

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 3, Folder 86

[letter addressed to "Mr. H. Bruce [Henry Bruce] Covington Ky."; postmarked "Elizaville Ky. July 18"]

Fleming Co [County, Kentucky] July 18th 1857 [July 18, 1857]

Mr H. Bruce [Henry Bruce] Dear Sir

When I wrote you last, I was in a somewhat jocular mood, which suits my temperament [temperament] greatly best, but I now write you in reference to the same individual with different sensations (I allude to old Mr Bruce) of whose indisposition you have doubtless [doubtless] heard, and for the satisfaction of your wife I now sit down to give a brief history of her illness [illness]. Shortly after she came up here, she complained often of a dull pain in the head that I supposed arose from her remarkably hearty dieting, for I had never seen her eat so hearty, this continued to be the case, until a few days after I wrote you last, she then complained of the pain in her head becoming intensely severe. I anticipated fully an attack of paralysis [paralysis], or palsy, which undoubtedly did take place in the brain to some extent, without affecting her muscular system, as is most usual, though the attack made some impression [impression] on her mind for a day or two, interrupting her recollection. the severe pain in the head gradually subsided, and for the last six or eight days has had but little pain, easily controlled [controlled] by medicine, Yet from the severe pain shock given to the brain, she is left in a nervous condition, very [very] sensitive to light or noise, and has what she calls bad spells, Doct [Doctor] Fleming thinks these spells are more imaginary [imaginary] than real, as her pulse remains smooth and natural at the time, She sets up in a chair a little every day, and has never been so ill but what she has set up more or less [less], she has taken a good deal of medicine, I have had Fleming to visit her every day or two for some time, Please say to your wife to rest assured [assured] that every attention shall be given to make her comfortable, that we can bestow. Lucy Ann sets with her all the time, and seems greatly devoted-- Indeed her

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Grandma will not suffer her to be long out of her sight-- I can see no immediate cause of alarm.

Doct [Doctor] Fleming thinks she will get about again, should her symptoms appear to portend fatal results, we will immediately apprise you.

Notwithstanding she does not appear to be in a dangerous condition, let us anticipate what might occur, having [having] had an attack like palsy, renders her more liable to be attacked again, and perhaps fataly [fatally], in case of her difsolution [dissolution], I know it is her wish, and would be that of her children, that she should be buried near her husband, now the object of these remarks, is to advise with you, as to what could be done, the weather is now verry [very] warm and will continue so for some time, she is quite fleshy and would run into putrefaction allmost [almost] immediately after death, before we away out here in the country, could make any preparation for removal. I do not know than even a metal coffin to suit could be obtained, short of Cinc [Cincinnati] I presume it could not. please aid me with your council so that I may know what course to pursue, in the event of her death. Your wife I hope will not be alarmed at the foregoing but will at once see the object I have in view.

Please write me immediately so that I may feel releived [relieved] from suspense on this subject.

This leaves us all tolarable [tolerable] well. Nancy still verry [very] puny [?]- Now in the midst of a verry [very] late hot and heavy harvest, wheat shocks crowded all over the field, [field] many persons looseing [losing] their crops from rust, and scarcity of hands, corn improveing [improving] fast, a little too day [today] now in this neighbourhood, [neighborhood]

Yours Verry [Very] truely

Geo. [George] G. Lowry

(over)

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Just as I was closeing [closing] this Doct [Doctor] Fleming came in and upon examination given it as his opinion that the old ladys presant [present] symptoms arrise [arise] more from nervous excitement than anything else. She witnefsed [witnessed] the suden [sudden] death of old Mr Summers and has been verry [very] much alarmed ever since she was taken, has not manifested that fortitude and resignation that I had expected. Appetite pretty good.