

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 3, Folder 73

[Letter of E. M. Bruce [Eli M. Bruce] to his uncle, Henry Bruce Jr.]

Indiana Furnace

Augt. 18, 1856 [August 18, 1856]

Uncle Henry--

I am this day in receipt of your favor 14th which is certainly entitled to all the adjectives you apply to mind of the 8th--and from the clan [?] I would supperd [?] you desired all correspondence to forever cease--much as I regret the seeming necessity for this--I would say "so mote it be", if the settlement of our businefs [business] did not seem to require farther correspondence.--

Allow me to say that I do not think my letter to you desired any such epithets.-- and to this conclusion every Candid man must arrive, after full investigation, as I think at the time (for from any extent whatever) the circumstances fully justified the plain letter-- I freely admit that if I had recd [received] your of the 11th (mailed on 13th) the letter would have varied, at the same time I should have declined the proposition into the same businefs [business]--

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How do I justify then my letter of the 8th-- From the fact that you know our interest here is Joint to all intent and purposes-- and that you knew both from me personally, and various letters, that I would not consent under any circumstances for you to sell any but a Joint interest, and that I have always been anxious for this, --but that you have often said to me--"it will not do for you to intimate such a thing to S. & R. or you will spoil the trade"--(this is your language only stronger and more of it, which you certainly have not forgotten) and by this means you have almost compelled me to keep silent-- several letters had pafsed [passed] between us intend [?] the last 60 days, in several of which my desires were fully exprefsed [expressed] -- and you were at perfect liberty to

sell a Joint interest upon any terms you thought proper [proper] -- after all this then imagine my surprise to receive a letter from you stating that--“I (you) have at last succeeded in selling, or disposing of my interest to

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to our Mr Reston”--without once alluding even to my desire to sell also-- is it possible into this state of care (and you cannot controvert it)--that you or any other man could blame me for having some feeling upon the subject-- Then why did I write you as I did, and how do I justify it? -- Because I believed you were in earnest then, and I was equally determined not to submit--and as you manifested a strong desire to have the matter speedily closed, there was no time to allow letters to pass [pass] backward and forward, and to let you know my position it was due to you, that I should speak respectfully but at the same time define my position plainly and fully-- anything else would have been the proper deception-- I referred to the council I should employ because, I was and am fully aware that you possess [possess] all other advantages, and I was afraid [afraid] you would avail yourself of the only advantages left me-- that of council-- as I knew well your opinion of Stevenson-- This is all the

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explanation I think it necessary to make at present For all the harm you have done me I can truly say I am ~~fully~~ obliged, but at the same time I must be allowed to say that I think that I have fully reciprocated, and paid for all such favors, and therefore do not feel under any obligations to yield all my rights in this case on that account-- You attack me for ~~me for~~ some private speculation which I have made as you charge contrary to your wishes, that I have neglected the Furnace & c &c-- In reply allow me to say that I made but two operations while that was the contract, and then were made [made] with your full knowledge and consent, as per your letters to me, which you certainly cannot have forgotten.-- So much for this-- as for neglect of business [business] -- all I have to say is that I have never since I came to the Furnace neglected the business [business]

here for a single day. and have never left home, when I had not businefs [business] for our firm-- and I now say I challenge comparison into any Furnace manager in the United States, and assent the I have spent more days and nights at the Furnace in the 3 years than any other manager--

[vertically along the left margin of page 4]

I have not said one word to an atty [attorney] yet neither will I until all other means are exhausted--
- neither to Mr Resor as I desire to avoid all trouble--

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“5”

I never intimated a desire to leave the Furnace until all obligations to do so had ceased-- you had more to do than myself unto creating the impression unto S. & R that I would remain permanently-- you are also aware that I refuse to have our article of agreement require me to remain here and there is no such cluse [clause], in our article-- and I have never felt that I was any more compelled to remain here than either of you-- you will well recollect the many confidential conversations we have had upon this subject.--

You charge that I get this up to try to injure-- allow me to say, that God being my Judge I have never felt any such desire even if I had it in my power, and will never do you an injury personally or pecuniarily [pecuniary] so long as I may live-- no matter what the result in this case may be of this be well assured.-- I suppose though you are going in to attempt to crush me at once, your language admits

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of this construction-- as you also charge that I get this up and take this course to keep you out of money-- now Uncle Henry you must know better than this-- you know if I had the money you should have it as quick as it could be conveyed to you-- I gave you my views fully in regard to this sometime since my views are still unchanged-- at the same time I propose, that the paper recd [received] of Resor shall be negotiated and after this is appropriated. (I mean my interest) toward

payment to you, that I will at an early day pay the small balance that may then be found to be due.--

Now Uncle Henry in conclusion allow me to say that I have heard you very many times (I think at least one hundred), that you never had nor never intended to have a care which you would not be willing to refer to arbiters mutually [mutually] chosen-- knowing your views I made you

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two propositions to arbitrate-- (which you do not condescend to notice) I now repeat the proposition, that either one, or the whole may sit in the case-- or you may select any one, man woman or child, or as many as you please-- or we shall mutually [mutually] select arbiters as you may propose and they may consider the case in both before, and monat [?] point of view together, or either one, which in you may elect-- and I pledge you that I try do not sustain me fully I will cheerfully acquiesce, and humbly by you pardon for taking a wrong view of the case.--

I now further say, that I did not mean to threaten or bully or taunt you in my letter of the 8th and if I admits of that construction I humbly beg your pardon-- I hope the resons [reasons] given will be satisfactory, and that you will refer the matter to some of our friends as profurd [preferred]. while I assure you I deeply regret this state of affairs and remain your humble Nephew

E M Bruce [Eli M. Bruce]

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P. S. -- I will name one other matter which you will recollect-- That you were very anxious that I should consent that your entire interest should be sold to S. & R, and that you remain my silent partner in the 1/3-- now suppose this arrangement had been entered into-- do you suppose that you would have had the righ [right] do [to] have sold your scout [?] 1/6-- You know two much Uncle Henry of Common Law to have doubts upon this subject-- to which I sincerely hope we

shall never have occasion to refer, as I prefer any other way.--

Very Truly

E M Bruce [Eli M. Bruce]

P.S.--

You are mistaken in saying that I have even written, or said anything from which you could infer that I was not anxious to sell my interest jointly [jointly] with yours-- my course has been strictly uniform. --

You are mistaken also in asserting, that I desire to defeat the trade with Resor-- on the contrary I am anxious for the trade to stand as a joint sale. believing it to be a good one-- hence I am opposed to its being rescinded--

E M Bruce [Eli M. Bruce]