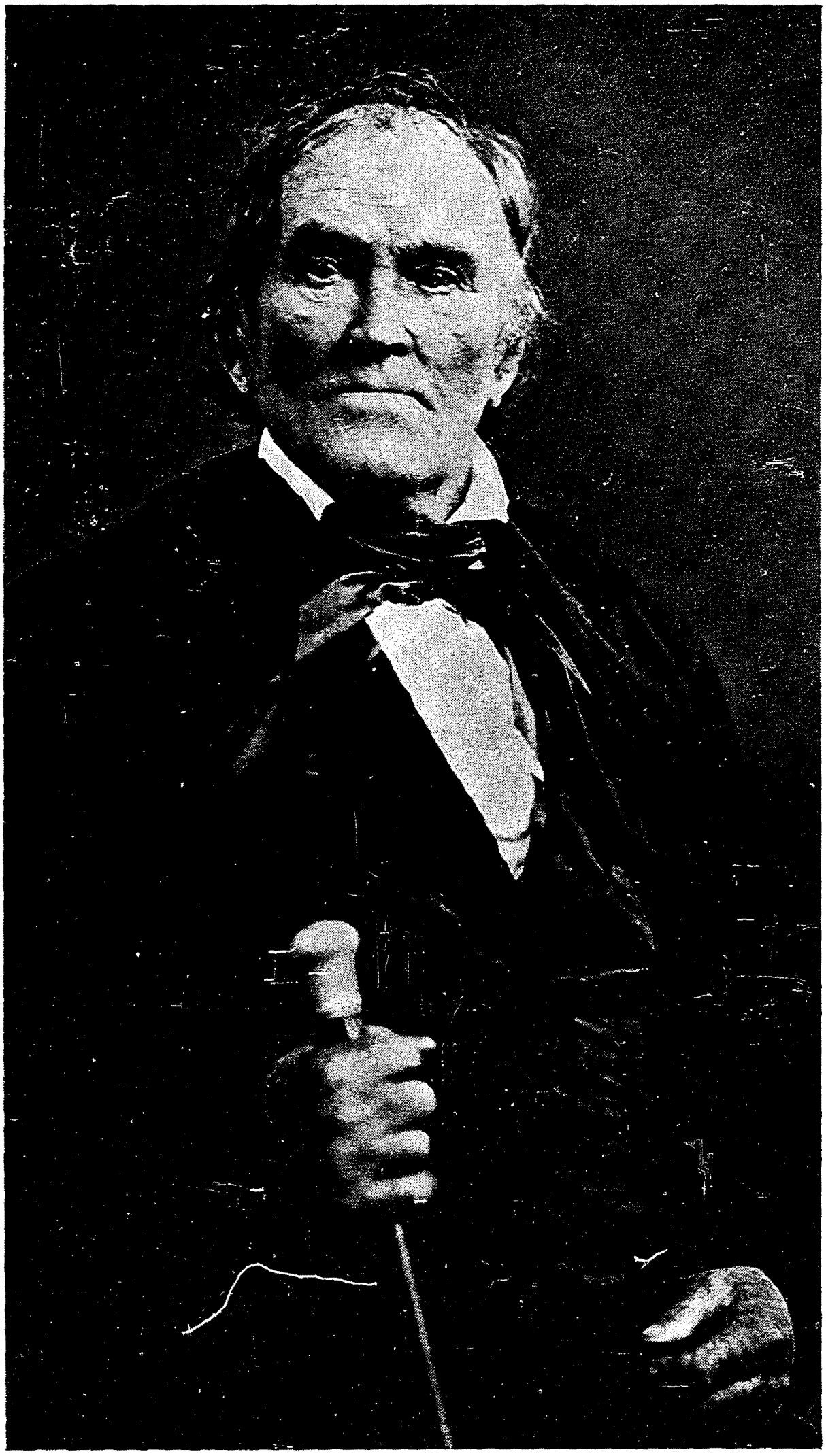

HENRY BRUCE, 1777-1855. At about the age of 67.

THE LIFE
OF
HENRY BRUCE

BY

H. T. MORGAN

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOUR

R. R. DONNELLEY & SONS COMPANY, THE LAKESIDE PRESS, CHICAGO, AND
CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

TO THE LIVING

GRANDCHILDREN OF HENRY BRUCE:

Lucinda Bruce Green

Charles Dudley

Henry Bruce Morgan

Woodson Morgan

Millard M. Morgan

Hattie Bruce Barnes

James Morgan

AND IN MEMORY OF HIS

FIFTY-EIGHT OTHER GRANDCHILDREN

WHO HAVE

ENTERED "THE LARGER LIFE"

PREFACE

THE life-story of Henry Bruce deserved delineation by a skilled workman. But after nearly eighty years, the task befell one of his many descendants who, lacking the ability properly to perform the work, has haltingly assembled certain available data.

"I will not make my tiger a cat to please anybody," exclaimed Boswell in a burst of impatience. In this portrayal of a pioneer Kentuckian, I have not consciously withheld a fact that might add to or subtract from his stature. All the rough threads will be found woven into the warp of the fabric. Writing in a day seeming to demand each shade of realism, I have tried not to forget that the truest view of biography was that expressed by Prosper Merimee, the French historian, who declared it to be the writer's duty to explain why a man was great and not wherein he fell short of greatness.

Any examination of family descent which confines itself largely to following the paternal name and line must be somewhat artificial and perhaps misleading. The strains brought into a family by successive marriages may be just as significant as the original blood. On the other hand, the ability to make a good marriage may be one of the signs of genius.

It has been observed that every book has many authors, although the title page names but one. I have been aided by members of each of the nine branches of the family of

Henry Bruce. During my life I have talked to several people who knew the man. So vividly did he impress himself upon those surrounding him that at least five short descriptive narratives were written, into which I have dipped unhesitatingly.

Thus I have been privileged to talk with, and to read the record left by, Wm. Pickett Bruce, (1832–1903).[1] That loyal grandson had reached the age of twenty-three when Henry Bruce died, and he devoted years of his life to searching into the family lore.

The sympathetic account[2] penned by a granddaughter, Alice Bruce Dudley Power, (1847-1918), has proved especially helpful. She knew Henry Bruce, lived her whole life in the Bruce neighborhood, and had an understanding of his environment. She was my mother's aunt and my father's cousin, and I saw her often.

George Stubblefield Bruce, (1800-1883), eldest child of Henry Bruce, left a letter[3] about his father.

The recollections of Lucinda Bruce Morgan Green, born in 1839, and now living in Los Angeles, have been given in her privately-published "Life Story." These and numerous suggestions by her have been valuable. She was fifteen when her grandfather died, and has maintained always a lively family interest. No one else knows so many Bruce descendants.

[1] Unpublished manuscript in possession of his niece, Lucy McIntyre Brown, Bronxville, N. Y.

[2] Copy furnished by James Morgan, Lynn, Mass.

[3] In possession of Iolene Ashton Hawkins, Flemingsburg, Ky.

As a boy and young man I had the opportunity of conversing with four of the daughters of Henry Bruce (Harriet, Eleanor, Ann, Lucinda), and with two of his sons-in-law.

The sixty-five recovered letters of Henry Bruce have proved invaluable. Twenty of these were written to Henry and Kitty Collins, the latter a half-sister of Henry Bruce. Credit is due the grandson of Kitty Collins, William Henry Collins, of Louisville, Ky., who forty years ago generously gave the letters to Henry Bruce's descendants.

Henry Bruce, Jr., second of the three sons of Henry Bruce, and who removed from the home county in the lifetime of his father, preserved nearly forty of the latter's letters, and nearly a hundred inter-family communications. These were contributed by his granddaughters, Mary Bruce Green Sharon, of Kansas City, Mo., and Pauline Bruce Alexander McLeod, of Raleigh, N. C.

I learned in 1932 of the existence of Henry Bruce letters, which had been written to Virginia cousins in 1852 and 1855. This led to knowledge of the relationship between two branches of the family and to delightful contacts. I am indebted to Malcolm Graham Bruce, of "Berry Hill," Halifax county, Va., for Henry Bruce letters of first importance, which were written to Malcolm Bruce's grandfather; to Bruce Williams Bruce,[1] who was kind in her assistance; and to Walter Bruce. During a stimulating visit

[1] Great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Bruce Williams, who was both first and second cousin of Henry Bruce.

of several days at beautiful "Berry Hill," I had access to old letter books, Bible records, hundreds of original letters, family charts, and books from a large library.

Louis D. Harper, of Richmond, Va., a third cousin of Henry Bruce, not only furnished a valuable Bruce letter written to his great aunt, but has rendered aid in many ways.

I wish to express my indebtedness to the late W. G. Stanard, for thirty-two years Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, at Richmond, who was a distant cousin of Henry Bruce.

Especially have I been assisted by seven Bruce genealogical articles published in "The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography." These were written, during a considerable period of years, by the first Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, and an eminent historian, Philip Alexander Bruce, who has recently passed away. He was a fourth cousin of Henry Bruce.

Officials assisting me in the Library of Congress, at Washington, and in the Genealogical Room of the New York Public Library, are gratefully recalled.

Henry Bruce Morgan and Woodson Morgan, both of Peoria, Illinois, knew their grandfather, the subject of this memoir, and have assisted with their personal recollections.

It is to James Morgan, of Lynn, Mass., the youngest Bruce grandchild and brother of the two men last named, that chief credit for this book is due. His interest in the

man (whom he never saw) has been unflagging. He encouraged the preparation, and assisted in printing two of the reminiscences mentioned. The first draft of the text of this book was read by him and nearly every page reflects the suggestions of this great-hearted man, the most gifted descendant of Henry Bruce.

To my wife, Lura Hancock Morgan, acknowledgment is made for her never-failing sympathy and for her careful reading of the completed manuscript and proofs.

To secure information I have several times visited the Virginia county where Henry Bruce was born and his former home in Kentucky.

As I am both a great-grandson and great-great-grandson of Henry Bruce, I may have overemphasized some phases of a life that to another may seem of small import. But I have enjoyed the challenging attempt to reconstruct an old period. The result, with its blemishes, is presented as a tribute to the memory of one whom Carlyle might have called "a true man."

H. T. M.

September, 1934
850 Moss Avenue,
Peoria, Illinois.

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FOREWORD

If I borrow a happy phrase from Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, it is to congratulate Harry Thomas Morgan on his success in gathering the fragments of fleece left long ago upon the hedges of life by a Kentucky pioneer, and on his skill in weaving those scattered tufts into this worthy memoir of his great-grandfather, my grandfather. Not in pride of rank or fortune do those who trace their descent from him cherish the memory of Henry Bruce. They treasure rather the rich spiritual heritage of his soul of honor, his example of courage, justice, kindliness and all uprightness. He was but a farmer, little known beyond the borders of his county; yet his strong, rounded character lives in a family tradition which has kept its colors vivid throughout the fourscore years since he lay down to rest in the soil he broke in his sturdy youth. For his was a frontier farm in the beginning when not yet a state had risen to the West of the Ohio river only a few miles away.

This record of a life well lived, a record diligently assembled and admirably set forth, has an interest beyond Henry Bruce's descendants. A library of such simple human documents would abound in true source material for the historian. We see moving across these pages a typical figure in the economy of a vanished civilization. We see him in the lingering twilight of a world whose way of life had changed less in eight centuries than it has since changed in eight decades of the machine age. He built his house of bricks burned on his place; he finished and furnished it

with the woods of his trees; he heated and lighted it with products of his own. . . . Like a patriarch of old, he dwelt among his children and kindred, and it has been said of him, I am not sure how correctly, that in a wide view of the countryside he could see from his front door none but the roofs of those bound to him by ties of blood or marriage. . . . With his slaves and his almost self-sufficing household, he raised not only their food but as well the flax and wool and silk with which they were clothed from his spindles. . . . At once farmer, manufacturer and merchant, we follow him, in this narrative, to his markets hundreds of miles away in Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and New Orleans over difficult roads or mere trails that were, in some stretches, impassable to a wheeled vehicle. . . . Within these covers lives again a type of the hardy breed that sired our country. The author of this book has contributed another footnote to the American epic.

JAMES MORGAN.

