

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 5, Folder 126

[letter of James H. Bruce to Henry Bruce Jr.]

Dear Cousin

Nashville [Tennessee] Oct 16 /63 [October 16, 1863]

I have acted so badly since I left you that I am truly ashamed of myself, but I hope you will pardon my procrastination but accordingly [accordingly] to the old adage "Better late than never" I will try to relieve my character,

Well in the first place I arrived home two days after I left your House & found all very well, but not expecting me until [until] the next week. all were very glad to see me and told I had too [to] stay, which I think is the best for me, I suppose that Bro. [Brother] Alex told you how I fooled the Provost Marshal so as to get a pass [pass] which to do with out swallowing the Oath, is not a very easy matter, but so far I have succeeded and as I am now employed as Agent for the Nashville [Tennessee] Union. a vile abolition paper I can get any favor from the authorities I ask as they think every one employed in publication of such a loyal sheet is of Course all right but they are very much in error as there are only two Union men in the office, I suppose think strange that I should assist in circulating such incendiary documents. but it is only because I could get nothing else, and it pays very well, and I did not wish to leave

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home again,

Alex arrived at home all right on sunday evening. all were very glad to see him of course as he is the pet of the family the girls were very much obliged to you all for the presents, and esteem them very highly on account of the donor, My wife request me to thank Cousin's Rhettie [Henrietta] & Nannie for the beautiful comb, she has a great desire to see all of the family she has heard me speak so frequently about you all,

Well Cousin Henry about the farm down this way. I can only say that, the Real Estate agent, told me that he had not any on his books at present. but thought he would have one very soon a gentleman who has a large farm. will put it in the market very soon, he told me though that now is a first rate time to buy, as property is selling very low for cash, he Will let me know if he gets one and I will write to you,

In regard to southern money. I will say that I had a conversation a day or two ago with a gentleman who trades in Money all the time who told me that he had \$30,000 in just such funds as you have and he considered it worth all it calls for on its face. he says that the good Banks of S. C. & Geo have Sterling exchange & Coin enough

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to redeem every dollar of their circulation any day they wish, and the thing that would be likely to occur would be the U. S. authorities stealing the coin should they get possession of that part of the country which is not very probable at present and he thinks then that they would not be able to find it, should any thing thing become known to me in regard to it I will communicate with you.

We received the last remembrances of our dear Bro [Brother] a day or two ago from Chattanooga, where they taken immediately after his death. by the same means we heard from Cousin Sally Bruce, the [they] commenced leaving about a week before the place was evacuated by Bragg & the lady who was at Fathers says she was on the cars all the time for most a week, Cos [Cousin] Ely's House was used by Bragg as head qrs [headquarters] & immediately after Rosecrans came in it was burned to the ground, I think the lady says they got all their things away,

We hear nothing hear [here] that you do not get as soon. except that a correspondent of our paper who was eyewitnefs [eyewitness] to the Battle says that if Rosecrans has a court of inquiry in regard to McCook's actions, he will come out of the little end of the horn himself. as all run but Thomas, and as he was getting back to Chattanooga he overtook McCook 5 miles from

town and when he got to town Rosy had been there sometime. The croakers are getting very numerous

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that we fear that if Rosy is whipped again he will be removed, the cry is now for Thomas.

I sent you a copy of a copperhead paper yesterday, if convenient please send me the Enquirer, Direct to care of Union Office. No more at present, my respects to all the family + to Henry C. + wife. all join me in love to you all

Respt [Respect] Your Cousin
Jas. [James] H. Bruce