

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 3, Folder 65

[COPY of a letter from Henry Bruce, Sr. to Henry Bruce, Jr., March 1855]

Fleming Country [County, Kentucky] March 22nd 1855 [March 22, 1855]

Dear Henry,

your letter under Date of the 13th of last Month came early to hand and I have often thought I would attempt to answer it but I have neglected to do so till now, as Writing and Shaving are the tasks I dread most to undertake. I had heard before I got your letter that Henry and George Morgan was a good deal in debt in and about Carlile [Carlisle, Kentucky] and that their Mother has indorsed [*variation* of endorsed] some of their paper, and I fear they are in debt more or less elsewhere, tis [it is] expected that George will make some money on the Beef he and his uncle James Morgan put up, if he should Fail in that speculatecion [speculation] I view situaticion [the situation] Desperate as I hear he is quite extravagant, and buys everything he takes a fancy to, this course you know will not do for anyone in limited circumstances to pursue

your suggesticions [suggestions] in regard to the discharge of those Irishmen and hiring out some of the Negroes correspond with my own view of those things and I have recommended to Ellen and Henry to do so and work the farm with a less fourse [force], as tis [it is] impossible to make any profits from so many farm hirlings [hirings] while wages and expenses of living are so high

I handed your letter to your brother James and told him to show it to your brother George and requested that they let no one know the contence [contents].

Ellen came to see us in February with 3 Children and staid [stayed] with us about three weeks; she has poor health and seems much Dejected. she said that a few days before and left home she was visited by a School teacher who had a charge of \$40 for the tuicion [tuition] of some of the

Children he said he called on some of the guardians and they said they had nothing in their hands and as She had entered the Children she must pay the teacher and as she had no funds I felt constrained to furnish her the money. these poor little orphans must have some education [education] and while there is no funds in the hands of their guardians I think I ought to contribute something rather than detain the Children from school

I told Ellen to be economical in every way possible and try to induce the Children to be industrious [industrious] and careful, she said the two Daughters begin to feel their dependent condicion [condition] and that Lucy was quite industrious [industrious] but that Sary had weak eyes and could not do much Sewing

I told Ellen the great danger there was in indorsing [*variation of endorsing*] for her Children that should they be unfortunate she might be left without a home or anything else of consequence (she said father I can't refuse if they ask me) we all know tis [it is] a task for any parent to refuse to indorse [*variation of endorse*] for his Children, and we all know her nature is such that she could not deny hardly anybody a favor asked for. your Brother James talked to her one these matters till I heard they boath [both] shed tears. you know how much I have suffered and impoverished my Children too by indorsing [*variation of endorsing*] for 3 of our sons in law, and I really think that parents should refuse to indorse [*variation of endorse*] for any Children, it no doubt would be often best even for those that ask the favor, I wrote a long letter to George while him mother was here and read it to her and among other things I begged him never to ask his Mother to indorse [*variation of endorse*] his paper, and also requested him to tell his Brothers never to ask her to indorse [*variation of endorse*] for any of them, and say to his Sisters Should they Marry to enjoin it on their Companions never to ask their Mother to indorse [*variation of endorse*] for them, I wish you could have seen the letter I wrote to George. I told him to get a little farm somewhere and go to Work as a sure way to make a competent lasting support

I also requested him to make diligent search for the Note on his uncle Jerrard Morgan and if he could not find it to go and see his uncle and get him to state the amount he has paid. George said that there was a credit of only \$500 on the Note and that it was among his Fathers papers. I heard he wrote to George some time last year to enter a credit on the Note for some \$800 if I mistake now the amount, which he said he paid to his brother John once in Cincinnati [Ohio], I have no doubt but there is considerable sum due yet on that Note. it is given in August 1835 for \$767 to bear interest at 10 per cent [percent] from date till paid which is now near 20 years which would not amount to a large amount and I expect he has forgot the rate of Interest. I want you to have that matter attended to soon as you can. and send George to see his uncle if he has not been since I wrote to him. there is near half the amount of that Debt due to me as I have never received one cent yet, and what is yet unpaid by Jerrard Morgan I want for the benefit of Ellen and her Children I paid a security for Woodson Morgan upwards of \$1100, some the money cost 12 percent and none less than 10, in those days I was hard pressed, and what is due on the debt of Jerrard Morgan is in part to relieve me from loss. your Sister Porter and her daughters came to see us two days after Ellen went home, they stayed near two weeks

we were all much pleased to hear that you and Polein [Pauline] had become members of the Baptist Church and your Mother was so much Delited [Delighted] that she sent the letter your wife wrote her on the subject to Nancy Lowry to read, also the letter you wrote to Doctor Bell. young Nancy Lowry and Mister Teels [Teal's] daughter was hear [here] last week and expressed a desire for her Father to read the letters but we did not hear whether he did or not