THE LIFE OF HENRY BRUCE

CHAPTER I

George Bruce (1640-1715)

All our past proclaims our future.
—*Swinburne.*

THE "Northern Neck" is one of the four peninsulas of Tidewater Virginia. One hundred miles long and about twenty miles wide, it lies between the tidal rivers, Potomac and Rappahannock, that were much employed during the early days of American settlement. Here, in a territory smaller than Long Island, were born Washington, Madison, Monroe, Thomas Marshall (father of the Chief Justice), Richard Henry and Thomas Lightfoot Lee, both signers of the Declaration of Independence; and Robert E. Lee. Families famed in our early annals were "seated" there, including the Balls, Carters, Lewises, Fitzhughs, Warners, Fauntleroys and Tayloes. In three of the six counties forming this elongated strip of countryside, Richmond, King George and Stafford, were the first known homes of the George Bruce family in Virginia.

Although the belief persisted for scores of years that members of this Scotch family, living in Virginia, Maryland and Kentucky, were descended from "James Bruce, the emigrant, friend and confidential agent of Governor Spotswood,"[1] evidence has been produced by the letters

[1]Alexander Spotswood (1676-1740); soldier; born of old Scotch family.

of Henry Bruce (whose life is described in this book), and by the researches of the late Philip Alexander Bruce,[1] that George Bruce, of Richmond county, was the first American ancestor. The family descended, it is believed, from Edward, Baron Bruce of Kinloss, who died in 1610, a favorite of James I of England and the founder of the distinguished Scottish families possessing the titles of Elgin and Aylesbury.[2]

George Bruce was born in 1640, and certain documents point to his early residence in Nansemond county, Virginia (near the mouth of the James). In 1668 he is known to have lived in what is now Richmond county, Virginia, residing first in Sittingbourne and later (when that division was formed) Farnham parish.[3] At that time he became the owner of a good-sized farm in old Rappahannock (Richmond) county, purchased from William Pierce.[4] His

Served under Marlborough; wounded at Blenheim; Governor of Virginia (1710-1722); first representative of British government in America to fully appreciate the value of the Western territory.

[1] Philip Alexander Bruce, L.L.D., L.L.B.; late of University, Va.; author of History of University of Virginia; Rise of the New South; Robt. E. Lee; Social Life in Virginia in the 17th Century; Corresponding Member of the Massachusetts Historical Society; Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society (1893-98), etc. Tyler's Mag. of Hist. & Biog. Jan. 1930, p. 217: "His industry has served as an inspiration to all workers in Virginia history"; Ib., Vol. 21, p. 252: "A great historian—his thoroughness seldom equaled and never surpassed."

[2] See Appendix A.

[3] These early parishes were civil divisions of a county. Thus, statements made by George Bruce, that he was of a certain parish, do not imply religious adherence.

[4] While facts concerning George Bruce are necessarily few, yet we know he could write his name at a time when more than forty per cent of the men who made deeds or served on juries could not boast of even

cattle-mark was recorded in 1672, and it is of record that he delivered an important message to Lord Culpeper, royal Governor at Williamsburg, about 1682. And he complained to the Governor concerning certain taxations in 1683.

Dying in 1715, at the age of seventy-five, George Bruce described himself in his will as "stricken in years." During his long life he had accumulated sufficient property to leave an estate to each of his six children.[1]

that meagre accomplishment. The literacy of the masses, especially of their women, was much lower.

[1] In Appendix A is given data and authorities bearing on George Bruce and the statements appearing in this chapter, together with an account of the children of George Bruce, excepting Charles, to whom Chapter II of this book is largely devoted.

CHAPTER II

Charles Bruce
Elizabeth Pannill

The old order changeth, yielding place to new.
—*Tennyson.*

UNTIL two letters of Henry Bruce, written early in 1855, were discovered in 1905, at "Berry Hill," in Halifax county, Virginia, neither the Virginia nor the Kentucky branches of the George Bruce family were cognizant of the given name of their great-great-grandfather Bruce, or of the maiden name of his wife. He was Charles Bruce, son of George, who died in 1715. Leaving a large family and dying in 1754, Charles was born probably prior to 1690. Living in King George county, he appears to have passed most of his life in Brunswick parish, and was a man of substance.[1] His wife, Elizabeth Pannill, was the daughter of William P. Pannill (born October 30th, 1738, in Orange county, Va.), and of Anne Morton Pannill (born October 20, 1764).[2]

[1] Va. Mag. of Hist. & Biog. XII, 4, 446, 453. Charles Bruce (d. 1754) is often called "Charles the elder," to distinguish him from his famed son bearing the same name.

[2] Spotsylvania Deed Books D and F, full abstracts being given in large volume issued by Fox, Duffield & Co., of New York. William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 16, p. 290. William P. Pannill, father of Elizabeth Pannill Bruce, was of a family that had long been one of importance in that part of colonial Virginia. William Pannill, Jr., a brother of Elizabeth Pannill, settled in Orange county, after marrying Sarah Bayly, of Urbanna, in

To Charles Bruce and Elizabeth Pannill Bruce were born five daughters: Frances, Elizabeth, Suzannah, Mary and Margaret.[1]

Charles and Elizabeth Bruce left two sons. One, Charles

1735. After the death of William Pannill, Jr., his widow married William Strother, and bore a daughter, who became the mother of General and President Zachary Taylor. A granddaughter of William Pannill, Jr., became the wife of William Bruce Banks. A son, William Pannill, married Marie Bruce Banks. A daughter of this couple was the mother of the famous Confederate cavalry leader, General J. E. B. Stuart.

A member of the same family of Pannills became President of the railroad now known as the Norfolk & Western. It was his daughter who married a son of Hill Carter, of Shirley. Another member of the Pannill family married Bishop Otey, of Tennessee, and it was the daughter of the Bishop who became the wife of Benjamin B. Minor, remembered as the Editor of the Southern Literary Messenger. Pannill genealogy appears in Va. Mag. of Hist. & Biog. Vol. 33, p. 327-30, July, 1925. Also The Hord Family of Virginia, by the Rev. A. H. Hord.

After the death of Charles Bruce, in 1754, Elizabeth Pannill Bruce became the third wife of John Grant, whose sister-in-law, Jane Watts, married Andrew Monroe, and was the grandmother of President James Monroe.

[1] Frances Bruce married Gerard Banks, Jr., member of a family prominent in the "Northern Neck" as early as the Seventeenth Century. One daughter of Frances Banks married Hening, the compiler of the Statutes. Other daughters were married to men named Spotswood and (Samuel) Slaughter. A son of Frances Banks owned well-known "Green Bank," of Stafford county. Another son was educated at the College of William and Mary, and served for many years as attorney for the Commonwealth in the Superior Court for the Halifax district.

Elizabeth Bruce married F. Bronaugh; Suzannah Bruce married Anthony Ficklin. Mary Bruce married Thomas James, a citizen of Fredericksburg, where he owned the valuable houses and sites known as the Long Ordinary; also lands in Spotsylvania county, and, in addition, a plantation of one thousand acres which he had purchased from Warner Washington. He died in Fauquier county, where he also owned property, appointing as executor his brother-in-law, Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest." Thomas James presented each of his daughters with a marriage portion, and required of both of their fathers-in-law that they settle good estates on their sons before he would consent to the marriages. To Thomas and Mary Bruce James were born two daughters. One of these, Mary, married Michael Robinson, Jr., from whose family Robinson river takes its name. The other, Agatha, married Richard Price.

Margaret Bruce died unmarried, in July, 1765.

The five daughters of Charles and Elizabeth Bruce, named in this chapter, were the paternal great-aunts of Henry Bruce.

Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," is described in a later chapter. The other son, William Bruce (paternal grandfather of Henry Bruce), was born in 1724, and operated with moderate success a plantation of three hundred acres. It was located on the Rappahannock, only a few rods from the county line in King George, now known as Stafford county, Va., about five miles from Fredericksburg.[1]

While little is known concerning the wife of William Bruce, her maiden name is stated to have been Banks. She was born and reared at "Springfield" plantation, in King George county, and may have been a relative.[2]

At the age of forty-seven, William Bruce served as a vestryman of Brunswick Parish church, King George county. The duties embraced secular, as well as religious, matters, including directing the work of the tithe collector, who levied upon every owner of land in the parish; the surveying and establishing of land boundaries; the relief of the poor, medical care of the indigent sick; maintenance of the blind and maimed. The vestrymen were also charged with the care of foundlings, with vagrants and the burial of the dead.

Serving at the same time with William Bruce, were Gerard Banks, a brother-in-law (died June 15, 1787);

[1] The well-known plantation, "Springfield," located nearby and consisting of 503 acres, was owned and operated by William's son, Charles Carey Bruce (1768-1845), remaining in the Bruce family for several generations.

[2] Written statement of Harriet Mason Hay, deceased, great-granddaughter of William Bruce and a second cousin of Henry Bruce. Original copy in possession of L. D. Harper.

David Bronaugh, possibly a Bruce connection; Wm. Newton; James Pollard; and Joseph Jones (an uncle of Monroe, and who represented King George county in the House of Burgesses, served in the Convention of 1776, and was a member of the Continental Congress of 1780-1783).

To William Bruce and his wife were born eight daughters, including Mary, Milly, Betsy, each unmarried; Margaret, married to Wm. H. Hay; Lucy, married to a Mr. Laing (no issue). There were also four sons—Robert, married first to Roberta Carey and later to a Miss Young (six children); Charles Carey, married first to Nancy Kenyon (two children), and later to Sarah Mason (six children); William, Jr., married first to a Miss Campbell and later to a Miss Gravatt (seven children); and George, father of Henry Bruce. All of the twelve children grew to maturity.

Through the letters of Henry Bruce, we know that William Bruce, Jr. enlisted in the American Revolution, was captured, and died in prison.[1] Robert Bruce removed to Caroline county, where he died in his thirtieth year, leaving a son, Charles Bruce, who settled in Stafford county, where he died in 1848, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, leaving one son and several daughters.

Charles Carey Bruce lived at "Springfield," near the

[1] In the Council Chamber, April 20, 1784, Benjamin Harrison certified that the late William Bruce (Junior) was entitled to the proportion of land allowed a sergeant of the Continental line for three years service. His representative, Robert Carey Bruce, was given Kentucky Military Warrant No. 2969 for 200 acres of land.

old William Bruce home place, surrounded by his large family.[1] Henry Bruce appears to have been in closest contact with this uncle and his children. As explained later, Lucy Bruce Laing and her unmarried sisters, Milly and Betsy, went to Kentucky to live with their nephew, Henry, when they approached old age.

[1] The tomb of Charles Carey Bruce is still preserved in the family burial ground on the farm.

CHAPTER III

Maternal Ancestry

Happy he with such a mother.
—Tennyson.

AMONG the immigrant ancestors of Henry Bruce on the maternal side was Robert Beverley, who was born in the town of Beverley, in York, England, on March 16th, 1632, where the family was an old and respected one.[1] Beginning his Virginia residence in 1663, or earlier, in Middlesex, he was soon elected to the House of Burgesses; was in 1670 appointed Clerk, and was long a faithful and useful officer, becoming one of the leading men of the colony, and standing as high with the Governor as with the House, where he possessed great influence. He became a Member of Council in 1676. He was also a courageous and active soldier as Major in the Colonial Militia.

Major Robert Beverley married Mary Keeble, who was born in 1637, and who died June 1, 1678, leaving the following children: Peter, Robert, Harry, Mary, William Jones. The will of the father, Major Robert Beverley, was filed August 26th, 1686, in Middlesex courthouse, and fills four printed pages.[2] It disposed of a considerable estate, for its owner had possessed title to at least fifty thousand

[1] Burke's Landed Gentry.

[2] Va. Mag. of Hist. and Biog. Vol. 3, p. 47-51.

acres of land, in seven counties and much other property.[1]

Peter, the eldest son of Major Robert Beverley, was the father of William Beverley, born in 1698, who married Elizabeth Bland. William erected "Blandfield," in Essex county. Dying in 1756, he left an immense estate amounting to $1,500,000, when translated into present-day values. One of his sons, Robert, was educated in England. He received $500,000 from his father's estate, and owned hundreds of slaves. Suzannah, daughter of Peter Beverley, and sister of Robert, married Sir John Randolph, who was educated at the College of William and Mary, and at The Temple, in London.

Robert, the second son of Major Robert Beverley, married Ursula Byrd, daughter of Col. Wm. Byrd, who erected "Westover," and who was the founder of the city of Richmond. Ursula Byrd Beverley died shortly after her marriage.

