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Bruce Collection
Box 3, Folder 71

[Letter of Ellen Bruce Teal to her sister, Mary E. Bruce]

Mount Hope [Illinois], May 30th 1856, [May 30, 1856]

My Dear Sister,

I sit down this morning to answer your kind letter which I received some time since, and I know you will excuse me for not writing before when I tell you I have had a great deal of hard work to do this spring trying to get my yard and garden fixed to my notion, it was not because I did not want to write for I don't [don't] intend to do you all as Fanny does. I have give her several talkings about treating you all so bad but poor thing she has such a hard time any how, We are all tolerable well to day I have had my health better than I have for years exercise agrees with me firstrate [first rate] but I don't [don't] fatten on it you would laugh to see me knocking round in my garden then feeding my chickens next in the milk house churning, I have the nicest garden in the neighbourhood [neighborhood] the ground here is very easy to keep in good order it is so mellow I have 50 young chickens and 10 or 12 hens setting, and I have one of the best of cows I churn 8 and 9 lb of butter a week besides using [using] cream to go in our coffee and tea and for sauce some times, I know you would all be astonished to see the hard work that Mr Teal has done since his return from Ky [Kentucky] he has one piece of corn up and one comeing [coming] up and another one ready to plant We have a very backward spring here every thing has it is quite cold here to day [this appears at the bottom of page one]

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just got green and pretty Yes I might say beautiful for we certainly have the prettiest country that my eyes ever beheld We went to Bloomington week before last and I looked going and comeing [coming] till my eyes was sore but I do not like Bloomington as well as I expected. We have very

kind neighbours [neighbors] and very good society of people and we have formed a good many acquaintances, we have a good school preaching every two weeks in the school house in sight of us also a Sunday school Mary is Teacher her Par is assistant superattendant Lucy is in the Bible clafs [class] all the children attends Our quarterly Meeting came off last Saturday and Sunday we had quite a congregation on Sunday had to hold services in one of our neighbours [neighbors] new barns, I had the pleasure of having [having] two preachers with one of the wives to dine with me on Sunday one of them was from Bloomington he is President of the Male and Female College there and quite a smart man, Brother William has never paid us a visit yet we received one letter from him we have not heard a word from Mr Bells for some time. I think I shall go to see them this summer, I have received two letters from Ellen Burgefs [Burgess] she has another Daughter nothing more than what I expected she don't [don't] write whether she like Mo or not, I shall look for

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you and Henry this Summer or fall & do come and write when you will come so I may save the chickens and lay up the butter and eggs for I tell you it will do me good to have my friends to come when we have plenty of our own raising and we have a pretty good prospect at present I wish you could be here when the Strawberrys get ripe for we have a large bed close to our fence, well my dear Sister we are seperated [separated] many miles apart in person but let our hearts be united in prayer to God in each others behalf, Tell Mar [Mary] and Pauline to write to me soon all of you write as often as you can and I will do the same Tell Henry Mr Teal says he will write to him as soon as he gets time and not to think hard for he has been so hurried with his work, the family all join me in sending their love to you and family so nothing more at present but remain your affectionate Sister until death,

Ellen Teal,

P S Please remember me to Elizabeth Wells and family also Mrs Helm Mrs Finel &c Direct your letters to Mout [Mount] Hope Mclean County Ill [Illinois] as it is the most convenient post office

[vertically along the left margin of page 3]

answer this as soon as you get it