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Bruce Collection
Box 6, Folder 195

[Letter from Pauline Bruce Duke to her sister, Henrietta Bruce Green written on Smart House stationary, 1879]

SMART HOUSE

HENRY BRUCE, Proprietor

Situated on the Gayest Part of Main St.

Kansas City Mo., [Missouri] July 3 1879. [July 3, 1879]

Dear Retsy [Retta or Henrietta] -

Your nice long letter received this morning, and I tell you what we were glad to get it, as it had been several days since we had a word from you. And so you are completely disgusted with farms & farming, since your trip to Clermont. Never mind old lady, just wait until May gets married to some country clod-hopper, and he takes you both to the country to live, (you know you are "determined always to live with her") then wont [won't] there be a row! Another "Boaz" and his "mother-in-law" !!!

Well as you didn't say one word about coming home, I suppose you have made up your mind to stay awhile longer. Tell Cousin Henry & Sue, they treat you too well, that's whats the matter. I'm

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afraid they will find it hard work now to get rid of you, and as to Maymie, she has fallen completely in love with them both. And you didn't take her to the farm with you. Did you ask them all if she behaved herself whilst you were gone? I hope she did. But I am so sorry she has ~~r~~ ruined her pretty hat. Ask her is she hadn't better drop a few lines to Babe Cody & let her know what day you will be in St Louis [Missouri], and tell her to be ready to come right up with you, ~~as long~~ as she has already invited her. However you will know whether it is necessary to write her on the subject or not. Do you know what days Cody leaves St Louis [Missouri]? so you can come up with him. I am not surprised

to know you had your bonnet made over. I didn't think you would be satisfied with it. Nan has just left us, having come up with ~~bring~~ Linnie, to leave him with his Grand Pa for a few days. for disobedience She is afraid he will get killed in the new elevator. She says Mary Goggin's found

[written vertically along the paper edge:]

him sitting on the edge with his feet hanging "dingle-dangle-down". Was there ever such a mischief

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Ma Nan & I attended the funeral of old Mrs Woodard yesterday afternoon. We had a beautiful & very affecting sermon from Mr Chambliss. The church was very prettily decorated with flowers, sent by their many friends. A lovely ~~white~~ crop of white flowers was the gift of Mrs Peak, who so recently lost her sister, Mrs Moore.

Have you heard anything of Madge & do you know whether she & Lottie have returned to Missouri or not? How much I wish it was so you could go up to see Jinney [or possible Jimmy],

Well Retsy [Retta or Henrietta], this is one of our blowy days and the wind nearly takes my breath whilst I write. But I have enjoyed the weather since you've been gone, for it

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has rained almost every day for the past two weeks. and you know the rainy days are the most pleasant in this climate.

Ella has slipped off & gone, nobody knows where, but Nan thinks she has gone back to Cin [Cincinnati] she has left her children here in the convent. I delivered your message to Kate, and she laughed heartily. She says dont [don't] stay too long for you might spend too much of your good money. and she is in a big hurry for you to get rich so you can sail for Europe. she says she is ready whenever you say go. She wants to know if it wont [won't] suit you just as well to go via California, as she wants to look up some of her rich kin over there

[written vertically along the page edge; page 4]

Don't let cousin Sue back out, Be sure & bring her with you. With ever so much love I

remain

Your loving Sister

P.B. D. [Pauline Bruce Duke]