The third son, Captain Harry Beverley,[2] maternal great-great-grandfather of Henry Bruce, was born in Middlesex, and inherited 1600 acres in Rappahannock county, much of it improved. He was a justice of his home county, and, like his famous father, a soldier, being a Captain in the Colonial Militia, and also a Member of the Council.

[1] Probably no list, including as many as twenty of the great families of Virginia, could be formed that would not contain the name of Beverley. Linked with the Lees, Harrisons, Randolphs, Byrds, Masons, Cabells, Fairfaxes, Fitzhughs and Carters, would appear the name of that ancient Virginia family, whose descendants today include the Robinsons, Stanards and Chews.

[2] Va. Mag. of Hist. and Biog. Vol. 3, p. 169-176.

In June, 1716, Spotswood commissioned him to take a sloop and proceed to the Bahamas after pirates. Captain Harry married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Smith, of "Brandon," Middlesex, and granddaughter of Major General Robert Smith, long a Member of the Council, who died in 1687, and who built the great home just named, which is today probably the best known Virginia mansion located below the James. In 1720, Captain Harry Beverley moved to Spotsylvania county, living at "Newlands," dying in 1730. His wife inherited "Brandon," and a large estate.

Elizabeth, daughter of Captain Harry Beverley, in 1709, married Col. Wm. Randolph, Jr., of "Turkey Island." He was a son of Col. Wm. Randolph, of the same place, who came to Virginia in 1609, and was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1618. Later, in 1729, Elizabeth Randolph married Wm. Stanard.[1]

Mary, another daughter of Captain Beverley, married Larkin Chew, and became the ancestor of Beverley Chew, of New York City, beloved of all book collectors. Still another sister, Judith, married Reverend Rodhan Kenner.

Robert, the only son of Harry Beverley, married Ann, daughter of Wm. Stanard, who inherited a large estate, including "Newlands."

[1] The late Wm. G. Stanard, author of various books and, for thirty-two years, Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, and editor of its quarterly publication: "The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography," was a descendant of Elizabeth Beverley Randolph Stanard. The only other person ever filling the posts named was Philip Alexander Bruce, both being distant cousins of Henry Bruce.

The will of Captain Harry Beverley, filed at Spotsylvania courthouse, has been printed.[1] His remaining daughter is mentioned in the will, as follows: "I give to my daughter, Catherine, 1000 acres of land out of my Pamunkey tract, to be laid off next above her sister Judith's land, on the river, as near equal as may be."

Catherine Beverley, born December 7, 1708, married the first George Stubblefield, before 1742, and they were the great-grandparents of Henry Bruce. After the birth of five sons, George (eldest), Henry, Beverley, Robert and Peter Stubblefield, the father died on September 1st, 1751. The will of "George Stubblefield, gent.," was proved on September 11th, 1751, in Spotsylvania county, the executors being his brother, Thomas Stubblefield; his wife, Catherine Stubblefield; and his friend, Major Rice Curtis, Jr.[2]

The will of Catherine Beverley Stubblefield was proved April 14th, 1778, the executors being her sons Harry and Robert, and Oliver Towles. The legatees were George, Harry and Robert. She remembered also her granddaughters, Catherine, daughter of Robert; and Suzannah, daughter of George.[3]

[1] Va. Mag. of Hist. and Biog., p. 170-172.

[2] The first George Stubblefield appears to have been a building construction contractor. The Journal of the House of Burgesses, 1742-47, p. 332, shows that the building of the chapel was let to George Stubblefield.

[3] Under the title: "Major Robert Beverley and His Descendants," by Wm. G. Stanard, an elaborate genealogy appears in the Va. Mag. of Hist. and Biog., beginning Vol. 2, p. 405; Vol. 3, p. 47, 169, 261, 383; Vol. 20, p. 213, 332, 437; Vol. 21, p. 97, 212, 305; Vol. 22, p. 102, 297.

George Stubblefield, Jr., father of Henry Bruce's mother, and eldest son of George Stubblefield, Sr. and Catherine Beverley Stubblefield, was born prior to 1745; became a cadet in the militia regiment of Col. Andrew Stevens in 1762; Captain of Militia in 1769; High Sheriff of Spotsylvania county; a Vestryman of St. Georges; Member of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1772-3-4-5, a historic period in which the sessions of that body were made forever memorable by the silent leadership of Washington and the eloquence of Patrick Henry.

In the Revolution, George Stubblefield, after having been a Member of the Council in 1774, became a member of the Committee of Safety in 1775; was made a member of the House of Delegates in 1776 and, two years prior to the close of the War for Independence, was appointed Colonel of Virginia Militia, in the Revolutionary Army.

The account of an unusual march from Spotsylvania county that George Stubblefield made as Captain of a Company of Minute Men, is to be seen among the records at Richmond. Likewise, the curious may read the Orderly Book of Col. Stubblefield's regiment (the 5th Virginia).[1]

At the close of the Revolution, the 1783 tax books showed that Col. Stubblefield possessed 1243 acres and 42 slaves. He was the father of three sons, Benjamin, Morris, George[2]; and three daughters, Frances, Suzannah and

[1] Published in Vol. VI of the "Collections of the Virginia Historical Society," p. 95.

[2] "I had an old uncle then (1811) living there (Orange county), named George Stubblefield, and from his general character, I expect he lived

Mary (possibly others).[1] The Colonel died about 1790.

Frances Stubblefield (often referred to by Henry Bruce as "Aunt Bruce"), became the second wife of Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," before 1772, and the mother of Elizabeth Bruce, who married General James Williams. From that union have come hundreds of descendants, including men prominent in the army and professional life.

Suzannah Stubblefield (the "Aunt Pollard" of Henry Bruce's letters) married Captain Robert Pollard, of Richmond, where she lived until her death in 1833. Their eldest daughter (and own cousin of Henry Bruce), Ellen Hackley Pollard, married in 1795, Howell Lewis, the son of Fielding Lewis and Betty Washington Lewis, the latter the only sister of George Washington.[2]

and died without an enemy. He had few children. I heard that one of General Williams' (only son-in-law of Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest") sons married his daughter."—Letter from Henry Bruce to James Coles Bruce, Feb. 21, 1855.

[1] Vol. I, 1926, The Researcher, p. 55, founded on information from the Va. Hist. Society. Revised Edition of Heitman, p. 526, gives the Revolutionary side of Col. Stubblefield's activity: Captain of the 5th, Virginia, Feb. 12, 1776; Major, April 1, 1777; Colonel of Virginia Militia, 1780-81. During the Revolution the Stubblefields lived in Culpeper county, Va.

[2] Howell Lewis, born in 1771, was the youngest son of Col. Fielding Lewis and Betty Washington Lewis. The latter was the only sister of George Washington. They erected beautiful "Kenmore," in Fredericksburg, now exquisitely restored and opened as a national shrine. The home was frequently visited by George Washington. In 1792, Howell Lewis served his uncle, then in the fifth year of the presidency, as private secretary, at the early age of 21, succeeding in that post his brother, Robert Lewis. Three years later, he married Ellen Pollard.

In his diary, Washington mentions both Howell Lewis and his wife. Thus, he records that they arrived at Mt. Vernon on a visit, November 29th, 1799, and remained until their departure on December 9th. This stay of ten days is notable in that Mr. and Mrs. Howell Lewis were the last house guests entertained by Washington, who was taken ill on December 12th and passed away on December 14th, 1799. (Diaries Vol. 4, p. 318-9).

Mary Stubblefield married George Bruce, the short-lived son of William Bruce, and she became in 1777 the mother of Henry Bruce.

Howell Lewis was affectionately named as one of the twenty-three legatees, by Washington's will. (Prussing's "Estate of George Washington," p. 21, 64). At the public sales made by the Executors of Washington, held from time to time from 1800 through 1803, Howell Lewis purchased various small parcels from the home, Mt. Vernon; also a mare and mule colt, $135.; two gray mules, $226. (Ditto, p. 451-455). The last items indicate that he contemplated country life.

On June 5, 1805, Howell Lewis met with the other beneficiaries, at Alexandria, and drew lots for his share of the lands "lying on the Western waters," receiving as his portion, Lot No. 17, in what is now Mason county, West Virginia, consisting of 1531 acres of fine bottom soil, lying on the Great Kanawha river, between Big Buffalo and Little Buffalo creeks.

Howell and Ellen Lewis in 1812 moved to this land and lived there at least until the former died, which event occurred prior to 1826, since in that year Ellen Lewis received $866. from the Washington Executors, as Admx. of Howell Lewis—(ditto, p. 361).

The estate of Howell Lewis lay about fifteen miles from the Ohio river, about thirty miles above Charleston, and about twenty miles from Gallipolis, Ohio. The villages of Grims Landing (pop. 70), Robertsburg (pop. 138), Buffalo (pop. 316), now appear to be located directly on or near the Lewis land. Washington visited his holdings on the Kanawha, in November, 1770.

Lot 18, directly adjoining the Lewis property, of 2,223 acres, was drawn by Samuel Washington. In *National Geographic Magazine*, Jan. 1932, p. 32, may be seen a picture of "Homewood," the home of Samuel Washington, located in vicinity. Adjoining Lot 18 was Lot No. 19, a tract of 3,110 acres, which fell to Lawrence A. Washington.

Although there were seven executors of Washington's estate, the active work from the first devolved upon one of them, Lawrence Lewis (brother of Howell Lewis), who married Nelly Custis, granddaughter of Martha Washington, and who had been reared from infancy by Washington. In March, 1806, the Washington Executors declared a dividend out of sales and collections to that date, of $5,179. to each legatee.

A daughter of Howell and Ellen Pollard Lewis, became Mrs. Frances Lewis Gwathney, of Richmond, Va.

George Bruce, of Sparta, named his first child, Lucien Pollard, after his maternal aunt.

Henry Bruce specifically mentioned the marriage of Howell Lewis to his cousin, Ellen Hackley Pollard, in a letter of Feb. 22, 1855.

CHAPTER IV

Birth

'Tis fortune gives us birth,
But Jove alone endures the soul with worth.
—*Pope.*

GEORGE BRUCE, son of William Bruce, and father of Henry Bruce, probably was born after 1749. It is believed that he visited "Soldier's Rest" while a young man and there met Mary Stubblefield.[1] She was the younger sister of his aunt-by-marriage, the second wife of Charles Bruce and the "Aunt Bruce" who lived far into the Nineteenth Century.[2] George would be welcome at the residence of his only paternal uncle and it is likely that the latter's home on the Rapidan frequently was filled with guests. George Bruce and Mary Stubblefield became engaged and were married in 1775 or 1776.[3]

The War of the Revolution had begun, bringing harsh times to young men and women struggling to obtain a foothold in what still seemed a new country. The couple occupied a small plantation in Stafford county which was operated with the assistance of two or three slaves.[4] The

[1] Date of birth now unknown. Died April 13, 1818.

[2] This "Aunt Bruce" is several times mentioned in the letters of Henry Bruce.

[3] "My father, George Bruce, married Mary Stubblefield, a sister of Frances Stubblefield, second wife of Charles Bruce," (of Soldier's Rest)—From letter of Henry Bruce to James Coles Bruce, Feb. 21, 1855.

[4] One of these, "Winny," was a part of the dowry brought by the bride.—Statement of Henry Bruce, Jan. 7, 1819.

youthful husband lived only about three years after his marriage, and it has been impossible to learn much concerning him, or to determine the site of his home.

The first child was born to George and Mary on October 30th, 1777,[1] thirteen days after the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, while news of the widespreading conflict was on every tongue. The parents named their baby Henry.[2]

One year later, in October, 1778, a dark period in the colonists' struggle for liberty, the father, George Bruce, died, apparently at the age of about twenty-six, and was buried in the private burial ground of his father, William Bruce, Sr.,[3] who was appointed administrator of the property. The widow, Mary Stubblefield Bruce, returned to her family in Culpeper. With her went her infant son, Henry. On January 28, 1779, she became the mother of a second son, whom she named George for his deceased father.

After a suitable interval, when Mary Bruce was able to travel, she returned to Stafford county to receive her portion of the estate left by her husband. After the belongings had been appraised, the widow, on October 18th, 1780, was awarded possession of the following items—

[1] This was the year famed in history as "the three sevens."

[2] On December 4, 1764, Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest" had named his second son Henry. (The first son was the famed James Bruce.)

[3] Note location of cemetery in Chapter V.

