

Accession No. M1981-1010  
Bruce Collection  
Box 3, Folder 81

[letter of H. C. Bruce to his uncle, Henry Bruce Jr.]

La Fayette [Indiana] April 19 1857 [ April 19, 1857]

Mr H. Bruce [Henry Bruce]

Covington [Kentucky]

Dr [Dear] Uncle

Your highly esteemed and much appreciated letter of March 18th came duly home, and by rights should have received my immediate attention, but having reached me just at the time we were receiving on stock of goods, and in the midst of our best spring trade, I assume you that I have had but little time to devote to my social correspondence, except on the Sabbath day, which I felt sure you would not approve of, & I continue to postpone from day to day hoping to find an opportunity to devote to so pleasant a duty, but finding that such is not likely to occur, I am at last forced, as it were, the holy Sabbath to break, for which I trust I shall be excused both here on Earth and in Heaven above, for really Uncle Henry I have scarcely had an hour to call my own since the middle of February, at which time Mr Earl left for the South, nor do I know when I shall have again, since his return he has been attending to some private business outside, and in two or three days he expects to leave for Kansas, where he will probably remain some Six weeks or two months, as his object is to invest some \$25,000-- for himself and Mr Fowler in that Territory and he purposes seeing and understanding as much of it as,

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possible before he makes the selection, he is an old farmer and I doubt not will make it pay largely, I regret that I have not a few dollars to have him invest for me, though do not feel able to spare it out of our business [business] yet, hence you will readily perceive that in doing a business [business] of from \$175,000. to \$200,000-- a year, that I can have but little if any spare time,

having the entire selling and correspondence devolving upon me, though I do not murmur, but on the contrary am gratified that it is so--

Since I received your letter I received one from our Attys. [Attorneys] Mess Davis P Harmon at Danville, enquiring [inquiring] our full names, and saying that all other modes of collection having proved ineffectual, would be compelled to coerce payment, whereupon I wrote them to put "them through an the the fast line" as we wanted the money badly, they write me that Mr Dye is abundantly able now, and all he lacks is the will, but if he continues drinking will soon squander all he has made, so I think we will be lucky in commencing in time, as I hear anything from them will report progrefs [progress]--

So far we have had one of the most unseasonable, and unnatural Aprils I ever remember seeing having been very cold and seemingly snowing about one half of the time, in fact would have done honor to "old December", to day [today] however we are rejoicing in a bright and lovely day, and we sincerely trust the commencement of a continuation of lovely spring weather-- our Farmers are very much behind

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with their work and are becoming very much discouraged, but we think will all work out for the best in the end, It has been very sickly in and around here all Spring and generally it has proven very fatal indeed, the most prevalent, that which is called "Winter" or "Sring [Spring] Fever" so far my health has been excellent, during my entire residence in the "Hoosier State" -- Socially our little city has been quite dull of late, that is, in the way of large Parties, but our little queit [quiet] sociables, which are much more pleasant, still continue, There will not be a great deal of building going on this Summer, but that, ~~that~~ will be, very good and substantial, the business of the place continues to increase rather than decrease, even during these hard times--

I regret to hear that John and Tom Porter and Joe Ranson are still continueing [continuing] their old and favorite occupation for they are no longer looked upon as Boys, but as Men and of whom the community expects and demands that something shall be done to contribute to hers, if

not their own prosperity and happinefs [happiness], I hold that no man who has the capacity both physically and mentally has the right to thus waste the best portion of his life, and thereby loose [lose] his influence and usefuneft [usefulness] for ever, I yet hope they may get to doing something, I notice that Joe has been admitted to the Bar (I mean as Atty [Attorney]) where I trust he may apply himself with a will-- present my best love to Aunt Mary Cousins Pauline Ret & Nannie and when I come to Covington it will do me a great deal of good to accept your invitation, and spend a few days with you, as of our excuse [?] all imperfections, & write soon and often to--

Your Affectionate Nephew H. C. Bruce