

Accession No. M1981-1010  
Bruce Collection  
Box 3, Folder 78

[letter addressed to "Mr. E. M. Bruce [Eli M. Bruce] P. M. Indiana Furnace Indiana"; postmark faded but "FREE FREE" legible]

Covington Ky [Covington, Kentucky] Jan 21/57. [January 21, 1857]

Dr [Dear] Eli.

Yours of the 17th Inst. And also your package adressed to Mr. R. H. Ranson to my care was recd. [received] by me yesterday.

A few days before I saw Mr. Ranson, and notified him briefly of the nature of the disagreement between us. and that we had selected him as a mutual friend to both. to examine our Deeds. Contracts & corespondence [correspondence] and decide which of us in the wrong, and to define our respective rights &c. that I had writen [written] you to send him all my letters, and that I would furnish him with all yours to one on the subject, from which he was to base his judgement & decision in the case. To day [Today] I saw him again and informed him that I had rec. a package from you to him in my care, which I supposed contained all our correspondence to be submited [submitted] to him, which I should have handed over to him at once, but you demand that I shall first admit that the property was purchased jointly, that the sale made to Sinton & Resor in Sept 1855. was a joint sale, that the remaining 1/3 was held by us jointly as the whole was previous to the sale to S. & R. [Sinton & Resor] and that I had a knowledge of your anxiety also to sell and quit the Furnace, or share with me any sale I might be able to make, prior to

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the sale made to Resor Augst 1/56. [August 1, 1856] Each and all of these facts are so clearly demonstrated & explained by our Deeds. Articles of Copartnership & Corespondence [Correspondence], as to need no admisions [admissions] by either of us. And no getting around them if attempted. And it is so upon these facts in the case that Mr. Ranson must base his

conclusion.

I will here however remark that Mr. R. ~~enfer~~ suggested to me yesterday, that he would greatly prefer having some one associated [associated] with him, that was a responsibility [responsibility] he never liked to take alone. he did not however refuse to serve us, nor do I think he will, if still desired to do so alone.

I fully appreciate the responsibility [responsibility] he feels in such a case. And while I am fully satisfied for him to act alone. I can make no objection for him or you & I to select another Gentleman to act with him, but I am at some loss [loss] to know who to mention as the right man. I have thought of Jake Traber. B. E. Hall & J W Finnell, they each know us quite [equally] well, and we know their business [business] qualities and Characters are above suspicion, [suspicion] and for my part, I should be fully satisfied with either, and will leave the choice with you. or if neither is satisfactory you can name some one else. or rely upon Mr. R. [Ranson] alone. You are aware that I have not yet, nor am I to receive one Dollar on acct. [account] of the sale made to Mr Resor before next Augst. [August] And then comparatively [comparatively] but a small amt. [amount] on acct. [account] of the 1/6 interest sold him.

In one of your letters to me some time since you proposed

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that if I would consent to an arbitration you would then arrange at once all matters between us to my satisfaction. And now whether our arbitrator shall decide in your favour [favor] or mine. it must be distinctly understood, before the matter is submitted [submitted], that we obligate ourselves to abide by ~~his or their~~ the decision [decision], And further that you will immediately upon receiving notice of said decision, make out and furnish me with A faithful & correct statement of the several amts. [amounts] of money due me respectively from yourself individually, from the old firm of E. M. & H. Bruce Jr and the present firm of E. M. Bruce & Co and to pay the same to me at once in cash. give me your obligation to do so within sixty days, with interest on the same according to our articles of agreement. except such debts (if any) that may be owing to the firm of

E. M. & H. B. Jr but not yet collected by you. Out of which you will as soon as collected fully pay any balance [balance] that may still be due to me. And if it is decided that you are entitled to half the sale made to Resor. I will give you my obligation to pay to you as soon as collected 1/2 the am [amount] due from him ~~on acct. of the 1/6 interest to him~~ Augst 1/57 on acct [account] of the 1/6 interest sold him Augst 1/56. [August 1, 1856]

Please let me here immediately if you accept these terms &c &c. Hastilly [Hastily] Yours  
&c

H. Bruce [Henry Bruce]

[vertically along the left margin of page 3]

You will also return this letter. I have written in a hurry and it is now dark cant [can't] mail before tomorrow.