

Accession no. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 6, Folder 162

[letter from Retta, or Henrietta, to her father Henry Bruce, Jr, 1872; envelope addressed to Henry Bruce Jr. Cae B.W. Alexander & Son St. Louis, Mo.; postmarked Cincinnati Aug 19]

Aug 18th 1872 [August 18, 1872]

My own dear pa -

Your long letter telling me all about trip to Kansas your stay. Hotels + c. I found waiting for me at Georgetown = you can well imagine howe [how] happy it made me nad with what delight I read each page = over and over again until I almost knew it all by heart. I them forwarded to RLGs that he too might enjoys its contents- and now my dear pa as this is the first good opportunity I have to write you I will make my letter long telling you all I know and first of my very pleasant trip to Washington I enjoyed the side on the boat exceedingly = it had been such a long

[statement written at the top of page 1]

answerd [answered] Agst 28-72 [August 28, 1872]

[page 2]

while since I had a boatripe - We reached Washington about half past eight in the evening found the whole family at the gate waiting for us - of course I felt embarrassed [embarassed] = it was natural = but they all met me so kindly = and really seemed to fall in love with me at first sight, my embarassment some [?] off I felt perfectly at home and well acquainted = Richards Mother is a plain old fashioned woman but just as kind hearted and good as she can be = she would introduce me to every body as her daughter and seemed proud to do so. I was agreeably disappointed in Uncle George = ~~they~~ he seemed to take a great fancy to me they all said talked more to me then he had to any body [anybody] else in years = I liked all of Richards relations ever so much

[page 3]

We have several elegant suppers given us = Mrs Ranson among the numbers gave us an entertainment. They all think so much of Dick old Aunt Lilly said it was her daily prayer that we

should marry, said she knew I would have such an influence [influence] over her son as she called Dick. = I had a great many calls about fifty in all = I didn't return any but told them I would do so the next time I visited Washington. I had two nice bouquets of sent me, and on the whole I think I was treated with a great deal of respect and consideration by the whole community - even the darkies all came to see me. He remained in Washington two weeks, then took the cars at Maysville [Kentucky] for Paris = Richard left me at Lexington I went out alone to

[page 4]

Whites old room just across [across] the street Mr White (Walace) is disk [?] = there is very few board here now they expect several new regular boarders next week. Richard taking them all greatly by surprise = I returned day before yesterday, richard didn't like it one bit

[these next lines are very difficult to read as the writer ran out of paper space and continued the letter vertically across the horizontal lines]

I stayed so long kept wanting for me to come home every day and telegraphed me three times = he met me at the depot with a carriage he did seem so delighted and happy to have me with him again We are home on my birthday and he was so glad he gave me for a present a handsome silver pitcher water + goblets [?] the merchants greatly improved the Hall reception + parlor newly papered some new carpets = it looks mighty nice = Cousin Lizzie McIntire will move in it in the fall Cousin Sue has taken the room just over it = tamorrow [tomorrow] it should be finished and I will move in Ms Dunum has take Mr

[perpendicular to the written letter; part 1; page 4]

if you havnt [haven't] written Ma please do so at once Pa for she was very uneasy when I left they were all well

[perpendicular to the written letter; part 2; page 4]

Have you really taken the Hotel Pa and are you going to write for Ma + Lil [Lillie] do write and tell me Pa just what you are going to do = will you come back = before you really settle = Goodby [Goodbye] my dear Pa and do write some to your loving child

Retta [Henrietta]