Bed and furniture.....	550	tobacco pounds [1]
Desk	100	tobacco pounds
Looking glass.....	37	tobacco pounds
	687	tobacco pounds

She also received "One negro wench, Winny,[2] valued at 2,500 tobacco pounds," and the appraisers[3] agreed that she was to have a further sum of 395 pounds, or a total of 3,582 tobacco pounds.[4]

Shortly afterward the remainder of the property was advertised for public sale, and the auction was held on December 10th, 1780. The record may be read today in the Stafford county Courthouse.[5] A number of the items there listed are here given, and in three instances the amount they brought is recorded in tobacco pounds—

Ten sheep
Two horses and a mare
Seventeen hogs
Bed and furnishings
Five flag chairs
Delft dishes
Loom chest
Rawhides
Cow, to Joseph Bruce, 200 pounds
One pair sad irons, to Mary Bruce

[1] A tobacco pound at that time appears to have equaled about 9c but varied, some authorities estimating it at more.

[2] Winny lived to old age, becoming the mother of Betsy, Rachel and Charlotte, all of whom (Henry Bruce said) "were born on Roanoke."

[3] The three appraisers were Nathan Fox, Wm. Alexander, Wm. Ball. (Eighteen years later, in November, 1798, the latter also served as one of the four commissioners appointed to finally settle the estate of George Bruce).

[4] That roughly constituted the widow's dower of one-third.

[5] Stafford County Deed Book, 1780, p. 244.

Several fat pots and soap jars
Square pine table, to Wm. Bruce, Jr.—325 pounds
Spinning wheel, to Wm. Bruce, Jr.—401 pounds.

A total of forty-seven lots were sold. As the proceeds of the property were to be placed in trust until the eldest boy, Henry, would be of age, an appraisal was attached, showing these amounts: Negroes, 6,650 pounds[1]; property sold that day, 2,789 pounds; by previous allowance to Mary Bruce, 687 pounds. Total, 10,126 tobacco pounds.[2]

Henry Bruce was much too young at the passing of his father to remember him. His mother remarried[3] when he was four years of age and moved to Botetourt county, Va. He then began to look upon himself as "a poor destitute orphan."[4] From his letters, it appears that he lived with his step-father and mother at least a year. While the kindness of his mother was genuine, it is suspected that the new master in the home did not relish the task of rearing her two young boys. Probably some inkling of the situation came to the ear of Aunt Frances Bruce who, in turn, may have suggested to her husband that they add his great-nephew, who was also her sister's son, to the household of "Soldier's Rest."

[1] At his decease George Bruce appears to have owned three or more adult slaves, these constituting the major portion of his small holdings. Excepting Winny, they were probably indentured to responsible men for a period of eighteen years, with privilege of purchase.

[2] The amount reserved for the two Bruce sons was augmented considerably during the period prior to the ultimate distribution of the estate in 1798.

[3] To Hugh Morrison, in 1781.

[4] Statement of Henry Bruce, Feb. 22, 1855.

CHAPTER V

At "Soldier's Rest"

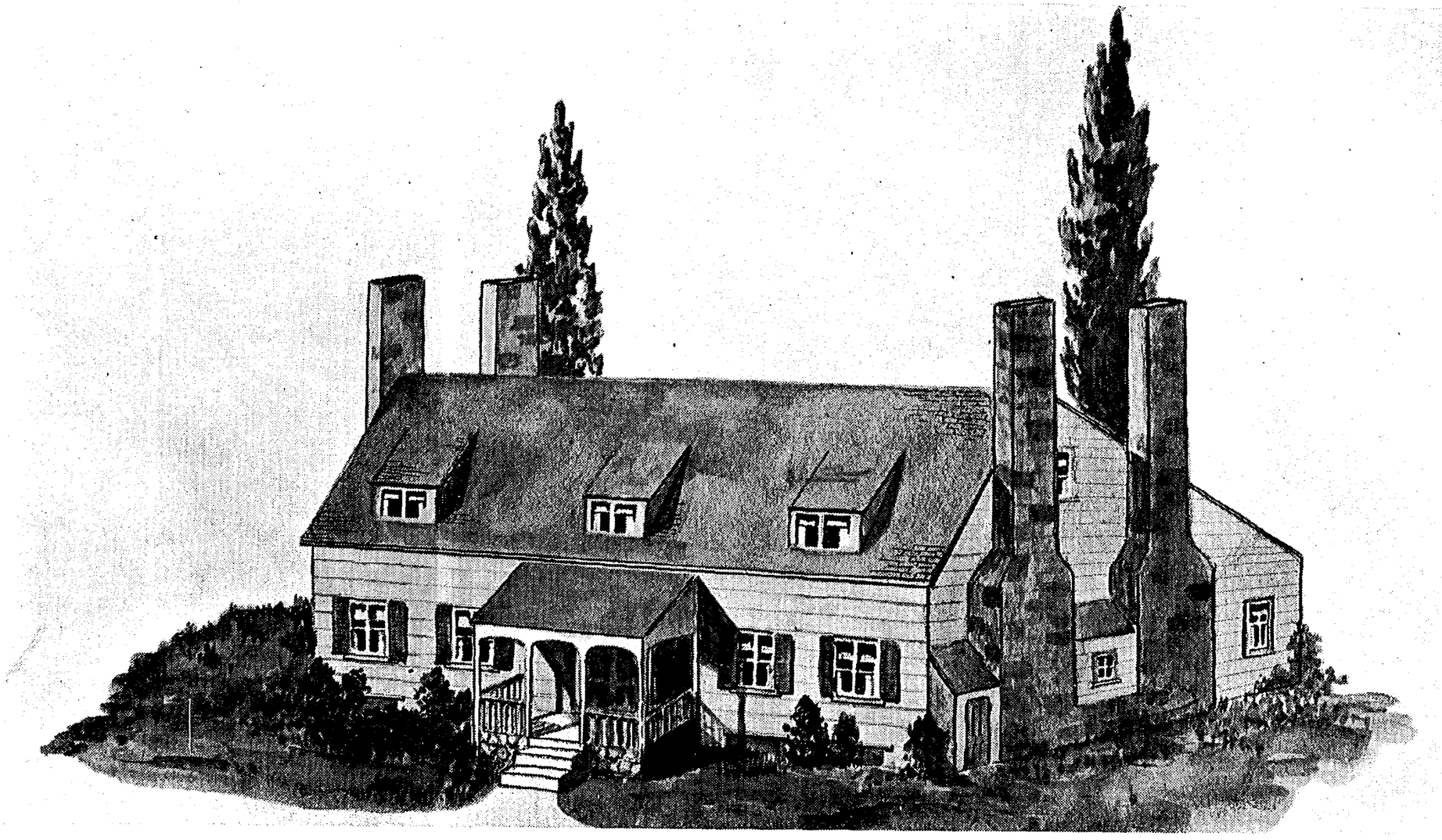
Just at the age 'twixt boy and youth,
When thought is speech, and speech is truth.
—*Scott.*

THE only brother of Henry Bruce's grandfather, William Bruce, Sr., was Charles Bruce, who was probably born prior to 1715. For, when a young man, he borrowed a horse and went to see Alexander Spotswood, who had been Governor of Virginia (1710-1722), and who died in 1740. That seasoned man of business, head of important enterprises, recognized merit in his visitor, appointing him to the position of overseer, and he paid him one hundred pounds sterling annually from the beginning of the second year of his employment.[1] Why Charles Bruce chose to go to Spotswood is not known, but the latter was a Scotsman and might be expected to warm to a likely youngster bearing a name possessing quick appeal to sons of Scotia.[2]

Prospering in the years that followed, Charles Bruce purchased from the executors of Gov. Spotswood, a large and valuable farm in Orange county, Virginia. It was situated midway between the towns of Charlottesville, Culpeper and Fredericksburg. Thus it was about ninety miles

[1] Statement of Henry Bruce, Feb. 22, 1855, who heard the story direct from Charles Bruce, prior to 1790.

[2] Junkin, an authority, states that Spotswood descended from King Robert, the Bruce, tracing descent through ten distinct lines.



"Soldier's Rest." Home of Charles Bruce, great-uncle of Henry Bruce, where the latter lived between the ages of 5 to 12.

from the future city of Washington and eighty miles from Richmond. It was near Raccoon Ford on the Rapidan, and there Charles erected a dwelling, probably about the year 1755, certainly long before the Revolution, and it was looked upon in its time as a fine establishment. The nails used in its construction were made by hand of wrought iron, probably in a shop on the estate by one of the owner's smiths. The structure was of quaint Colonial design, with long sloping roof, narrow porch and tall chimneys at either end,[1] and it was inhabited until burned to the ground in 1857.

A great-grandson has suggested that the name of "Soldier's Rest," given to the residence, suggested military tastes, and it is thought that its owner was the same Charles Bruce who enlisted at Winchester, Va. in 1754, for the French and Indian War. He served as Captain in the Revolution and received for his services a grant of land.[2] The farm at "Soldier's Rest" had about two hundred head of livestock and there appear to have been forty-seven slaves on it. The final value of the personalty, as shown by the records, was, in modern values, about $25,000.[3]

Charles Bruce first wedded Diana Banks, who was possibly a relative.[4] Two sons of that marriage survived, the

[1] After the passing of Charles Bruce, "Soldier's Rest" was occupied by his widow and finally by her daughter, Elizabeth Bruce Williams. The original foundation may still be seen.

[2] Records, Register's Office, Richmond, Va.

[3] This description of "Soldier's Rest" closely follows that given by P. A. Bruce, in his series of Bruce genealogical articles.

[4] Frances, the sister of Charles Bruce, married Gerard Banks.

famed James (1763-1837), eldest, and Charles, born in 1768; the latter never married. After the death of his first wife, Charles Bruce married Frances Stubblefield of the family described in a preceding chapter, and an elder sister of the mother of Henry Bruce. This was after 1769, but prior to 1772. From that union one child survived, a daughter Elizabeth, born in 1777, who married General James Williams.

Young Henry Bruce went to live at "Soldier's Rest" late in 1782, when he was five years old, and that remained his home for six years. In that time he received most of his schooling, under a teacher named John Goolrick.[1] Samuel Pannill, a cousin, then nearly grown, was enrolled in the same school. Later, Cousin Samuel, when living in Campbell county, became one of the Virginia correspondents of Henry Bruce, an exchange of letters continuing for over fifty years.[2]

The mistress of "Soldier's Rest" was apparently kind to her younger sister's son, for more than forty years afterward he is found repeatedly inquiring about her. Henry regarded his great-uncle, Charles Bruce, as a second father, and the only father he knew. He shared a room with his second cousin, Charles Bruce, who was his senior by nine years, and occasionally saw James Bruce, the eldest son of

[1] Ancestor of the distinguished Goolrick family of Fredericksburg, a native of Ireland, a famous mathematician and, during many years, the headmaster of a well-known academy in Fredericksburg.

[2] Samuel Pannill was the owner of "Green Hill," one of the most interesting homes and estates in that part of Virginia.

the family, who was nineteen when Henry arrived at "Soldier's Rest," and who had then for two years been in Petersburg, more than a hundred miles away, where he was beginning a business career which continues to be remembered in Virginia.

When Henry was nearing twelve years of age, in January, 1789, he went to live with his grandfather, William Bruce. The grandfather was then sixty-five years of age. We do not know whether his wife was then alive, but it is probable that several of the eight daughters were at home, for the marriage of but two of them is today known.

Henry Bruce remained with his grandfather, probably continuing his school studies, during 1789, 1790, 1791 and the Spring of 1792. It is believed, since "the boy is father to the man," that he was an exceptional youth and that he elicited the pride of an old man sorrowing because of the early death of a favorite son.[1]

In 1790, Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," died while on a visit at Fredericksburg (which city was but five miles distant from his brother William's home), and was buried there. About a year afterward his eldest son, James, then a young man of twenty-three, visited his only paternal uncle, in Stafford county, partly for the purpose of a con-

[1] The William Bruce farm was sold by him in 1791 to Wm. Ball, who owned 100 acres adjoining. Mr. Ball sold 71 acres of the William Bruce land (containing the William Bruce family burial ground), to a Mr. Monteith, and the latter sold in turn to a Mr. Bowie, and it was inherited by Mrs. Sullivan, a granddaughter of the purchaser, and who now occupies it, living in a small cottage, which is located quite near the site of the now destroyed home of William Bruce, and of the Bruce cemetery.

sultation, as he hoped to arrange to disinter the body of his father and remove it to Orange county. But the difficulties were many, and he accepted the advice of Uncle William, and did not proceed with his filial project.

