

Accession no. M1981-1010  
Bruce Collection  
Box 6, Folder 159

[letter, incomplete, from Mary E. Bruce to her daughter Henrietta Bruce, 1872; envelope addressed to "Mifs Retta Bruce Care Merchants Hotel Cincinnati Ohio"; postmarked St. Louis Mo. May 31]

Dont [Don't] read all this letter aloud

St Louis [Missouri] May 28th 1872 [May 28, 1872]

My own darling Retta [Henrietta]

This is such a lovely morning, just such a morning, in short, as is most grateful to the young, and I, old as I am feel too, its inspiriting influence, sitting here gazing on the beauties of nature The summer sun shines o'er [over] the hills, bathing Alexander place in its soft, warm rays, and falling upon the tall trees and green grafs [grass] below, still sparkling with dew drops. The children are racing up and down the walks. This is indeed a beautiful place. We have ripe cherries in abundance, and I feast on them every day. Poor Nan [Nannie] she wanted to eat some yesterday so bad - but as she was not well I had to refuse her. She is very nervus [nervous] at times - and cant [can't] bear to hear me talk about going home. As yet I cant [can't] set anytime

[page 2]

when I can be at home cant [can't] have her no [know] how until till Lin comes home if I were I know it would give her a backset. Miss Harris wishes to have [head?] for home either Saturday, or Monday and oh, darling I do want so bad to go with her it seemes [seems] that I have been away from you all so long! 'Tis the 28th of May to day [today], do you know it dear? Nannie sick and I away, yes the May-days are gliding by, and where the apple blossoms has been the green hard fruit is swelling now, the lilacs, purple, and white, have droped [dropped] from the tree, the hyacinths and daffodils are gone, and june with her sunny skies and wealth of roses, the month appointed for your wedding is nearly here, Nannie says "she is very sorry that two such important events as the arrival of her eldest son and your wedding should come off so near together that she wanted so much to have the pleasure of assisting

[page 3]

in making your bridel [bridal] apparel." She sends a "great deal of love, and many thanks for your kind invitation and says nothing would give her more pleasure that to accompany me home, but - says it would be impopable [improbable] for her to get ready in so short a time even if sh [she] was well enough" - and that you must just say to "Dick" as long as june is such a favorite month of yours, and his, to put it off 'till june seventy three that you are both too young to marry anyhow."

"Little Lyn" is just three weeks and fifty minutes old - was up last night 'till one on a regular spree took a big toddy [?] and slept 'till the bell rang for breakfast, dont [don't] you think he is a fast young gentleman? I've just had a romp with him, he laughs, and coos like a baby two months old. Tell Linden if he's returned, that,

[page 4]

that he has had another and more precpited [precipitated] increase in his family since he left, his two "old house" hens has hatched sixteen beauties, all living and doing well. They are valuable and doing well. They are valuable chickens Ret [Retta or Henrietta], he paid two hundred dollars for three which took a hundred dollar premium. Lin, Mother says she would like for him to ascertain whether The Fox Springs would be a desireable [desirable] place for him to spend the summer, and if so what, would it cost for her, Sallie, and Hattie and himself per week. From what I have heard I should think the Yellow Spring, would be preferable. And so Elen [Ellen] Chappell is about to surrender [surrender] her very identity to one of old V, F.F. Well it seems that. the old fashion of falling in love, going a courting, and being courted will never go out of style while there are men, and women in the world. Well it will do very well provided it is done wisely and well [end of letter]