

Accession no. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 5, Folder 148

[letter of James Bruce to his brother Henry Bruce Jr.]

Lowdesville S C [South Carolina] June 28th 1869 [June 28, 1869]

To Brother Henry

New York

your favor of the 12th inst [instant] duly Recd [Received] Having almost dispaired [despaired] of ever getting reply forom [sic] my last letter to you written some twelve months since Be assured of the cordial welcome & eager perusal of above mentioned epistle from you

It having been so long since I heard from you did not know how or where to locate you. Honeane [?] remembered to write H. P. Morgan N Y a note of enquiry after you & yours some month or so past To which have had no reply

I regret my inability to satisfy [satisfy] your several enquiries as to future of the south &c &c Doubtlefs [Doubtless] a great change will take place society morrally [society morally] & politically in this one proud old But now. Wool governed State I often think of change of place But when reflecting of my advanced age and the great blefsing [blessing] of health which I have enjoyed since being here I can but doubt the property of a change Without health I could not hope to do more for my growing family than a comfortable living which I have seen enabled to do here

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though not without our full share of annoyance vexation & trouble by being forced to have in our employ th [the] lazy thrifty thinking Free Negro which we would gladly exchange for other labor so soon as peace & quiet Shall have been sufficiently restored to invite such into our midst The negro being Free and of such a compound that make him detestable to all good citizens I can but

think that there is in store for him a Dark future Were I to consult my feeling I would prefer to be located in a Grain & Stock country But to the amt [amount] of capital invested have no doubt but more clear money can be made here now growing cotton than can be done in stock The present price of cotton stimulates more every one to grow to the neglect of Grain all he can believe that the prices will not be much reduced from the present; We have had a late season for planting cotton [cotton] small though growing finely [finely] new & should nothing happen to it will make fair crops with late fall Wheat & Oats give corn looks promising though generally [generally] not good stands now as we Farmers term it Laying by with good season in the ground you desire information as to Thos M Gold [Thomas M. Gold] mining prospects in this District The mine is situate [situated] some 45 miles from me & have never seen or talked with Tom on the subject I am unable

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to inform you of his success &c From best information I can gain the mine has not as yet done more than pay expences [expenses] Here some times of additional exp= of mucenery [sic] & that succefs [success] is just ahead By request of E M B I once examined the Dorn [?] mine with view of an interest came to the conclusion that Gold could not be found there in mines of sufficient quantity to pay Must think Gold is a Deposit consequently depends much more to chance & luck in finding one of these Pockets & Deposits for succefs [success] than upon crushing rocky veins expence [expense] of when over run profits As you say I hope Tom will succede [succeed] but have my doubts Have not seen him since he married & have had but two businefs [business] letters from him in so many years Robenson & Fowler Merchants of abberville Exprefs [Express] much pleased with reception at Multby house & say will call again when in the city I believe have not had one days sicknefs [sickness] since I saw you Have six children four Daughters two sons second & last Boys Robt [Robert] E now at Athens School some 60 miles distant will be prepared to enter coledge [college] this Fall To which I am desirous to send him could I feel able & his health and constitution permit He Robert being a close

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A Fine Garden But little fruit this year Remember me to Henry Morgan & tell him to write me soon
Where is your Daughter Duke Fowler tells me she has one of the finest children he ever saw Tom
Morgan brags heavy on his: I have never seen it or mother

Thoms [Thomas] Father inlaw Casey President of Charterd R R [Railroad] from augusta [Augusta,
Georgia] to Hartwell Ga [Georgia] The road when bult [built] will pass within 6 or 7 miles of me on
Georgia side of Rivers

Jas [James] Bruce

Letter

[the above two lines in pencil and were apparently written by someone other than Jas Bruce]