

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 4, Folder 91

[Letter from Henry to Pauline Bruce, 1858; letter addressed to "Miss Pauline Bruce Covington Ky."; postmarked UNIONTOWN Ky"]

{both the letter and the envelope are on the stationary of the Louisville & New Orleans passenger steamer *Diana*, E. T. Sturgeon, Captain, O. L. Smith, Clerk}

Union Town [Kentucky] Friday Morning

9 Oclock [O'clock] Apl 30/58 [April 30, 1858]

Dr [Dear] Daughter-- after writing to your Ma from Louisville [Kentucky] we cut loose from Jifferson City [Jefferson City]-- and glided Slowly & cautiously over the great falls of the Ohio-- the Boat striking the rocky bottom several times-- causing considerable excitement-- we however escaped damage & soon found ourselves safely landed at Shippingsport [Kentucky], which you will remember is located on the Ky [Kentucky] side immediately at the foot of the falls. the place where we took the one Horse Rail Road last June for Louisvill [Louisville, Kentucky]-- This is also the present residence of the Celebrated Ky [Kentucky] Giant (Jim Porter--) he is engaged in a little grocery trade-- And having never seen him. and a moment to spare-- I improvved [improved] the opportunity [opportunity]-- by paying him a short visit-- he is indeed a moster [monster]-- his height is 7 feet 8 inches-- present weight 300^{lb} and says he is now taking a second groth [growth]-- one leg is 3 inches longer than the other. he is one of the wonders of the world sure-- At 9 oclock [O'clock] Wednesday evening ~~we~~ after the arrival of the Pars [?] from Lexington [Kentucky] & Frankfort [Kentucky] we started from this place-- having recd [received] quite an accefsion [accession] to the number of our pafsengers [passengers]-- Amond [?]

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among whom was the distinguished Dr. Breckenridge & Rice about 1/2 of our pafsengers [passengers] are Presbiteran [Presbyterian] Preachers on their way to N. Orleans [New Orleans,

Louisiana] to attend the national afsembly [assembly] in May. Our Townsman Worrell is also among the number. Well at 11 oclock [o'clock] I retired to my small, though very comfortable Bead [Bed]--being much fateigued [fatigued] & with the head ache. which together with the change of beads [beds] prevented me from much sleep. at 6 oclock [o'clock] yesterday morning I was up-- and found we had reached Hawsville [Kentucky] 124 miles below Louisville [Kentucky]. the night was indeed beautifull [beautiful]-- a full moon a clouldlefs [cloudless] sky & a big River enaabled [enabled] us to travell [travel] very safely--

I have made several very plesant acquaintences [pleasant acquaintances] among the pafsengers [passengers]. one of whom-- is a very interesting young Lieutenant of the U. S. Navy who is on his way to visit his relations & family in Mifsip. [Mississippi] after an absence of 2 years on board of the Steam Ship Susquihana [Susquehanna]-- which you no doubt have noticed resent [recent] accounts of her late arrival at N. York [New York] with the yellow fever among her crew. this young Gent has with him which he exhibited to the pafsengers [passengers]-- specimines [specimens] and parts of the Atlantic Tellegraph [Telegraph] Cable. which is truly a curiosity—

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Our Boat stoped [stopped] last night at Evensville [Evansville, Indiana] to complete her freight, after having take on about 200 hogsheads of Tobacco at Owensboro [Kentucky]-- we are now stoped [stopped] for the purpose of taking on Coal eneough [enough] to last her to N. O. [New Orleans] and back this far-- We expect to reach Paducah [Kentucky] our destination late this evening-- the climate is changing rapedly [rapidly] as we proseed [proceed] towards the South. Vegetation [Vegetation] looks to be some two weeks in advance of our place-- this morning is quite Sultry.

Will probably write your Ma if any thing occurs worth note as soon as I reach Paducah [Kentucky]. Send word to Mr Hatches family that his is very well & in good Cheer-- Cant [Can't] yet tell when we can reach Home-- may posibly [possibly] return by way of St. Louis [Missouri]--

nothing more-- excuse the haste of these lines from your Devoted Father

H. [Henry] Bruce