

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 3, Folder 87

[Letter from Mary to Henry Bruce, Jr., July 1857; letter addressed to "Mr Henry Bruce Covington Kentucky"; postmarked "Elizaville Ky July 28"]

Fleming Cty Ky [County, Kentucky] July 27th 57 [July 27, 1857]

My Dear Husband

I wrote you a few lines from Maysville [Kentucky] telling you of our safe arrival &. I would have written more ~~more~~ but the excitement produced by hearing of Mars [Mary's] illnefs [illness] together with my having to leave home so suddenly prevented me from going to sleep 'till daylight consequently slept so late that I had but little time to write. I left Maysville [Kentucky] about eleven O:Clock [O'clock] where I found Mar [Mary] much better than she had been since her confinement, she was delighted to see us, and I think has improved a little every day since I came, she is exceedingly anxious to go home with me, and says she must go if I have to take her on a bed to the boat, Now I am placed in an awkward [awkward] fix and need your advice, I don't [don't] think she will be able to stand the trip for some time yet, her nerves are so easily affected that she can't bear the least nois [noise] and yet she has to grunt and ~~take~~ endure it, here, I certainly never saw such a noisy place in all my life as this is, and I cant [can't] blame her for wanting to get away from here, The Doct [Doctor] I mean Doct [Doctor] Lowry thinks it more than probable that she may never recover says she is liable now to another attacked of Paralysis [Paralysis] which may prove fatal, as in Mrs Summers case, or make her helpefs [helpless] for life, like your Mother, but I think Doct [Doctor] Fleming differs from him about it, I think myself if she could be kept perfectly quiet that she would get well, but that is impossible [impossible] here. They have even got the spining [spinning] wheels running this morning. (enough to distract a well person) I don't [don't] see how she can stand it I think her anxiety to get home is half what is the

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matter with her, Now my Dear please write and ~~let me know~~ advise me ~~what~~ what to do, for I feel

anxious to return home, The friends, and relations, here all seam [seemed] very kind and try to make me feel at home, for which kindnefs [kindness] I feel greatiful, [grateful] I spent the day yesterday at your Brother James', I found your Mother better than she was last summer, her appetite is excelent [excellent] Ann and Lucinda were both there, Doct [Doctor] Bell has a riseing [?] on his hand which is very painful, caused from reaping, Woodson Morgan and family starts for Illinois in a few days, they are going to have a sale to Morrow, Give my love to Pauline tell her I hope she will have me some nice pickles made against I come home, I woul [would] like for her to get me some cherries to pickle and preserve both tell Henry to save the pea seed, and to plant some Turnip seed please tell Becky to set every Hen that wants to set, and to water and feed (what few chickens I have) well, have you heard any thing [anything] from our Cow? I hope the children will be careful with the Candle thy must not carry it in the drefsing [dressing] room atall [at all] Pauline must not forget to make them both practice their musick [music] ever day 2 hours remember me to Julia tell her she must make Kate assist her all she can, my respect to Mr Gower [?], Lillie got right home sick [homesick] yesterday says she don't [don't] like to sleep in her Aunts great high india rubber beds, (as she calls her feather beds) Lucy Dudly [Dudley?] that was has twins about 2 wks [weeks] old she is staying with her mother, Was James Bruce a pardner [partner] of yours in the horses you sold to Lawrence Dye? I never heard you speak of it the reason I ask, he says he was, I have a great eal [deal] to say to you but cant [can't] stay from Mar [Mary] any longer so I

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must wait 'till I come home, Please don't [don't] let any one see this letter not ever the children Mar [Mary] don't [don't] know that I am writing home I never told her she would ask me so many questions, she ought not to talk it is imperious to her I will send this to the office to day [today] if I can get any one to carry it, I remain your Affectionate

Wife M. [Mary] E. Bruce