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Bruce Collection
Box 4, Folder 115

[letter (copy) of Henry Bruce Jr. to Dr. Wm. Bell]

Covington Ky [Kentucky] Jan 26/63 [January 26, 1863]

Doct [Doctor] Wm [William] Bell

Dr [Dear] Sir

Yours of the 21st reached me last Saturday, informing me that Hords Girl was sold, That Clark had one for sale and that yours had wonderfully improved in your absence under the proclamation, and that she is fine size, good looking, sprightly and first rate qualities, tutched [touched] off with impudence, that you think her worth more than five hundred Dollars. Well, what a magic there is in a good streight [straight] forward discription [description] of any thing we have for sale, you almost persuaid [persuaded] me that I cannot get along without her, do pray tell me what will induce you to part with her, answer quick, dont [don't] keep me any longer in suspense, when must you have the money or can you afford to wait A few months on me, do write me immediately I am so much afraid [afraid] of another battle and another Rebel Victory before I hear from you, and then I shall dispair [despair] of getting her, except at a further
turn over

[page 1; vertically along the left margin]

Bro [Brother] George is either at Carlise [Carlisle, Kentucky] or Maysville [Kentucky], most likely at the latter place

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enormous advance which I fear I shall not be able to stand, for Rebel Bullets & Bayonets [Bayonets] seems [seems] to begin to work wonderful changes in prices & politics [politics], had all the recent [recent] federal defeats been victories, do you suppose any negro in Ky [Kentucky] this day would sell for one hundred Dollars [Dollars]. or that we should have heard one word of a great political revolution in the North and West sufficient to have given poor cowardly Kentucky Courage enough to talk as she is now doing [doing] at Frankfort? do you regard this great & Mighty reaction to the effect of virtuous devotion to principle, love of Constitution, liberty and the flag? or is it the result of A deep and now settled conviction, that the purposes of the administration against the South, can never be accomplished? or in other words, are the people in those States actuated by motives of pure patriotism, or characteristic [characteristic] puritan selfishness? These are, to my mind, vital questions, If the South can believe that all this revolution springs from true patriotic devotion to principle, the moral effect may be sufficient to induce the Southern Confederacy to Admit a few of the most Contiguous & most penitent of the Western

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States as members of the Confederate [Confederate] States, but I have no hope of even this much reconstruction until after her independence [independence] is fully acknowledged and she fixes her own terms of admission [admission].

I have always given you great credit for sincerity & honesty and I therefore expect you, (entertaining the views you do,) to regard these suggestions as delusive speculations [speculations], but perhaps not more than you would had you been told some time ago, as you may have been, that this terrible [terrible] & infamous rebellion [rebellion] could never be put down by the sword, That negroes would never be freed and that Vallandigham the head devil of them all, would in so short a time been made high priest of A powerful anti war party in the United States, Strange things have happened, let us not be too incredulous as to coming [coming]

events, The bold talk now in Congress about a Middle Confederacy, leaving puritan New England out in the cold &c &c, is as much secession as was ever preached in South Carolina,

The doctrine of States rights almost universally repudiated A short time ago, has in an incredible short time become as much a sugar tit to many of the loyal States, as it ever was to

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sesessia, and is now most forcably & logically advocated, What meanith all this? Can it be that the disloyal South is to be furnished with an endorsement & justyfication [justification] of their course by the proverb, "Out of their own mouth though are condemed [condemned]". I have watched all these late mooves [moves] with peculiar interest, many perplexing questions have risen up in rapid succession, But none more anoying [annoying] & complicated perhaps, than the present dilemma [dilemma] in which Kys [Kentucky] has been placed by the present powers that be, she has avowed her duty to sustain unconditionally and at all hazerds [hazards] the Administration. now her honor & interest (so says Govenor Robinson) demands a solem [solemn] protest and revocation of that avowal of duty and patriotism of which she so resently [recently] boasted,

And now after lavishing Men & Money, least she should proove recrent [prove recent] to her first pledge, The Administration has placed A Brigade of Abolition Solders [Soldiers] at Frankfort to supervise her legislative proceedings, Is this not locking fine? I have just returned from Frankfort, And every one there looked to me like they were hating something. that they had forfeited the honor of the State and their own self respect. pardon me for the tedious length of this, with affectionate regards to all I am with Great Respt. [Respect]

H. [Henry] Bruce