

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 2, Folder 53

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

Fleming County [Kentucky] October 31st 1853 [October 31, 1853]

Dear Henry

your letter of the 20th came to hand on the 22nd instant were glad to hear you were all enjoying health and that Gilbert was on the recovery and hope you can spare time shortly to come and see your afflicted parents. The pain and weakness in my hip is increasing and some nights I get but little rest of sleep lately. I ride out nearly every day. and am more at ease when traveling about than when sitting still which is strange of a curious fact. your Mother has more use of her hand now than She had when first attacked tho [though] is very feeble and can't walk without help. and we cannot persuade her to Ride out for some weeks. I should like very much to visit you and see your new residence. but it would not be prudent to attempt to do so now, it is one year today since we arrived at home from out last Falls visit I was yesterday 76 years old and your Mother will be that age on the 15th of next May. I have nothing of interest to communicate your friends in this section are generally well and getting along in the usual way, Old George Taylor Died on the 22nd instant our Corn crops improved astonishly [astonishingly] after the rain came so that the crops on good ground is a fair average crop, and Hemp improved some tho [though] but a short crop and tobacco light too hogs is in demand now at \$3.50 gross and some are holding on for a higher price. I sold what few I had 26 head at \$3.50 unfatted amount to \$200 due 25 November. I had one mule colt, sold it for \$60 and some sell for more. Cattle is higher that I ever knew them before so is horses, can these things last long, I think not, operaticions [operations] on our Rail Road is suspended for a lack of Funds. our turnpike to Helena is nearly Finished. there is certainly too many Rail Roads making all over the union at this time which causes the Iron and labour [labor] to be much enhanced, when the various Roads are done ~~I wish~~ Irish labourers [laborers] must reduce to about half the present rates, they get now \$1 and 10 cents. and don't

appear to do more than about half work

Your Brother George informed me a few weeks since that the letter you requested me to write on the subject of my unfortunate attempt to dictate a plan for you and Thomas Porter to attempt to settle by was written in a way that you did not file it among the papers to be presented at Court. I was astonished to hear it and thought from the answer you wrote me that twas [it was] satisfactory I wrote two letters that you might take choice. I suppose I have kept coppies [copies] of Fewer letters than any person that has wrote as many I would like for you to send me the letter of a cobby [copy] of what I wrote as I was anxious to write in a way to place that matter in a true light before the Court and the world at large, I am an awkward bungling hand to write at best, and am truly sorry that you did not point out my error. and if you will dictate what you know I can or ought to say in that matter, I will be proud to serve you by stating the truth of the case, if tis [it is] not now too late, when Mister Porter was here last I told him he ought not to have filled the paper I wrote. it is of late quite a task for me to write ~~to~~ or indite [incite] any matter. I have Received Several letters from Friends which I must try to answer tho [though] I still delay and dread the task I got a letter last week from your cousin Anne Orear (Sexton now) they live at North Port [?] Missouri. Mister Sexton is post Master thare [there] has bad health, she has 3 daughters and 3 sons they are in moderate circumstances she says your cousin Ben Threlkild died last week with consumption and has lost a son and married daughter Belt Orear has his third wife and lives in Boone County [Kentucky] doing well, her Brother Ben is now in California the 2d trip, said to be making money, when you write to William Bruce tell him to inquire how Ben Orear and Lennard Tulley is doing.

I hear you have purchased an~~d~~ extensive tract of land and Iron works in Indianna [Indiana] at a low rate. there has not many persons succeeded well who were engaged in that business as far as I have been advised though I hope you may be successful in the hazardous undertaking Doctor Bell has Bought a large Brick Kiln at Rodgers sale and is hauling them to build a House next

Spring near where he planted an orchard he appears quite industrious [industrious] and Lucinda attentive to us

we have heard of the Failure of a House in Cincinnati [Ohio] and that Thomas Porter is likely to sustain a heavy loss, is that true Mister Samuel Hawkins that Married your cousin Ellen Johnson Died about three weeks ago, the sale will be there on the 16th of november I heard that Mister Porter is to get possession of the Morgan Farm the First of January, tis [it is] a convenient and valuable Farm about 200 acres

tender our respect to Mary and the Children not forgetting your Mother in law and accept the best wishes for your health and happiness of

your Devoted Father

Henry Bruce

write again soon

while I am writing a Drove of a 1000 hogs is passing through my lost From Bath County [Kentucky], and there has several other droves passed before from Bath [Kentucky], the hogs I have seen are generally better than usual averaging about 300 pounds, there has passed here more than double as many as ever did before this soon (?) for the Maysville [Kentucky] and Cincinnati [Ohio] Market, they pay thirty five cents ~~son~~ Corn at Johnsons where most of them stop, the Bath hogs were mostly bought at 3 Dollars per hundred