

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 2, Folder 56

[COPY of a letter from Henry Bruce, Sr. to Henry Bruce, Jr., April 1854]

Fleming County [Kentucky] April 12th 1854 [April 12, 1854]

Dear Henry

I have been thinking for some time that I would try to write to you though there is nothing of interest transpired of late among the people of this section [section] worth communicating the relatives and neighbors are in usual health, your Mother is in about the same Condition [Condition] as when you last saw her, though I think she is rather more feeble. the pain and weakness in my hip has increased somewhat and that leg is shorter about two inches than the other. I can't account how it could become so as the joint appears to still be in place. I still can walk with two canes [canes] or Crutches and ride about occasionally though I have not been to Flemingsburg [Kentucky] since last fall. I am anxious to visit you and see your new home and hope that I may be able to go down when the weather gets warm. your Brother George seems determined to sell his Farm he says he asks Fifty Dollar per acre. I think it is doubtful whether he can sell at that though his improvements are good and land is on the Rise David Morris sold at \$60 per acre half in hand and the balance to be paid in a year with interest, Mister Simion ~~Butler~~ B. Allen talks of selling and going to Illinoise [Illinois] where there is no slaves I have not heard his price, Thomas Porter sold the Morgan Farm for \$50 an acre half in hand the balance in two payments without interest. land rent has got up from 5 to 8 Dollars and some rent for half the crop made

your Sister Ellen Morgan came to see us and stayed two weeks and went home about the first of March. She met us in tears and departed weeping, She appears to be very unhappy, you know she was always very tenderhearted and I suppose has but little fortitude, she says that the house is too small for the large family and visitors, have only two fireplaces I told her it would be imprudent

to build, especially at this time I believe it would be best if that farm could be sold and one much smaller and more compact could be obtained and she appeared to think that it would be best to do so if practicable [practicable]

Ellen told me that she had never received a dollar from the proceeds of the estate since she went back to Carlisle, I give her a Hundred Dollars. she deserved that she had no money to use for any purpose except what I gave her, I observed to her that if should get her interest in the land and Negroes set apart I thought she might probably do better, she said that her son George had informed her that she was not to have any of the Negroes. and that the arrangement was for her to have part of the farm for dower in the lot in Covington [Kentucky] and Negroes also. I can't see how she can be deprived of her interest in the Negroes unless for the payment of Debts, it seems to me that she will need a servant or two more than anything else as she is a very weakly Woman, I will thank you to let me know how that matter stands also I want to know how much She yet owes the estate for the property she has got, the Note I transferred to her on the estate you said was then not quite enough to meet the claim I ask your advice whether I had not better settle the demand with you instead of handling her money when I can spare it

the Negro girl Mariah is still with us, she is needed to attend to your Mother as she has to be up several times at night to help her up or turn her over; I wrote to Ellen about Christmas on the subject, and stated that I would pay for her any price she could be hired for, as both of our negry [negro] girls have young Children, and of course don't suit to sleep in our Room, Lucinda says that Hager's Child is too young to be Gilbert's, the poor Fellow must be much mortified to hear of her conduct he always appeared to be fond of her and the Children too I have generally believed that there was very little if any chastisy [chastity] in negro Women either married or Single I have never owned one that failed to have children without Husbands

I was sorry to hear that your Furnis [Furnace] Hearth failed to answer the purpose but hope you

may have found better material Iron Works are dangerous things to tamper with so you must pay close attentcion [attention] I believe more money has been lost than ever made by them, tho [though] some succeed well I am told

I received a long letter on the first day of this month from Wm H. [William H.] Sayre of Sparta Georgia he also sent a Pamphlet containing a sermon preached at the Funeral of his Brother Nathan on the 6th day of February 1853 which he says is to you, James and myself, he also named a number of Deaths in and about Sparta [Georgia], also states who are yet living there and as I suppose your Wife and her Mother as well as yourself would like to hear I have included a list of names, he says that Major Crawford removed to Early County [Georgia], his Wife died at Sparta [Georgia] Doctor Tewil has a Cancer that has blinded one eye and disfigured him otherwise his Children all Dead but one daughter R.W. Alston is in Floriday [Florida?] quite poor, has lost his wife and most of his children General Mitchell and his son Bob are dead, Abram Alfred and old Mrs. Hall are Dead Burrell Wynn and all but the youngest son is dead Fred Scott removed to the south part of the state and is Dead Mister Mansfield and his wife are dead and Garnett and his son are dead (Richard). Rubein Battle of Powelton dead also Doctor Battle and Doctor Gilbert and Moses Wiley are all dead I heard old Duke Hamilton say that Moses Wiley but was the best man that God ever made, Henry Rogers Tutle H. Andas (?) (Anders) H. Rhodes J.B. Edwards Doctor Brown and brother H. Fraley Mister Pardee Captain Hardwick E.H. Baxter and James Thomas are all living yet this seams [seems] to be a great change since you and I were in Georgia William say that have had 3 bad crops in succesion [succession] Corn scarce worth a dollar a Bushel and a quantity carried there from Tennesee [Tennessee], Money scarce and yet Mules and Horses are very high, Mules bring from \$125 to \$150 and any kind of a horse sells for \$200 he says, the Tavern and about two squares of Sparta [Georgia] was burnt four years ago is now mostly rebuilt with Brick the Tavern is 100 by 50 feet two stories high and one of the best taverns in the up country, he says he has been unfortunate and lost upwards of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars from the year 1836 to 1844 his health is tolable [tolerable] good but can't

stand any Fatigue. is in his 62nd year and his Brother Robert is in his 68th year quite well and hearty but very lonesome since he lost his brother

the distance we live apart is such that we cant [can't] expect you to leave or neglect your business often though we will be gratified to see you and Mary and the Children too whenever it is convenient. and am always pleased to receive your letters, tender our respect to Mary and the rest of the Family, and believe me to be your

Devoted Father Henry Bruce