William Bruce passed away in August, 1792, and his home was soon broken up, which thrust upon the fifteen-year-old grandson, Henry (now bereft of father and grandfather), a problem that the lad solved with the daring and tenacity that proved characteristic of him through the more than sixty years that followed.

CHAPTER VI

The Beginning

'Tis not in mortals to command success,
But we'll do more, Sempronius,—we'll deserve it.
—*Addison.*

DANIEL BOONE first visited Kentucky in 1767, calling it "a second Paradise." Directly following the successful conclusion of the Revolution, settlers in Kentucky became numerous and emigration from Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina began filling the beautiful blue-grass country. While some made their way thither by the Ohio river, the larger number went by way of Cumberland Gap and the "Wilderness Road," as marked by Daniel Boone in 1775. That began at Inglis's Ferry on the New river, in what is now West Virginia, and proceeded West by South to the Gap.

The Kentucky of 1793 abounded in deer, elk, geese, ducks, turkeys and partridges. There were some bears, panthers, lynx, wolves, foxes and many beavers, otters, mink, raccoons, rabbits, woodchucks, opossums and skunks. The streams were inhabited by trout, perch, buffalo-fish, sunfish, mullet, eels and suckers. In the North-eastern section were found oak, maple, beech, chestnut, elm, "yellow poplar," walnut, pine and cedar trees. Locust, pawpaw, cucumber, buckeye, black mulberry and wild cherry trees also were common, with the wild grape, rasp-

berry, strawberry and other fruits frequently found.

The Indians had not yet retreated so far, nor were the atrocities so remote, that fear of them had ceased.

After the death of his grandfather, Henry Bruce went to live in Botetourt county, Virginia, where he joined his brother under the somewhat inhospitable roof of Hugh Morrison. This stepfather, now with children of his own,[1] probably could ill afford the support of the two boys.

The stepsons heard plans discussed around the log fire, during the Winter of 1792-3, which stirred the ire of the elder. It was proposed that George, now fourteen, should learn to become a saddler and, for that purpose, was apprenticed to a competent harness maker. It isn't clear what trade was suggested for Henry, who did not mention the matter in any of the letters that we possess. His grandson, William Pickett Bruce, stated that he was taken to some place where he remained a single night. Accounts agree that in the Spring following the passing of his grandfather, Henry Bruce took a horse, saddle and bridle from his mother's stable and, with a few pieces of gold in his pocket, left Virginia.

How the boy Bruce met Benjamin Threlkeld, then residing in Frederick county, Virginia, is not known. To him the Threlkelds were perhaps simply one of the Virginia families expecting to go to Kentucky before the frost was out of the ground, and when the long journey by wagons

[1] The children of Hugh Morrison and Mary Bruce Morrison included: James; Thomas; Hugh, Jr.; Lewis; Sally.

could be successfully made. It would be interesting to know how he persuaded his future father-in-law to permit him to join the party, for ugly legal consequences might have attended discovery of the venture. Threlkeld would be subject to prosecution for encouraging and aiding a minor in running from home. Possibly the youth's mother, secretly pleased because of his spirit and enterprise, connived at the escape. Or, one of the Threlkeld sons or daughters may have taken an interest in the fatherless boy.[1]

Henry Bruce, now between fifteen and sixteen years of age, cautiously followed the Western trail. He discreetly kept out of view of the protecting caravan by day, but ate and slept in the Threlkeld camp at night. On arrival in Northeastern Kentucky he had but three French crowns.

It was Springtime and he had no difficulty in obtaining employment on farms in Mason and Fleming counties, at a wage of 25c a day. Long afterward one of his older grandsons, who knew something of the conditions under which Henry Bruce began, musingly pointed out that danger lurked on many sides, but that the powerfully-built youngster, giving little heed to possible trouble, and knowing nothing of the ten-hour rule of the next generation, toiled fourteen hours or longer each day. To Henry Bruce, a day, his grandson continued, "meant from sunrise to sunset."

[1] A brief account of the meeting of Henry Bruce and Eleanor Threlkeld appears in the Va. Mag. of Hist. & Biog., Oct. 1903, p. 198. The eleven Threlkeld children were all born in Virginia and accompanied their parents on this pilgrimage. While the eldest daughter, Eleanor, was nearly the age of her future husband, several of the brothers were older. Thus John Threlkeld was 25; William 22; Daniel 20 years of age.

We unfortunately have no account of the years 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, when Henry Bruce was passing through the interesting period between his sixteenth and twentieth birthday. But his entire remaining life appears to show that he was ceaselessly engaged during that formative season in useful labor,—interspersed possibly with additional attendance at school.

We may imagine him now engaged in learning his new trade: that of farming. But he may have also studied other points in the economy of a new country, for manhood did not find him content to confine his industry to a single employment.

He studied the soil. He noted the value of rotating the crops. The exceptional fertility of the land impressed itself upon his keen observation. He became enthusiastic over the broad opportunities ahead, and gained a love for his new-found home that was never to lag.

He seems to have persuaded his stepfather and mother to follow him to the new El Dorado, for we find Hugh and Mary Morrison soon living in Fleming county, Kentucky.

Saving almost every penny of income during these years, Henry Bruce decided to invest in a small farm. A purchase of improved acreage was impossible because of the cost. He sought timber land that would be well within the blue-grass district. Making a down payment on a purchase of fifty acres of uncleared Fleming county ground from John Prather, he soon began the arduous task of removing the

trees. There was no market for the wood, as there were then no saw mills in that section of the state. In that early time land titles were imperfect and he was to later find that he would pay three times for his land.

The location of this first portion of what was to grow into a good-sized estate was on Johnson creek, a fork of the Licking river, between Nepton and Johnson, Kentucky, the nearest villages being Elizaville and Flemingsburg.

CHAPTER VII

Marriage

You are my true and honorable wife,
As dear to me as are the ruddy drops
That visit my sad heart.—Shakespeare.

FROM the age of fifteen, Henry Bruce saw much of Eleanor Threlkeld, only a few months younger.[1] They lived in the same neighborhood. During the journey West the youthful adventurers became friends, and perhaps mutual hardships in the wilderness turned the friendship into an attachment that resulted in a proposal of marriage. On January 11, 1798, less than five years after leaving Virginia, while Washington was coming to the end of his great life

[1] Eleanor Threlkeld (born May 15, 1778) was the eldest daughter of Benjamin Threlkeld (born about 1744), who, Circa 1766, married Ann, a daughter of James and Ellen Booth (born Nov. 24, 1749), both having been born in King George county, Va. Her paternal grandfather was William, son of Christopher Threlkeld, the latter known to have been in Virginia in 1695, and whose will is recorded in Northumberland county, Va., dated February 10, 1710. He was probably born in Cumberland, England. Benjamin and Ann Booth Threlkeld moved their family from Virginia to Kentucky early in 1793. Eleanor Threlkeld had four brothers: John, b. Oct. 15, 1767; William, b. Sept. 5, 1769; Daniel, b. 1773; James, and six sisters: Lydia, b. June 4, 1780; Lucy, b. Sept. 5, 1782; Ruth, b. Dec. 22, 1784; Nancy, b. May, 1787; Elizabeth, b. Aug. 1789; Margaret, b. Dec. 13, 1791. All the children were born in Virginia. A complete account is to be found in "The Threlkeld Genealogy," 336 p., issued in 1933 by Col. H. L. Threlkeld, U. S. A. (great-grandson of Daniel Threlkeld, brother of Eleanor Bruce), Morganfield, Ky. The will of Benjamin Threlkeld, father of Eleanor, bore date of March 27, 1793, and was probated Jan. 1794. (Will Book, p. 45, Maysville, Ky.) The will of his wife, Ann Booth Threlkeld, was dated Oct. 25, 1825. Benjamin Threlkeld is buried in Burnt Hill Meeting House cemetery, Mason county, Ky.; Ann Booth Threlkeld is buried in the Bruce family graveyard, Fleming county, Ky.

at Mt. Vernon, and when Napoleon had returned to Paris with the conquest of Italy, Henry Bruce wed Eleanor Threlkeld. It is probable that the mother of Henry Bruce, his stepfather, Hugh Morrison, and his half-sister Kitty, then living in Fleming county, attended the wedding.

Some of the garments worn by the youthful groom (who had not attained his majority) were made by the bride. He had raised the flax on his own ground, which she hackled, spun, wove and bleached. Each stitch was taken by her young fingers, since the sewing machine was a generation away.

Benjamin Threlkeld's present to his daughter included a horse, a cow and two hogs. The bride received from her mother a large feather bed, a bolster, pillows, two home-made woolen blankets and counterpanes; she also was given chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys. From Eleanor's hope chest came linen sheets, towels, two tablecloths and two white linen counterpanes, one of which was shown as an heirloom one hundred years later. These had been made from the raw material by a girl in her teens.

After paying the preacher, Reverend Holmes, $1.50 for his service, the young couple faced the world with little more than the small farm yet to be cleared of timber. Through the veins of both poured the blood of daring. Both had a passion for self-improvement, as well as a determination to better their circumstances.

In that pioneer period there were few cities in Kentucky. Manufactured articles could be obtained only by traveling

to far off places. The times frowned on evidence of unnecessary expenditure; for money was scarce.

For fifteen months they resided with the parents of the bride. Henry Bruce was then manager under yearly contract of the farm of Col. Duvall Payne, located on Mill creek in Mason county. Late in 1798 he began to erect on his Fleming county land, with the help of a free colored man whom he hired, a large, one room log cabin to serve as a home. Between the rough logs forming the walls, a mortar composed of mud and hair was daubed. By the use of a whipsaw enough planks were secured to form a door, the hinges being also of wood. The loft, which was reached by a ladder, was high enough only in the center for a man to stand upright.

The exterior of the cabin had one window, which was entirely of wood. Plenty of fresh air came in through the cracks, while foul air was expelled through the chimney. The floor was simply Mother Earth. The chimney was built at one of the gable ends because of the added support secured there. The crude fireplace, in which a man could readily enter without stooping, was also large enough to admit wood six feet in length. As the house was built on the bank of Johnson creek, directly below the present Bruce home, the approximate location can be determined.

A bedstead was made by driving forked sticks into the dirt floor, upon which were laid rails that fitted into holes bored in the walls; wooden beams formed the head and footboards; small tree branches were spread across to serve

as slats. Both straw and feather mattresses were used.

Housekeeping, which began in May, 1799, was undertaken with tables, three-legged stools, wooden spoons, knives and forks, fashioned by the young husband. He made the dining table by constructing rude trestles, upon which was placed a broad slab, and this was covered at meal time with a cloth of tow linen. The only luxuries were cups, pie pans and dishes made of tin.

The vessel in which substances were crushed for cooking was a mortar, made from a log of wood four feet long and two feet wide, and rendered smooth on one end for resting on the floor. It was made in this manner: First, the upper end was gouged out to form a basin. As few tools were available, corn cobs were laid on and slowly burned in many layers until a hole was made sufficiently large to contain a bushel of grain. The pestle used to crush or pound whatever had been placed in the mortar consisted of a piece of wood, two feet long, whittled to a size suitable for the hand and bound with an iron ring. One end was carefully split about half its length, by driving into it an ordinary iron wedge, such as the rail splitters used, the head forming the pestle. Through use of the mortar, grain was quickly reduced to meal.

Iron pots and kettles were suspended on a swinging crane, over the blaze in the big fireplace, by hooks and chains. Baking was done in a covered circular iron oven, placed on the wide, warm, stone hearth directly fronting the fire, with live coals occasionally raked into position

beneath it. The meat was broiled on a gridiron, which was about the size and shape of the modern griddle, excepting that it had a wider surface.

Sugar was obtained from the sap of the maple tree. Tea was brewed from sassafras root. To bale water from the deep well, timber was cut to provide both the tapering sweep and bucket. Salt was secured from the nearby "lick" at Blue Licks Springs.

