

Accession no. M1981-1010  
Bruce Collection  
Box 6, Folder 171

[letter from Mary Bruce to Pauline Dukes, 1875; first page of letter has a monographed "G" in the top left corner]

Covington Ky [Kentucky] Jan 23d 1875 [January 23, 1875]

My own darling Pandy

I owe you an apology for not telling you sooner how happy your kind sweet letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst made us all. We were discussing about a music-box and listening to its sweet tunes, When Richard handed it to me,

Saying " here a letter from Kansas City [Missouri]." We soon forgot all about the box and assembled around the fire to hear the news from home. If you only knew dear how highly we prize your [?] letters I know you would favor us oftener

And so you laughed at my comid [comical] letter paper. Well, "necessity is the Mother of invention" you know. Yes, dear, ~~Retta~~ Retta [Henrietta] received your letter thanking her for the "polonaise", and would have answered it are this, had she been well enough. Poor child she does have a hard time of it! When I wrote you on the 5<sup>th</sup> her health was better than it had been since her confinement, but, a few days after she and Lil went over to Cinti [Cincinnati], the weather being very inclement she took cold and has not been well since, though today she is setting up for the first time in several days and will answer all her letters as soon as she is able. Richard has been absent more than a week. Ret [Henrietta] fears that he is having some trouble with those relations of his at Washington as he is staying so much longer than he expected. Lil says 'tell Pandy I'm so much obliged to her for fixing up my room so nicely and hopes you and the children will not have any more colds." She also says please ask Dora French if she received her "stockings" ~~that~~ they were forwarded to her more than two weeks ago. She fears that they are lost as she has not heard a word from her. Tell my precious Nan that I received her highly prized and very welcome letter day before yesterday. And last night one from you Pa, both of which I will answer soon. I regretted [regretted] so much to hear that Nannia [Nannie] had been so sick and bust she is well ere this. Ret [Retta or Henrietta] says she reckons Lynden will never speak to Harknefs [Harkness] again after telling him such

stories on Richard. I shouldn't think he would have the impudene [impudence] to show his face at the St. James has he gone back to St Louis [Missour] on to Denver [Colorado]?

Tell your pa I'm so much obliged to him for the funds he sent me I was very much in need of it both Lil and I. It makes one feel so badly to be entirely dependent. I had a long talk with Doct [Doctor] Thomas the other day about your Pa ~~him~~ and his long spell of sickness, He charged me to write and impressive when him to be very careful of himself. that a return of the pleasing [?] would cause him greater suffering than before on account of his having the absces [sic] that he must not eat white bread at all to have his biscuit light bread butter cakes made of brown on unboalted flower [flour?]. Very little milk and butter, his supper must be very light – without ~~no meal at~~—[letter ends]