I have been a well wisher of religion since I was a small boy and have a partiality for the Baptist Doctrine. I have often been present when persons have been giving a relaticion [relation] of the work of Grace on the heart, and I often wished I could feel as some have expressed they did but I never could say or believe that I had experienced a change of heart and unless I can say of feel as David of Old when he said "come all who love and fear God and I will tell you what he has done

for my soul” I would be acting hipocritically [hypocritically] to impose myself on any religious society and tis [it is] a lamentable Fact that I know several members of the Church that I could not Fellowship. and I have seen many persons received for membership that I did not believe were truly converted, and in times of revivals no doubt through Simpathy [Sympathy] and persuasion some young persons have been mistaken. some years ago there was a great engathering [gathering] at our Bethel Church but where are they now, on last Saturday Mister Gardner preached there and only fifteen persons were present and 3 of them went from our House. Mister Gardner also preached on Sunday to a tolerable congregacion [congregation] and one of Hunt (?) Harriet Wariks daughters was Baptized, he spent Sunday night with us, I believe he is a truly picus [pious] Christian. I could say a good deal about the apostesy [apostasy] of Preachers as well as others but I must forbear, tis [it is] a painful subject to dwell upon yesterday was Mail day at Elizaville [Kentucky] and I ventured out and went for our papers and Letters tho [though] the weather is very cold for this time of year this was the first time I had been to Elizaville [Kentucky] since the day you came last to see us which is about two months. We got a letter from your sister Porter giving us informacion [information] on her safe arrival home ~~ete~~ &, we also received a letter from your Daughter Polien [Pauline], she writes a beautiful hand and few girls of ripar [riper] years if any excel her dicticion [diction], she manifest great anxiety for our present and future happiness for which I am much obliged and I hope she will be a Blessing to her parents through life and a valuable aquisicion [acquisition] to the Church Henry Bishop came to see us today for the first time since their Marriage also your Sister Harriet with them and your cousin Mariah Wells and daughter and a daughter of Elbridge Waller Elbridge has removed to Carlisle [Kentucky] to build a Mill for the Citizens I think this is the 4th or 5th time he has attempted to make a living in that way. your Mother and I continue much as when you were here Lucinda is improving was the first time yesterday in our room. the Doctor is an industrious [industrious] handy man and a kind husband, the weather is so cold that tis [it is] too hard frozen to start a plough till late in the morning. Stock feed of all kinds is very scarce and dear. the friends and nabors [neighbors] generally well as usual. try to come and see us as often as you can,

I would like to see Mary and all the Children and your Mother in law too tender our love to all.
and accept our best wishes for continued Health and prosperity and Happiness in time and
eternity

Your devoted Father Henry Bruce

Your brother George has not sold his farm

Mister Teal is anxious to buy a small Farm near some vilige [village] and on last Saturday the
Little Farm at the Sulpher Springs [Sulphur Springs] owned by James Stewart deceased was sold
at public sale and went for \$47 and some cents per acre tis [it is] a very poor soil Mister Teal I
heard bid \$25 per acre which I think is the full value, so you can see how land is rising in this
secticion [section], the farm where Jeremiah Wells lives is for sale next Monday I heard that it is
held at \$45 Dollars per acre are not to be sold. there is no buildings of consequence and the
Fences all nearly rotten down and if sold at 45 Dollars now it would cost the purchaser some 65
or 70 Dollars to make the improvements equal to the farm you sold to Mister Cormick. and
money is in demand at ten percent

tell Mary Salley Thomas had a Daughter in Maysville [Kentucky] day before yesterday

H B [Henry Bruce]

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