In the November after his marriage, having attained his majority, Henry Bruce returned to Virginia where he visited his brother and other relatives, and assisted in the settlement of his father's small estate. Although entitled to virtually the entire remaining property [1] under the old English law of primogeniture, he reflected that his brother, then nineteen, would soon be ready to begin business for himself. Although an attorney present in the Stafford county courtroom said that the law was clear, the youth of twenty-one requested that Stafford county commissioners be appointed to divide the inheritance equally between himself and his brother.[2] From that division he received and took back to Kentucky, a negro woman, named Phillis, and her child; also, a little girl, named Winny; a boy of seventeen, named Frank, and $350.[3] Facing difficulties and

[1] The widow had received one-third as dower, eighteen years previously. See Chapter IV.

[2] Statement of George S. Bruce, Nov. 1877. The names of the four commissioners appointed by the Court were Henry Mason, Wm. Ball, George Strother, and James Went.

[3] The share of Henry Bruce, valued in pounds sterling, was as follows: Phillis and child, 70; Frank, 70; Winny, 25; specie 89. Total 254 pounds.

having many needs, the elder brother might have been excused had he permitted a settlement more liberal to himself.

If there was any difference between Henry and Eleanor Bruce, in their desire for success, it was in favor of the wife, whose determination was all but unexampled. She looked closely into every detail and, as the place grew in size, expected a full days work from everyone. An early division of responsibility was arranged. Eleanor (commonly called "Miss Nelly" by the colored people), assumed charge of the preparation of food and the manufacture of clothing, as an effort was made to avoid the expense of purchasing in the nearest village. She included the dairy, poultry yard and orchard as a portion of her duties. She managed and conducted those departments as industriously and judiciously as Henry Bruce carried on the supposedly larger ones, such as the planting and cultivation of crops, including the big vegetable garden and the raising of stock.

At the birth of Henry Bruce's first child, christened George Stubblefield,[1] the new grandmother, Mary Stubblefield Bruce Morrison, sent a little colored girl, Mariah, four years old, to rock the cradle, which motion she managed by sitting and swaying in the foot of it. To secure that addition to the household furniture, the young father

His brother George was given a negro woman, named Fortune, 70; a man (son of Fortune), Ben, 80; specie 119 pounds. Total 269 pounds.

[1] October 28, 1800.

had gone to Flemingsburg and purchased a large dry goods box, for which he paid $1 in gold. This he fashioned into a cradle, making the rockers from the top of the box.[1]

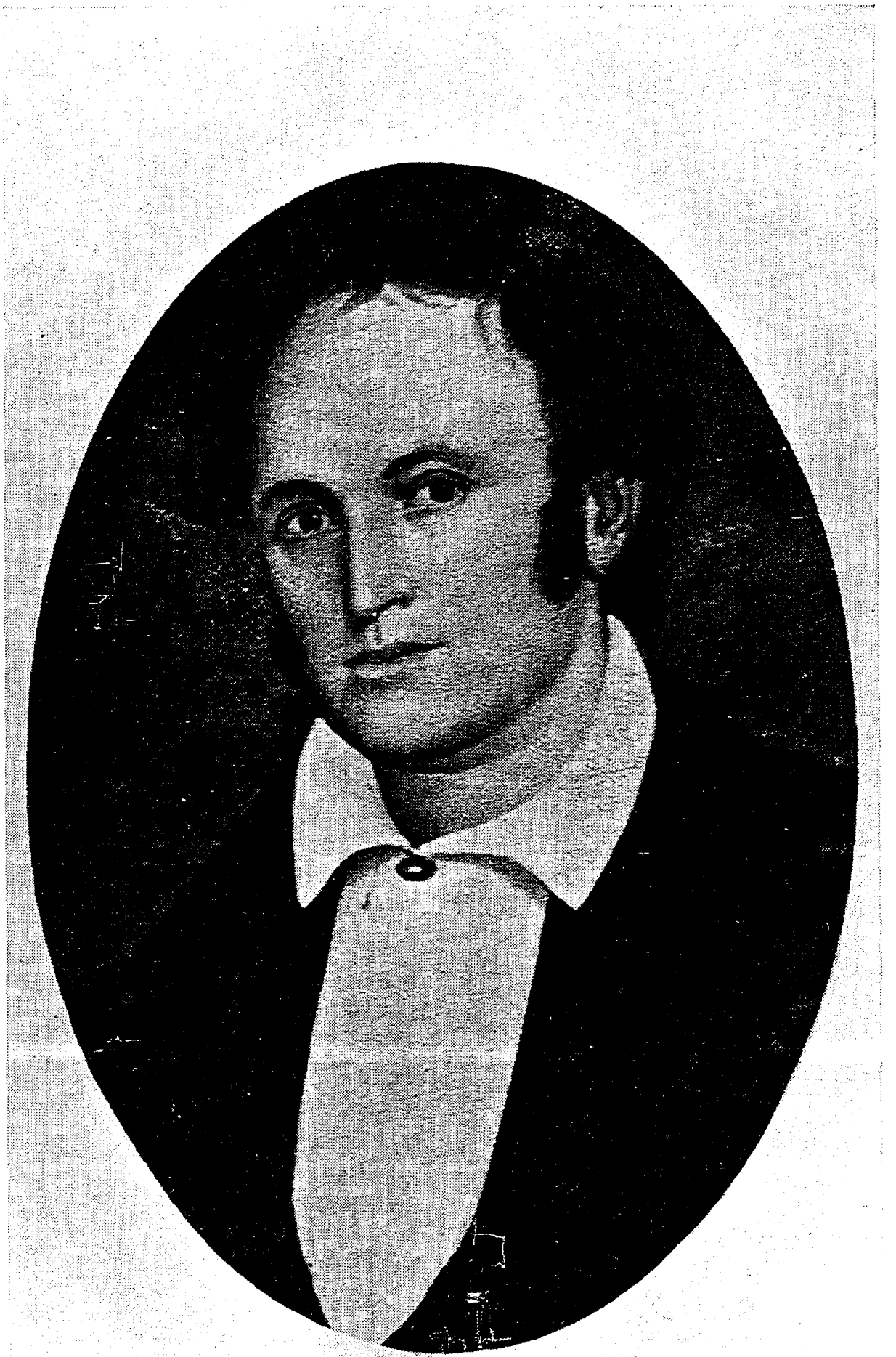
We have little information about Henry Bruce during the years 1798 to 1812, but we know that he applied himself successfully to getting an estate.[2] Little by little, he added to the farm. In that period most of his children were born.

Not until 1810 did the young pioneers rise to the luxury of a puncheon floor. This consisted of broad, flat pieces of timber, each riven from the central portion of a log and roughly dressed by an axe. There were then one son and four daughters to be housed. With the assistance of Frank, now a strong, full grown negro, another room was added, into which went the three daughters to sleep, under the care of young black "Mammy" Mariah, herself but fourteen.

At the time when Henry and Eleanor Bruce added these improvements to their log home, only a hundred miles away, in the same sparsely settled state, an infant was born, on February 12, 1809, who was destined to become the most loved American of all time.

[1] "We have a remarkably large son and handsome. He is eight months old. His name is George Stubblefield Bruce."—Henry Bruce, June, 1801.

[2] But two letters have been recovered from that early time. They are dated in the years 1801 and 1802.



GEORGE S. BRUCE, 1800-1883. Eldest son of Henry and Eleanor Bruce. At age of 36. From painting by Shackelford.

CHAPTER VIII

Farmer

You cannot dream yourself into a character;
You must hammer and forge yourself one.
—*Thoreau.*

ALTHOUGH Henry Bruce was sometime woodsman, justice-of-the-peace, sheriff, trader, his never-ending job was that of plain tiller of the soil, which finally he pursued on broad lines.

Kentuckians learned early in the Nineteenth Century that the blue-grass area was excellent for raising horses, because of the soil and climate. The phosphatic waters that flow through the region are advantageous, and the minerals in the earth make blue grass and other desirable feeds. We have been to some pains to learn what kind of soil was selected by Henry Bruce and have obtained a statement from the Kentucky Progress Commission, which places the Bruce farm entirely within the famed blue-grass section.[1] Yet if one travels five miles to the East of it, he leaves behind him that enchanted land called the Great Meadow, which some judges think has no rival for garden-like loveliness.

One can't choose good ground haphazardly in Ken-

[1] The Kentucky Progress Commission (1931) declares that the blue-grass territory includes Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Grant, Pendleton, Bracken, Owen, Harrison, Robertson, Franklin, Scott, Nicholas, Woodford, Fayette, Bourbon, Anderson, Mercer, Jessamine, Clark, Madison, and portions of Gallatin, Bath and Fleming counties.

tucky, merely because it lies within those beautiful boundaries, and we know that this Fleming county farmer selected his land cautiously. A grandson [1] carefully appraised its various qualities and pronounced them good.[2]

The boundary of Henry Bruce's first farm, surrounding the little log cabin, enclosed but fifty acres and was located near the present brick house. At first a negro helper was employed, but before the year 1798 had passed, several slaves came as an inheritance from his father's estate.

An interesting glimpse of the early years of this young farmer of twenty-three is given in extracts from a letter, written by him in June, 1801, to his younger brother—

"I am making tolerably good improvements on my little farm, which consists only of about thirty acres of cleared land. I erected a barn of hewed logs fifty-one feet long and twenty-one feet wide, and several other necessary houses.

It is the time of harvest and there is now considerably the greatest crop of small grain ever raised in this state, or in America, to the same quantity of ground. We are very seasonable and have great prospects of large crops of wheat, sold chiefly at four shillings per bushel.

I have no reason to complain of misfortune as I am supplied with a good share of the bountiful production of our plantation agreeable to what I cultivate. Last Fall I put some of my land in rye and never plowed or hoed my corn until a few days ago. I can venture to say it is the best corn ever yet I have seen.

I have good neighbors, tho they are collected from various parts of the world. They, or some of them, do not seem as natural as the Virginians, because I am most used to them. I flatter myself that you will be a neighbor to me sometime in this place,

[1] William Pickett Bruce.

[2] Henry Bruce wrote of the blue-grass in 1852: "This is a wealthy region of country, fertile soil and very durable."

for I am so well contented here that I think I never shall have a desire to move far off."

Between harvests in the years 1802, 1807 and 1813, Henry Bruce went on horseback to Allen county to visit his mother. The distance was about 220 miles. Occasionally she would write to him. In the Spring of 1818, came the news that Mary Bruce Morrison had died on April 13th, after an illness of only thirty hours.

Gradually additional land was purchased until, in 1813, Henry Bruce had 339 acres, of which one-half had been cleared of timber. He went to Virginia in September, 1815, and persuaded his three aunts to emigrate to Kentucky and live on his farm, in a home that he provided. They were Milly Bruce, Betsy Bruce and Lucy Bruce Laing.[1] By 1817 all the children, excepting Ann and Lucinda, had been born. Three years had elapsed since he moved into his brick house, and six years more were to pass before he visited his brother at Sparta, Georgia.

There were now six daughters aged from one year to fifteen, in the Bruce homestead. Of the three boys, only George was old enough to help his father, since Henry, Jr. and James were but six and three respectively. The negro men could not be entrusted to manage, but must be supervised by a man who never forgot that "the master's eye makes a ready servant." Seventeen miles to the North was the free State of Ohio, and more than one of Henry

[1] In a letter written on Sept. 7, 1830, Henry Bruce reported that these three aunts, then quite old, were "well and satisfied."

Bruce's black family had stolen away in the hope of finding freedom over night.

Probably Henry Bruce bought his first land for about $5 an acre. In March, 1817, he paid $1,827 for 107½ acres, one-third cash—balance to be settled in two instalments. This was nearly double the price asked a short time before. In the Summer of 1817, he divided his planting in this manner: fifty acres in wheat; fifty-eight in corn; some oats and hemp; and eighty acres were rented out. Although cattle, hogs and horses were raised, the income seems a slender provision for man, wife and eight children. But somehow he thrived and dared to go in debt for more land. About that time he had a vague notion of going to Missouri to enter a claim for government land, but he wrote that he had no desire to remove from Kentucky.

Prosperity had risen to a point never previously known in America. The War of 1812 had been concluded in 1815, after which came the inflation that is likely to follow such a conflict. Although far from the market where prices were set, Henry Bruce could sell his corn for 50c a bushel; oats at 37½c, and wheat at $1. This meant high prices for hogs and stock, and everything boomed.

Meantime, title to his holdings became involved in litigation. A victory was won before the Fleming Circuit Court, in September, 1817. The claimants took an appeal, but a compromise was effected by Henry Bruce making a payment of $850.

