

Accession no. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 6, Folder 163

[letter from Mary Bruce to daughter Nannie Bruce Alexander, 1872; envelope addressed to Mrs. Linden C. Alexander, #401. North Second Street, St Louis Mo.; postmark illegible]

Richland Aug 22nd 1872 [August 22, 1872]

My precious child

This is a very hot morning. The birds are filling the old green woods with their merry music, Lillie is standing before the mirror, smoothing her hair and arranging her gingham frock before going down stairs [downstairs] she asked me "who I was writing to," when I told her she replied "well I would wait 'till she answered your two last letters first," Why is it you dont [don't] write me oftener dear, if you only knew how much pleasure it gives me you certainly would. I'm afraid my last letter never reached you. I recd [received] a long letter from your dear Papa day before yesterday he says that all the preliminaries are not yet agreed on – but still thinks he will succed [succeed] in getting all the changes and alternate ons [ones] made, in the Broadway property [property] he askes [asks].

He also says that he likes the place more and more and thinks I will like it too, he said to me in a letter a short time ago that if I would join him if he succeeded in getting it ~~there~~. now darling you dont [don't] know how happy it made me for it is what I have long desired to have you ~~and~~ with us. Now darling, do write me at once and tell me all about it.

Since writing the above Uncle "Harry" came in with the mail and handed Pandy your letter to Mamie [?] I think the pictures excellent [excellent] the only change I can see is that he has grown handsomer and more like I must confess that I felt some what slighted for it looked intentional. You said there was one for Pandy and Maim and the other for Lillie, but my name was not mentioned. Maim says "tell Aunt Nan that she cant write well enough to write her yet but if she could see her would give a whole heap of kifses [kisses] for the letter and her little cousins picture and thinks if he had some hair would be most as pretty as her little baby brother"

Pauline thinks he is a very image of Linden, how much I would enjoy a romp with him this morning.

How very quiet it must be at Mr Alexanders with the girls and Hamilton away I should think you would get to ride right often now

Your dear Sister Retta [Henrietta] left us a week ago to day [today]. Dick telegraphed her nearly every day to know how she was and when to meet her at the depot so she left on her birth day [birthday], he gave her a handsome silver pitcher, waiter, and goblets for her birth-day [birthday] present She was delighted with visit to Maysville [Kentucky] and Washington – says Aunt Lillie Green and Mrs Ranson were both delighted to see her and expressed great joy at having her for their niece and cousin. Aunt Lillie told Retta [Henrietta] that she had prayed night and morning ever since she heard that she and Dick were engaged, that they would marry that she had loved her ever since she was a little child and knew she was of good stock that Dick was the last male member of her family and she was very proud of him, Mrs Green told her that she was delighted with her sons choice she had been there but a few hours when she made her get in the carriage and drive up to see her only Sister Mrs Wood it was her daughter that Retta [Henrietta] went out to college hill to see she also took him in the nursery and showed her all of Dicks toys his first pants so little velvet coat she had kept them all in perfect preservation.

Nanni [Nannie] darling please take good care of my little note book [notebook]. I got it out to put in my truck this morning I left and forgot it Well my dear I have written you all this and hav'nt [haven't] yet told you that I was an invalid and am lying down writing to you on a book. A few days a go [ago] I started to go out at the front door my foot sliped [slipped] and I fell down the steps the fall hurt me dreadfully at first when Pandy & Lillie got to me I had fainted. but thank God none of my bones were broken! but my leg is badly bruised and a little flesh wound which is not well enough for me to walk on but very little Your Sisters join me in oceans of love to you both Your loving

Mother