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

Fleming County [Kentucky], January 12, 1853

Son Henry

your letter of yesterday came to hand by today's mail and from your statement of my poor Brother's rappid [rapid] decline I hasten to answer it doubting that this may hardly reach you before his desoluticion [desolution?] and no doubt the exchange of worlds, to him will be a welcome and glorious exchange. we know that in this life there is little or no real happiness, it is truly said in the Scripture that afflicticion [affliction] is the common lot of man, that together with the losses crosses and the separatecion [separation] of near and dear relatives is enough to convince us that we are but probacioners [probationers] on earth, and we ought to try to prepare for an ~~entrance~~ enterence [entrance] into eternal felicity when we shall be called from time to eternity. you will no doubt before this reaches you have heard of the suden [sudden] death of Col [Colonel] David Linsey

and Mister Charles Bell lost a daughter a few days since with consumpticion [consumption] also Mister Saunders a deaf man died on Saturday last, and also old John Sherwood he has been long afflicted. the neighborhood is considered healthy at this time. your Mother's health is gradually improving. my lameness is no better my hip appears to get weaker and I use now two canes most of the time when I attempt to walk. at times when I am seting [sitting] still I am free from pain and hope I may ultimately recover

as regards the place of interment of my Brother, I would like for him to make a selecticion [selection]. I remember to have heard him once remark that he would prefer being buried where I might be, or words to that import. and if he should finally make no choice, you had better consult

his wife on that subject. and inter him where she may choose I am sorry to hear of Mary's affliction [affliction] and hope it will be of short duraticion [duration]. We got a letter from your Brother James last week all is well, if you know anything of William Bruce I will like to hear where and what he is about. with our love to all the family and best wishes for your health and prosperity

I conclude your affectionate Father Henry Bruce.

as there will be no male [mail to] Elizaville [Kentucky] till Saturday I will send this tomorrow either to Mayslick [Kentucky] or Flemingsburg [Kentucky].