aleck did a lot of resting there. Also a lot of studying and thinking.



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