

Accession no. M1981-1010  
Bruce Collection  
Box 5, Folder 129

[letter of Mary (Mrs. Henry Bruce Sr.) Bruce to Brother S. L. Helm: IMPORTANT NOTE-- someone has made corrections in pencil over the ink; they have been included in this transcription]

Covington Ky [Kentucky] Dec 25th 1863 [December 25, 1863]

Dr [Dear] Brother Helm:--

As Mr Bruce is absent from home-- it therefore devolves upon me to answer your very welcome letter of 14th Inst [Instant]-- which was recd. [received] several days ago just as Mr Bruce was upon the eve of starting to Owensboro [Kentucky]. You ask us to give you the particulars of my dear Mothers death-- whom the Lord has taken from us-- O! how hard it was to give her up,-- she was so dear to us all. Altho [although] she was getting so feeble, I could not bear the idea of her dieing [dying]: Ma never appeared old to me-- she was so young in her feelings that she was a companion for us all, O! how

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~~de~~ we all mifs [miss] her!-- but is is a hoppy [happy] reflection to know that our lofs [loss] is ~~is~~ her gain, and that she has only exchanged a world of sorrow and pain for one of eternal blifs [bliss]. O! how happy the thought of meeting her in that bright world where she so much desired to go: she had been complaining for several days with one of her usual spells, before she was taken bad, but had very much improved, and we thought would soon be restored to her usual health. Altho [Although] she often said to me that her days on earth were nearly ended, still I felt that she would recover for I had seen Ma have similar spells every winter and yet be spared through them-- her sufferings for three days were very great, but she bore ~~but she bore~~ them without complaint; saying the Lord would not afflict her unjustly she was fully prepared to meet Death and welcomed his approach - she retained her reson [reason] to the last, she often repeated that she would soon

be at rest and that she was going home to glory. it seemed to me that Ma know [knew] almost when she would die for she asked several time that night, ~~she died~~ what time it was when told it was twelve O'clock [O'clock] she said good night to us all. a short time before her spirit took its flight she said she was walking in the valley and shadow of Death, not long afterwards she exclaimed O! what a bright light! ~~and~~ and said something about it that we could not understand her eyes were shut when she spoke to us,,

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she also wished to know if we were all present; when told that we were-- she asked no more questions soon afterwards she sweetly fell asleep in Jesus, and now my prayer is that we may all meet her in Heaven, we all regreted very much that you could not preach her funeral, as you were a great favorite of hers,-- Brother Yeamans remarks on that occasion, were very appropriate [appropriate] and comforting, it is a singular coincidence that he took his text, from the very verse ~~that~~ where her book mark was ~~on~~ placed when she last read the chap't [chapter]-- which was a few days before her death-- ~~neither~~ none of us knew it at the time-- she has a book called the spiritual comforter that she has been reading for several years it has an appropriate [appropriate] chapt [chapter] for every day in the year-- at the one marked dec 5th 63 [December 5, 1863]-- she had placed a black book mark this was the last day she spent on earth:  
[no closing or signature]