

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 2, Folder 47

[COPY of a Letter from Henry Bruce, Sr. to Henry Bruce, Jr., March 1853]

Fleming County [Kentucky], March 29th, 1853 [March 29, 1853]

Son Henry

Thinking from the remarks in your letter on the subject of the proposed letter I Dictate for Mister Porter to write something similar to you, I then had a hope by it to affect a compromise and as you say Mister Porter has Filed what I wrote in his answer to your Bill (and as I have in connecticion [connection] with that affair wrote in my other letter which will reach you with this on various other subjects,) I suppose that you may want to present to the Court a letter from me on that same unpleasant business, therefore conclude to write this on that Subject alone, and be more brief than in my others, as that explains to you the general tennor [tenor] from beginning to the end of what transpired when I were with you last October, and as I stated before, after I heard what you boath [both] stated about the difficulty existing between you in closing the accounts between J.S. Morgan and Mister T. Porter and boath [both] express a desire that the matter might be amicably adjusted and you having previously informed me that you required of Mister Porter an exhibitcion [exhibition] of the accounts in his possesion [possession] relative to the partnership business with J.S. Morgan and that Mister Porter had failed to present them and Mister Porter's statement was that he had already furnished all the accounts of a statement of them that was in his possession. and he told me that he was willing to submit the matter to me or any one [anyone] else you boath [both] could agree on and bring forward the Books and any other papers he had, and you are to present all the books and accounts you had as this saves time. this appears to be the substance of what I understood from you boath [both], and you boath [both] appeared not only willing but anxious to have the matter settled without a suit. I concluded that I would try to write out a plan that would be acceptable to boath [both] parties and the day before I left for home (if I mistake not) I dictated a letter for Mister Porter to write to you or something

similar and when I showed it to him he said it meant his approbation [approbation] so fully that he preferred to copy what I wrote. and I handed it to you myself telling you that I had dictated it and was in hopes it would answer the purpose intended, but when you read it you said it would not do for you to go into a settlement without first examining the accounts in his hands as there was some half a Million of Dollars or more of Dealings between Porter and Morgan, and that you required nothing more of Mister Porter than you had from me and every anxiety to close that matter without law you also said (if I remember right) that it was in Porter's power to prevent a suit if he would, and from your statement after reading the letter I handed you I thought it just and right that he should render the accounts in his hands in as satisfactory a manner as the rest of us had done if he had not already done so. and when I returned from your house I told Mister Porter that you rejected the proposition [proposition] in his letter and I tried to urge him to make out a full and fare statement and present to you. he persisted [persisted] in saying you required him to do what was impossible for him to do. I also told him that I requested you to show his letter to your lawyer to see if he would not be willing for you to accept the proposition [proposition] to have a settlement on and when you met me at the Boat the morning I left for home you said your lawyer took the same view of the matter that you did. and I then concluded that I was mistaken in my plan proposed, and Mister Porter was on Board the Boat I told him that your lawyer opposed his proposition [proposition] he said he was not disappointed or words to that purport, I insisted on his making out the account and he promised me he would do so. and since I got home I was informed he had done it but it was not satisfactory to you, I was surprised to hear that Mister Porter had filed in the suit the letter I had wrote, I would have preferred that he would have written something like it instead of copying [copying] it, though I saw no impropriety in his doing so, I never intended to do or say anything to give either of you an advantage of the other I have considered you both [both], as persons not seeking to cheat or defraud anyone in your dealings, tho [though] there is existing between you now a great misunderstanding or else there is a wrong somewhere. and had I have thought that what I wrote would ever have been used for any other purpose I never would have left it though you are

mistaken in stating that you understood me to say that Mister Porter requested me to write or dictate. I done it voluntarily hoping that plan would be satisfactory but when you as I may say peremptably [Peremptorily] rejected the plan that you were assured I had dictated and believing you would be as willing to gratify me as far as you believed you could to have the matter settled I was satisfied you thought the plan I proposed would not do and told Mister Porter you expressed a great desire to have the matter settled without a suit and I think under all the circumstances that Mister Porter ought not to have filed that paper for if I had thought he was not convinced that my project was abandoned my [by] me I would have told him plainly, but as we were but a vary [very] few minutes together on the Boat and he promised to present the accounts, I of course thought that the letter that he wrote and my scrawl was done with forever, especially after he and I too boath [both] knew that your Counsel objected to the proper siticion [situation?] as well as yourself. I have written this awkward scrawl and am almost incapable of collecting my Ideas on any subject and there is no doubt some repiticions [repetitions] that make it hard to be understood I have only attempted to give the substance of what passed among us and hope my mind may never have such another task to perform I have ever been willing to do anything I reasonably could for peace Sake, and nothing would give me more pleasure than to learn that you and Mister Porter had closed all your dealings amicibly [amicably]

tender our love to Mary and all the Family and believe me as ever

your affectionate Father

Henry Bruce