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[letter from Mary Bruce to Nannie Bruce Alexander, 1872; envelope addressed to L.C. Alexander  
Care B.M. Alexander & Sons, No. 401 North 2d Street St. Louis, Mo., postmarked Cincinnati March  
27]

Merchant's Hotel  
FIFTH ST., NEAR MAIN,

Henry Bruce & Co., Proprietors.

H'y Bruce.  
C.W. McIntyre.  
W.P. Bruce.

Cincinnati, [Ohio] March 25th 1872 [March 25, 1872]

My very very dear Daughter

I would have acknowledged your sweet and most highly prized letter before now - only that I  
wanted to see Mrs Harris before doing so that I might write you what she said in regard to her  
stopping with her sister provided she arrived in St Louis [Missouri] before you were ready for her.

Well she has been here and says she will only charge you for the time her services  
commences with the baby - and will spend the time previous visiting amongst her relations - and  
friends.

And so my darling you really had to lock Lindens clothes up to keep him in bed. Well I hope  
the experiment proved a good one - and that you may

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not have to imprison him again soon Your Pa says he is much obliged to him for his kind letter and  
that he will answer it soon. He will in all probability have to sell out his interest here - as he hasn't the  
means to buy out his partners - if he had the house with only one partner he could make money  
here. We have had quite a full house this last week. Your Pa has recd [received] several letters lately  
from Kansas City ~~lately~~ from several parties who are anxious for him to come out there and examine  
the hotels for himself - as they would like for him to become a citizen of that place

I would much prefer his staying here, or St Louis [Missouri], than going so far west but I  
suppose there is no house that he could get in the latter city. He is very well and active for one of his

age - but somewhat low spirited at present [present] - if he was only at some thing that he could make plenty of money it would rejuvenate

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him. I received a letter from the girls to-day [today] - they were all well and Lil [Lillie] says that she is really getting the good of the baby now and that he is not only a little beauty - but the best child she has ever saw.

I am so very lonely without my darling ones - am sorry I let Brucie go - but didn't like to keep him so long without seeing his MaMa - as I want him to love her better than me

I tried to teach the little darling a good many lessons which I hope he won't forget - but the hardest of all for him to learn, was that of self denial - (hard for bigatre [bigoted?] folks) I tried to imprefs [impress] it upon him that he must not let his strongest powers rule, but the best; one day in my room, little Florence Bruce had been teasing him, (which she was very fond of doing-) 'till his patience had become exhausted - when all at once the little miniature man

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colored up, drew back pulling his little hands behind him - saying "Florence I do wish I could slap you, if you were only a boy I would pitch into you with all my might." He did look too sweet as he stood talking to her more like a lad than a child - not yet five years old I could have almost smothered him with kifses [kisses] - but I never let on, after Florence went out of my room - I called Brucie to me and after kifsing [kissing] him told him he did exactly right in not striking a little girl, and that I was proud to see that he was learning to control e [control] himself so well, I think children ought always to be encouraged in doing right. So Nannie darling I thought I would give you a few of my ideas on this subject as you expect soon to have a little responsibility of your own. Yes dear

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I read the account of Doct [Doctor] Hustons conduct in Baltimore [Maryland], It is terrible indeed; just to think of a man of his calling to fall so low; I fancied he was one of those high=souled natures-that would rather lay down their life-than condescend to do a wrong act. I feel sorry for his poor wife, and Daughter, I am a thousand times obliged to you my dear for your kind offer - and will enclose you the pattern - but you must promise me not to sew yourself on the machine as I'm afraid it might be a

disadvantage to you in your situation. I will try to be ready about the time you set. Mrs H says "she will come over and start from here" I will be glad for I would not like to go alone. I'll not forget what you said in regard to your Aunt. Mifs [Miss] Shulan was her one day last but - she made me a wrapper - it fits me beautifully. The spring is very backward and it really seems that we will have no need of spring apparel my flannels are just as comfortable as they were in mid-winter.

George Morgan and family have moved to southern Kentucky Lufe Dorsy [Dorsey], and her Mother, are keeping house together in ge. [?] my house - and Ell is boarding with them - so there; very few of the family with us at present. Your Pa is out and dinner is ready, so I must stop writing in time to make the necessary preparation with a heart full of love and a big kifs [kiss] to you both - I am your

devoted Mother