

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 2, Folder 45

[COPY of a Letter from Henry Bruce, Sr. to Henry Bruce, Jr., Jan. 1853]

Fleming County [Kentucky], January 4, 1853

Dear Henry

your letter under date of the 28 of December came directly to hand communicating the intelligence of my Brother's declining health. And when I left him last October I thought from seeing him much more debilitated than when I saw him before, that there was hardly any hope of his ever being restored to health, and I would like to come to see him once more at least but the affliction [affliction] in my hip has continued to increase so that I can scarcely walk and at times the pains extend down near to the knee tho [the] the pane [pain] is never acute when I am still. I have used a vial of medicin [medicine] handed my by John Pratt in Flemingsburg [Kentucky] and since that is gone Doctor Fleming prepared some medicin [medicine] which I used for a few weeks to no effect – and now I am using the Mustang liniment for about a week and find no benefit yet. Fleming says 'tis not Rheumatism but a nerve is effected [affected] and thinks I will probably recover. I ride a little most every day about the farm and occasionally I go to Elizaville [Kentucky] but 'tis difficult to get on and off my horse. you know I have generally been healthy and active, and it goes hard with me to be confined your Mother too has not enjoyed much health since we returned from Covington [Kentucky] though she soon recovered from her lameness she took a spell of puking and has been quite nervous every since and lays in Bed most of the time and she cannot well get from the Bed to the Fireplace without assistance, yet she is so industrious [industrious] that she will work at something whenever she can Doctor Fleming has been tending her some time but she says she feels no relief – she has little or no misery except when she takes a spell of headache which she has been addicted to for many years, Lucinda is with us and the doctor too most of the time. he is lately returned from Clarke County he got considerable business to do, and he appears like an industrious [industrious] agreeable man, we

have not heard a word from your Brother James since the day after he left home, which was on the First day of December, tomorrow is mail day and I hope we shall hear from him and his wife and three Babes, I think Martha is a first rate little woman and I hope they may all get safe home

we had very little sunshine in November and it has been cloudy and raining ever since and the roads that are not paved is nearly impossible in places. there is a number of hands at work all along our Rail Road but it looks like tedious and slow business, but time and labour [labor] accomplishes all things

the Hog Fever is very prevalent [prevalent] here abouts, shotes [?] to five dollars grosse [gross] and some say higher. Cattle of all descriptions [descriptions] is in great request too and good horses are scarce and dear.

Corn is worth thirty cents a Bushel Wheat sixty to sixty five cents, I engaged my Barley at thirty eight cents to be taken from the house if the weather ever becomes suitable to clean it up I sold my little crop of hemp lately to Mister Ryan of Maysville [Kentucky] \$4.75 for 112 pounds amount \$473.00 Tobacco is worth five dollars per hundred best quality. I have about what grewed on three acres tolerable good, I have heard that the price of Pork in the South is not as good as was anticipated it will be an unusual occurrence if Pork is high again next fall it always appears like speculation is like contagion if one or a few persons pay high for any article others soon follow and often can't give a reason why or wherefore. Sally Bruce's health seems much improved the rest of the Family are in usual health and the neighborhood generally healthy. your Mother tenders her love to Mary and the Children and all the connections [connections], and says you must write often, she says you must tell Gilbert that his little Daughter has grown finely since he was up hear [here], and Hager and the Boys are all well. She had a letter wrote to him some weeks ago by young Wm [William] Morgan directed to your care. She expected him up at Christmas, and would like to see him soon as convenient

if afflicted Brother is still living please let him know my afflicticion [affliction]. I reckon there never was two orphan Children more fond of each other than we were till we had to part when he was about fourteen years old. he was absent once for about twenty four years but we have met and enjoyed the society of each other many times since but 'tis a melancholy reflecticion [reflection] to believe we will never meet again in time and I hope and believe he is prepared for the enjoyment of a better world than this. and I hope I may be prepared to meet him where pleasure is without alloy and parting is no more I truele [truly] sorry to find from your other letter that you can Mister Porter was not like to close your settlement amicably, it seams [seems] Strange why he don't attempt to present the account in a manner acceptable. I would expect his lawyers would not advise such a course. Are you not intimate enough with some of his attorneys to talk with them advisedly on that subject, and get the matter closed without a suit of law. you said something about Woodson Morgan and Mister Porter's difference about the Farm. I have always said and believe that Morgan had no chance to regain the place by law, that Mister Porter had a clear title to it though I always thought that Morgan was to have the place again if he got able to pay for it but I can't remember that I ever heard either of them say so. and if Morgan could prove that Porter agreed to do so and now refused I don't think he could compel him to the return the Farm or pay the advanced price either though 'tis probable would it left to arbitrators they might allow Morgan something 'tis very unpleasant to there should exist any difficulty or misunderstanding among any branch of my Family. I can think of nothing more now of interest give my respects to Mary and all the relatives and believe me

your Devoted Father

Henry Bruce.