A glimpse of the earning from his farm is here given for

the year 1818. Corn brought but 25c a bushel, and this appears to have amounted to about $200. He "spared" enough wheat at 87½c a bushel to bring $700. He sold fifty hogs in October for $388, and proposed to kill fifty for bacon. The selling of hemp and oats brought the total to about $1,500. The family had now grown to eleven, with the birth of Ann on June 9th. As virtually everything needed was grown or made on the place, this cash income spelled comparative affluence.

Now came the time to which economists still refer—the dread year 1819.[1] Banks failed almost everywhere. Prices for crops which would seem high today, fell to low figures. Money literally disappeared. We know that prosperity always commits suicide. The Kentucky farmers had purchased land on credit and payment was almost impossible. Although likely to be a debtor at that period, Henry Bruce never was a defendant in a suit for debt.

The trouble had started, was to grow in intensity, and it gripped America for a decade. Henry Bruce sagely observed on June 12th, 1819: "People must curtail expenses, go less to stores, and manufacture more cloth, or face ruin."

Quotations had fallen so low by the Spring of 1820, that he decided to ship the more easily transported produce of the farm, such as lard, bacon and pork, down the river to New Orleans. On arrival there the bids were so low that most of his consignment was placed in a warehouse. This

[1] Those especially interested should not miss the memoir on the subject by Judge Thomas Mellon, the father of Andrew W. Mellon.

transaction was entrusted to his eldest boy, George, then nineteen. Henry Bruce's habit of asking his sons early in life to assume unusual responsibility, gave them the opportunity to mature quickly.

Economic conditions had become serious by March, 1821. "Times are truly trying," he said. "We must use better economy, dress in domestic weaves (i.e. homespun), abandon the practice of wearing British cloth, or we will be a ruined people." In the previous month, the last of the ten children, Lucinda, had been born. In September of that year came the first break in the family circle, when Lucy, the eldest daughter, not yet nineteen, married Thomas Porter.

Late in July, 1822, came "the greatest rain and freshet" known in the vicinity of Johnson fork. Seven hundred panels of Bruce fence were swept away, leaving eight of the fields exposed on the side next the creek. Every little farm drain broke open the fences that crossed it. Large wheat stacks were afloat where water never had been known to flow. Newly cut hay was swept out of four acres of meadow. Every milldam on the creek was either broken or washed away. Neighbors assisted in securing and enclosing again several of the Bruce grain and pasture fields. Happily, crops that Fall were abundant. He reported that all were "blessed with good health and a bountiful supply of the good things of life."

The farm had grown to 655 acres by the Spring of 1824. Its owner was then paying $22.50 an acre for the best land.

To assist on the enlarged tract, four negroes were purchased at a cost of $1,462. Spring plowing that year did not begin until March 25th, because of the backward weather and much rain. Winter wheat was "indifferent," with much of it frozen out of root. At that time Henry Bruce considered visiting Alabama, hoping to find fertile land that he might purchase for investment, on the Black Warrior and the Tombigbee rivers. For a short period he believed that Alabama possessed advantages over Missouri and other places.

A year arrived when he was puzzled to find more revenue against the time when the younger daughters were to be educated,—(at least three were sent to boarding school, at Carlisle). He then reflected: "How inconsistent we are, laboring and toiling, as though we were to live forever." In April, 1824, he set out for New Orleans with lard, bacon, whisky and flour. This last item was purchased at $3.50 a barrel. He returned on June 1st.

In 1825 corn had fallen to 12½c a bushel. Wheat brought but 30c. Whisky sold for 18c a gallon. Bruce reported the value of slaves: "Negroes somewhat reduced"; their price at this time does not appear to have averaged much above $300. Land was "much fallen in price." By 1826 corn was almost given away, at 6c a bushel; wheat was 30c, and bacon 3½c a pound. Such quotations tell something of the depth of a depression that had continued for seven years.

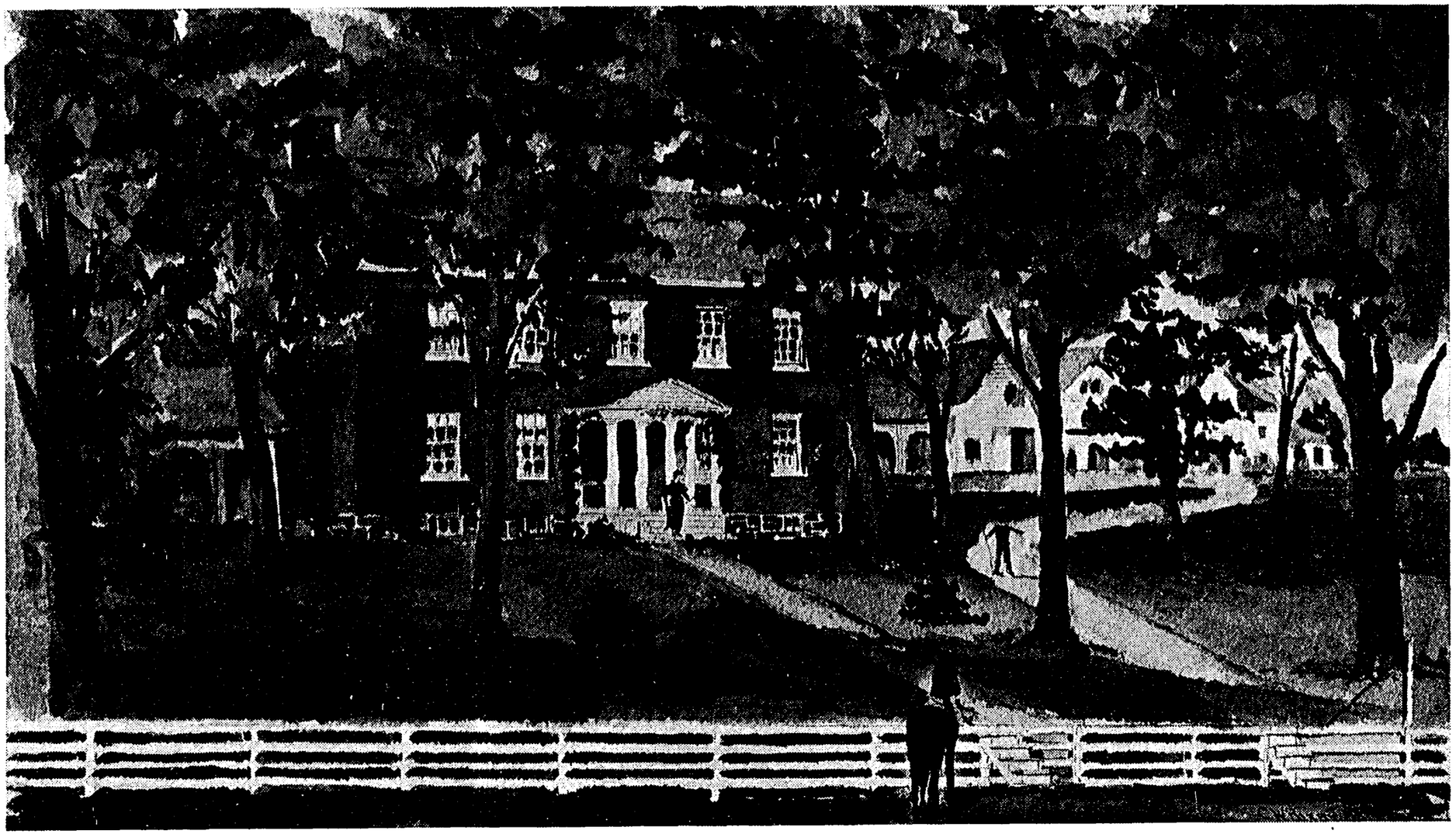
By 1829 the financial sun had at last begun to shine.

However, hogs were quoted at their lowest point: $1.75 per hundredweight. In 1830 he bought the farm of his brother-in-law, John Threlkeld, who moved in April to Missouri, giving $3,931 for 222 acres, of which amount he paid $3,000 in cash. There were now nearly one thousand acres in the tract.

Forever casting about, hoping to find something that would add to income, Henry Bruce in 1834 observed a shortage in hemp and sowed forty acres in that herb. He sold the crop for $800, which equaled the original cost of the land.

In 1835 prices had risen to such heights that Henry Bruce prepared all his woodland for grass, and began cultivating the former pastures. To do this he employed eight white men by the month, to assist the staff of slaves.

Having concluded that the farm, which had increased in size twenty times, was large enough, he added little to it during the twenty remaining years. We are to think of him, finally living somewhat as a patriarch, down almost to the time of the Civil War, whose impending clash was foreheard by his keen ears.



THE HENRY BRUCE HOME as it appeared in 1840. From painting by C. W. Bixby.

CHAPTER IX

The Brick House

"He is happiest
Be he king or peasant,
Who finds peace in his home."
—*Goethe.*

In 1812, when the second war with England had come, Henry Bruce, then thirty-five, determined to erect a good-sized, substantial, ten-room house of brick, near the log cabin which had been his home. The site chosen was on rising ground nearly a hundred feet above the nearest road and commanding a wide view.[1] First he began the erection of the outbuildings, including a large carpenter shop and a loom-house, both of logs.

After carefully designating the boundary of the future home, he excavated space for the cellar and laid a substantial foundation, which was left to settle for twelve months. A kiln was constructed on the premises, in which to burn brick. Lumber was cut from a nearby forest, allowed to season and then sawed by hand into proper lengths. In the Spring of the second year, when stacks of material were in readiness, masons began laying the thick brick walls. Visitors today will notice that there is not a crack or fissure in them. By Autumn the house was under

[1] The house does not face the public road, which runs about a quarter of a mile away, but may be seen from that highway.

cover and it was completed in September, 1814. More than two years were required for the construction.

The shingles for the roof were made in the Bruce carpenter shop, each having first been sawed the correct length and smoothed by a drawing knife. The wooden pegs were likewise made on the premises, but the iron nails were wrought by hand by a blacksmith, Jonas Myall, in Mayslick, and then hauled by oxen nine miles over a deep mud road.

This was the first brick residence with shingle roof erected in Fleming county, outside of Flemingsburg, and, with the exception of another brick house erected forty years later by Dr. Wm. Bell, son-in-law of Henry Bruce, continues to be the only building of that material in the neighborhood, although more than a hundred years have passed.

An old-fashioned portico distinguished the house for nearly sixty years, but was replaced by a verandah in 1872. Nine windows, each containing twenty-four panes, graced the front, and were not changed until 1902, when it became necessary to replace the sash. When completed Henry Bruce counted six chimneys and ten fireplaces in his new home.[1] Each of the two floors was bisected by a hall through the center, 12½ feet in width. The stairway was placed at the back. The ceilings were ten feet in height.

A quantity of walnut, cherry and oak was selected from

[1] He counted this a distinction. . . . The home of Daniel Parke Custis, first husband of the woman now remembered as Martha Washington, was known throughout Williamsburg as "The Six Chimney House."

timber growing on the place, sawed and left long to season before the cabinet maker, who then always followed the erection of a large house, came in 1815 and constructed the furniture in the shop in the yard.

At the right as one entered, was the parlor, 17½ by 21 feet in size. Perhaps simply furnished at first, it later held a long sofa with a roll at each end, together with a number of chairs and high-backed rockers, all upholstered with black haircloth. In one corner stood a slender legged, brass-trimmed spinet. Between the windows on opposite sides of the room hung long mirrors, in black and gilt frames. Each window was closed with green Venetian blinds, and draped with ruffled white dotted Swiss curtains. The floor was covered with home-made carpet. A large oval table stood in the center of the room, on which were the family Bible,[1] Baptist hymn book and an oblong willow basket. Family daguerreotypes stood open on this table. The mantle held three brass candelabra, with long cut-glass prisms. There were also vases, shells and knick-knacks on the long shelf. At Christmas-time a large Yule log was lighted in the parlor fireplace, and the fire was not permitted to die until the departure of the last guest.

A room on the left of the hall was used as an office and held the desk of Henry Bruce. There, too, was the tall grandfather's clock,[2] which could be seen also from the living room. In an emergency, this front room was con-

[1] Now in possession of the author.

[2] Now owned by James Morgan, Lynn, Mass.

