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Bruce Collection
Box 6, Folder 187

[Letter from JG Hickman to Henry Bruce Jr., 1878]

Maysville Ky [Kentucky] Aug 21st 1878 [August 21, 1878]

Mr. Bruce Your dispatch was dated yesterday and I reached home last night from a trip to Chicago, where I had gone on the 12th of this month. It therefore, happened, that neither your letter of the 11th, nor the dispatch reached me until my return. My sister had opened both and the first thing I heard last night, when I got into the house, was in my sister's exclamation, that Dick was dead.

We had heard from John Lashbrooke of his illness and feared the result; but so many days had passed, that we had begun to be hopeful of his recovery.

I wanted in the first place to make the above statement by way of explanation and apology for my failure to write - for your letter was not such as one as I should have neglected to answer if it had been possible to answer it sooner.

It is a most melancholy think which has happened. They may say what they want about other calamities: but death, after all, is the king of terrors - not only to its victims, but to those, who are left and bereaved.

We all, here, are greatly grieved over poor Dick's early and sad death and it would be most gratifying, if it were in our power, by messages and otherwise to alleviate the suffering which, we know, has befallen

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your household and especially his young wife. We can only send expressions of our sympathy and affection to her and all of you and this we most sincerely do. I hope it may turn out, that enough of Dick's estate is left to make his wife and little girl comfortable. During the first part of this year he received at this place a little more than 7000\$ and John Lashbrooke tells me that he got from his firm about as much more - some 8000\$ - and that his partners were still to pay him same 3000\$.

There are the remnants of several notes, which he left with me, that, I think, can soon be collected; but they will only amount to a few hundred dollars. I know nothing further of his affairs. It will give me great pleasure to do anything I can to assist you +

Retta [Henrietta] in settling his business and you must not hesitate to write me and call on me to aid in such ways as I can.

My understanding is that the little place in Ohio was conveyed to Retta [Henrietta]. Dick since talked to me about conveying it to her and John lashbrooke says the conveyance was made and I am glad of this. John has been at my office this morning. He says he answered Retta's [Henrietta's] letters as soon as he received it and wrote her a second letter on the 11th instant. With the very kindest regards and best wishes for you all I am very truly yours.

J.G. Hickman