

Accession No. M1981-1010  
Bruce Collection  
Box 2, Folder 51

[COPY of a letter from Henry Bruce, Sr. to Henry Bruce, Jr., May 1853]

Fleming County [Kentucky] May 18<sup>th</sup> 1853 [May 18, 1853]

Dear Henry

your letter under date of the 10<sup>th</sup> came to hand by Saturdays Mail, I was glad to hear from you and hope the late purchase you made my make you a pleasant and permanent home, the price to me appears high tho [though] from your statement it must be a judicious purchase, I hope I may be spared time and ability to visit you and view the premises before the close of this year together with your Mother, though she is more feeble than I am yet she till [still] continues and knit and spin, my general health is good tho [though] there is no perseptable [perceptible] in pain and lameness of my hip the pain is never very acute and sometimes quite easy, my legs and ankles [ankles] are a little swollen [swollen] and feel unpleasant, I think that proceeds from not being able to take more exercise. I have not been to Flemingsburg [Kentucky] since last November and I had not been to Elizaville [Kentucky] for about three Months till on Saturday before last I ventured to ride there to vote for Tom Hixson for Constable (he was elected) and I also was qualified to a statement I had written respecting the Note I hold that was executed by J.S. Morgan. I shall enclose the Note and certificate to you I want the amount appropriated for the Benefit of your Sister Ellen Morgan your letter enclosing the Note came spedily [speedily] to hand though I neglected to acknowledg [acknowledge] the receipt hoping you would soon come up to visit us and other relatives, as we heard that you expected to come up the week after Marys Mother came the amount according the calculaticion [calculation] you made leave due on the Note up to 4<sup>th</sup> of October last \$365.24 which I will charge Ellen with as an ~~adestional~~ additicional [additional] porcion [portion] of her interest in my estate. She and your Sister Lucy has had less than the other daughters or rather I might have said Porter and J.S. Morgan had received less than the other Sons-in-law. I am anxious to purchase a Carriage that will suit for

your Mother and I to ride in, I would prefer one that has shalves [shaves] and tongue that we may drive one or two horses as we choose with low wheels or else swung low that we can get in easily I wrote to Bienbower of Maysville [Kentucky] some time since to know what he would charge for such as a one as I described which I will not state to you as nearly as I can recollect) I told him I wanted one with wheels some 6 or 8 inches lower than usual the exaltrees [?] some larger than common with 2 seats, with tongue and shalves [shaves] and boath [both] and all the gears necessary for 1 or 2 horses all plain but strong work of best materials painted and varnished in the best manner, equipt [equipped] with everything necessary that I would have nothing to do but pay for it and start out when we choose)

he wrote to me last week that he would charge \$250 which I think is quite dear, he said he could furnish one in about five weeks if I directed him to make it

I have concluded to write to you to see if you cannot procure one that would not come high, if 'tis one somewhat worn you know what will suit us better than I do, so I will proceed no further till I hear from you.

I received a letter from Mister Manuel A. White of New Orleans [Louisiana] in answer to that Ely Bruce handed him which I expected you to deliver, did you explain why he would receive [receive] it by the hand of a Grandson instead of my son Henry he appears to be much pleased with Ely and says he has some thought of coming up to Kentucky this summer and if so he will come to see me. he stated that some young men he had in the commission house by some means sunk some 7 or 800,000 Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars is a large fortune, though he says he has yet a larger shugar {sugar?} estate which his only son assists him to manage. I will show you his letter when I see you which I hope will not be long. and be sure to Bring Mary up to go again to the Mountain Spring tell Mary her Mother was hear [here] last week in good health as usual. She made but a short visit and returned the next day to Doctor Lowrys. She showed me a letter

she had lately got from Polein [Pauline?]. She writes a better hand than any child of her age I ever noticed. your sister Ellen was down and stayed about a week she left for home on Saturday

she met us in tears and parted weeping, she never smiled while she was here that I say or heard of. I advised her to be as economical in her expenses as possible and urge her children to spend as little money as they can avoid, and especially her grown Daughters She Brought John with her and left him to stay a while with us. Doctor Bell had a Brother James, that came to see him last week and staid [stayed] about three days. he is quite a sprightly [sprightly] intelligent man the Doctor get several profitable jobs of dentistry [dentistry] in this section he has planted about 30 acres of Corn and sowed several acres of Oats, and your Brother James rented a field of him for Oats he as engaged lumber to build a frame house though not large I had like to forgot to tell you that your Brother George Borrowed a carriage and took me and your mother there last thursday we had not been there for several months your Sister Ellen was there with us too, he is anxious that we should get a carriage and ride out frequently. the unfinished piece of Turnpike of about 1 3/4 Miles is put under contract to Woodson and William Morgan at \$1800 a Mile when this is done we will have a road to Maysville [Kentucky] and Flemingsburg [Kentucky], it is to be completed this year there is a number of hands on the Rail Road though I doubt whether any cars will start for Maysville [Kentucky] this year, tis ['tis] a tedious costly business. I am fond to see such works going on for the benefit of future generations as well as the present.

your friends in this section are generally well and no news worth relating more. your Mother says she wants to see you hear [here] with Mary and the Children soon as you can conveniently come, remember us to Mary and the children and beleave [believe] to be your affectionate Father

Henry Bruce