

Accession no. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 5, Folder 130

[letter addressed to "Henry Bruce Esqr [Esquire] Covington Ky"; postmarked "LEXINGTON KY
FEB 5"]

Lexington [Kentucky] Feb 4th 1864 [February 4, 1864]

Dear Henry

Yours of the 1st inst [instant] came by due course of mail but being absent I did not get it until today I recd [received] Marys sometime ago and intended to answer it soon but I have been so very busy about one thing or other I could not find time I have just retuned [returned] from Carlisle [Kentucky] I need scarsely [scarcely] say to you that I had a delightedful [delightful] visit as you know I spent all my time there with George Bruce and his children I always felt since I got acquainted with your fathers family that they were kin to me but now that I see them so seldom when I do meet them it seems to me that certainly are kinfolks But I felt all the more at home there

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by meeting one of John Mitchells and two of Alf Peles [?] daughters But your Bro [Brother] George has told you all about it as he left for Covington [Kentucky] while I was there Mary must take this for a reply to her letter also Grand ma died as she lived the real earnest Christian I must confess I felt deeply disappointed in not having the opportunity to preach her funeral I was also grieved to hear that there was no Baptist preacher to attend your own dear old mother in her last moments & preach her funeral. Such truly pious and faithful mothers in Israel ought to be honored in their death by their church But it is now all over and we must submit sweet [?] meekly to Gods appointed I am truly glad that poor Wills whereabouts has been ascertained

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We have not heard from his wife for a long time. She is a poor hand to write

Well I am prepared to adopt your views of the miserable Rebs [Rebels] A letter just recd [received] from Bro [Brother] Laken [?] who now lives near the southern line of this state fully confirms your flanking [?] suspicion I have will nigh ceased to feel or think about the war I feel that I have committed all to God and am waiting to see his purposes developed in the whole affair

We are all well now my wife and some of the children have been quite complaining [?] but are about well now

Love to all the family and Sallie Bruce when you see her Truly yours

S L Helm