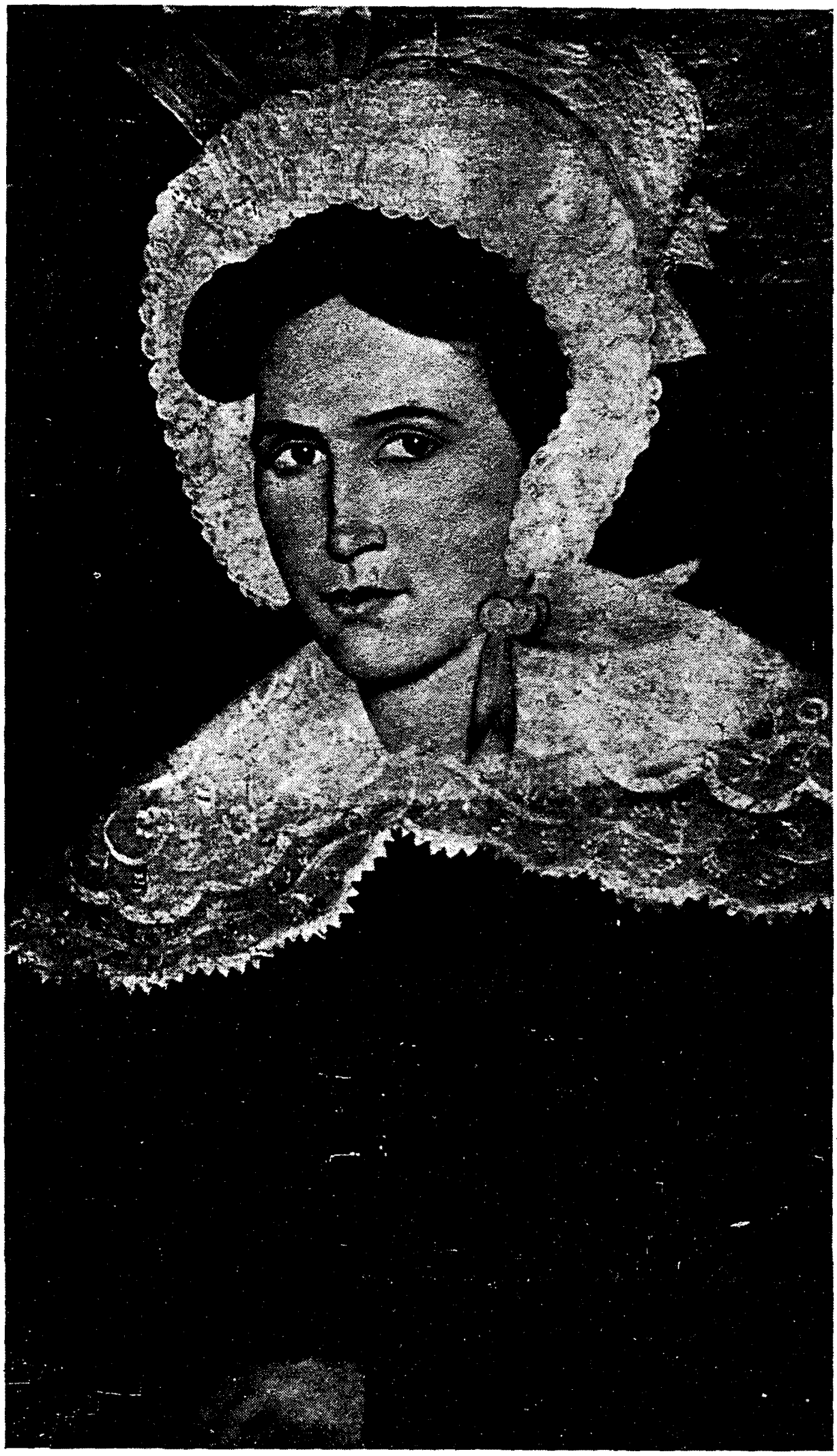
verted into an additional bedroom. The dining-room held a long table, sideboard and corner cupboards. The bedroom furniture included high four-poster beds, large bureaus, washstands, all equipped with glass knobs. Fresh chintz curtains were draped and tied to each post of the bedsteads with ribbons, showing snowy white counterpanes, bolsters and ruffled pillows.

George, Lucy, Harriet, Mary, Eleanor, Henry, Jr., and James were born in the log house (Oct. 28, 1800 to January 24, 1814). Elizabeth, Ann, and Lucinda, the three youngest daughters, were born in the brick home (April 22, 1816, to February 2, 1821).

A small community came into activity about the brick house, as thirty or forty people were domiciled at the headquarters of the thousand-acre farm. There were at least a dozen outbuildings of various kinds, in addition to stables, feeding pens, etc. Much of that has today disappeared, leaving the original brick structure and five of the old buildings. One can find evidences of the wide path of flagging that had been laid through the rear of the lawn into the garden, to the family burial ground and to the home erected on the place for Henry Bruce's three aunts, Milly Bruce, Betsy Bruce, and Lucy Bruce Laing. Faint remains may likewise be detected of the rows of beautiful old boxwood that once lined the various walks.

Several acres about the house were enclosed by a stout fence,[1] thus forming the "yard."

[1] The fence was commonly crossed by stiles.



HARRIET HACKLEY BRUCE DUDLEY, 1805-1883. At age of 23. From painting by Shackelford.

CHAPTER X

Life in the Bruce Home

His house was by the side of the road, and all men were his friends.—*Homer.*

WEDDINGS began to take place in the front parlor of the Bruce home in 1821, after three sons and seven daughters had come to bear the family name. In 1823 came the first grandchild, and gradually there was a whole neighborhood of Bruces, nearly all of Henry's children and grandchildren living within view of the red brick house on the hill. Within a mile or two were the residences of four of the Bruce daughters: Lucy Porter, Harriet Dudley, Elizabeth Morgan and Ann Morgan, and of two of the sons: George Bruce and James Bruce. There were also the homes of closely connected families, including the Threlkelds, Lowrys, Johnsons, and others.

All but two of Eleanor Bruce's six married brothers and four married sisters lived in the neighborhood. Her children saw their Threlkeld relatives almost daily, but renewed acquaintance with the Bruce cousins only when long journeys brought them to Fleming county.

It was a period when long visits were the rule, and members of the family of Henry Bruce's brother, George, who lived in Georgia, made extended stays in the Bruce home. George arrived in July, 1822, with Lucian, his eldest daughter, then fifteen, and George, the youngest son, aged

twelve, and remained a month. In March, 1825, Henry Bruce wrote asking his half-sister's daughter, recently widowed, "to come and spend some time with us." He also urged her father and mother to bring any of their children at any time.

A grandson, often a visitor, has recorded that the hospitality of the Bruce home was seemingly limitless and almost beyond the comprehension of a modern housekeeper. Occasionally, strangers would arrive and be welcomed before the serving of the evening meal. Places would be hurriedly provided for them at the long table and beds furnished for the night. There was never a thought of refusing to give this entertainment, but the custom grew so burdensome as roads improved and travel increased, that Henry Bruce was heard to say to one traveler, who had dined and breakfasted: "Good-bye! When you come this way again, by keeping on, you will find a decent tavern at Helena."

A granddaughter has said that never a week passed at the Bruce home but that three or more days were blessed with guests—not alone in two's, or three's, but in crowds. The account of what happened on one evening in a daughter's home will give some idea of the throng that sometimes taxed the capacity of those old Kentucky mansions. While a crowd of seventy-five young people were gathered at the residence of Ann Bruce Morgan, a storm arose that swelled the streams, and nearly all remained for the night. The parlor was given over to the men, with

piles of blankets. The bedrooms were occupied by the girls, with feather beds on the floor and four girls in a bed. In large rooms with two beds, there were as many as sixteen girls. Eleanor Bruce was staying with her daughter, and eight maidens crowded into the extra bed in her bedroom. Next morning there were more than sixty at breakfast.

Big dinners were the rule, especially on Sundays and holidays. The long board was weighted with a wide variety of well-cooked foods, carried hot from the kitchen. The dishes and platters of wood, tin and pewter, used in earlier days, had long given way to china, and the simple slab mounted on trestles that had once served as a table had been replaced by mahogany. Following the first wedding, it became an annual custom for all to gather in the old home at Christmas. The description of one happy Yule-time tells of the good things the visitors had to eat. First there was borne to the table, on a wide tray, a pig, roasted whole and bearing a red apple in his mouth. Then followed an immense Kentucky turkey, accompanied by several platters filled with deliciously fried chicken. Soon appeared big plates loaded with baked ham and ham broiled over live coals. The menu included buckwheat cakes, with choice of thick maple syrup or honey; and waffles baked in long-handled irons over a wood fire with melted butter poured over them. Then there were crullers, Kentucky jumbles and ginger snaps. Finally came several kinds of pie and cake. We are puzzled by the seeming lack

of vegetables, but perhaps they were considered too common for special mention.

If some enchanter should offer to recover for us a single hour of the irrecoverable past, we should like to be present at one of those Christmas dinners, with Henry Bruce sitting at the head of the Bruce dining table, flanked by the Bruce children, their husbands and wives, and with Eleanor Bruce at the foot.

An allotment of sixty selected hams was placed in a corner of the smoke house each Autumn. This was only a partial supply of the meat reserved for Winter. Henry Bruce liked the flesh of the deer, and once commented on the quality of a fine ham sent to him, saying: "I was always more fond of venison than any other wild meat." He especially relished herring, and once offered a premium to a Cincinnati dealer if he would bring from the shores of the Potomac "a barrel in which every fish would be a roe."

Cooking was usually progressing in more than one fireplace. In the kitchen a crane was swung over the fire at will. On it were hung iron pots and kettles, fastened by hooks and chains. For breakfast a big kettle was placed on the crane. Without the aid of egg beaters, or double boilers, or patent toasters, the cooks had to hurry. But with the help of trivet and spider and toasting fork, breakfast was soon prepared. Baking was done in a round, covered iron oven, which sat on a wide stone hearth directly in front of the hot blaze. A large gridiron was formed of

grate bars, placed an inch apart. The meat was placed on the bars, and the gridiron set over the hot coals. Stoves began to appear in Kentucky after 1830, and soon a large one was purchased for the Bruce kitchen, although this culinary aid did not come into common use until after the Civil War.

The houses about the yard, as well as the homestead, were lighted by candles. The dipping and molding of these was but one of numerous household tasks. Until friction matches began to appear in 1827, the tinder box was used in an emergency, but lights were commonly carried to the place needed by means of tapers, which were long strips of paper rolled to a point.

Saturdays were allotted by Henry Bruce to his work as justice-of-the-peace. He recorded that, in some seasons, he would spend three week-ends out of a month at the county seat, Flemingsburg. At other times he opened an office in his residence, and people in the vicinity understood that on Saturday he could be found for the purpose of transacting both commonwealth and private business. On one such day, in a time when all the world seemed bent on litigation, he received the return of sixty-four warrants, on which he issued sixty executions.

At the death in 1824 of Benjamin Threlkeld (father of Eleanor Bruce), the widow, Ann Booth Threlkeld, arranged to live with her eldest daughter. For her accommodation, a large room and porch adjoining the main house were constructed. She wrote a will on October 25,

1825, appointing William Threlkeld, next to the eldest son, living nearby, and Henry Bruce, as executors. She died at the age of seventy-nine, on November 16, 1828, and was buried in the Bruce family graveyard. Having attained to womanhood before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Ann Threlkeld had lived to see the birth of a nation, and its growth to a union of twenty-four states.

For more than sixty years the children of Henry Bruce were recalling their home days under the hospitable roof of the brick house. Hardly a month passes now that does not find some of the descendants rambling about the home, and making a pilgrimage to the little half acre burial ground where many of the family have found a resting place.

HENRY BRUCE, JR., 1811-1891. Second son of Henry and Eleanor Bruce.

CHAPTER XI

A Self-contained Little World

In the family, as in the State, the best source of wealth is economy.
—*Cicero.*

By the year 1830 the Bruce domain stretched to one thousand acres in a single estate. Irregular in shape, and twisting about Johnson Creek, one might easily spend an hour or two in walking about its boundaries. Had this tract been located farther South, the neighbors would have called it a plantation; or, had it been in the West, the wide-spreading acreage would have been considered a ranch. Seventeen miles away was the State of Ohio, and there the Northerner would have designated it a farm, and the appellation applied also in Kentucky. Whatever name be used, the Bruce place was by this time the largest body of land under one ownership in Fleming county, had become a model for the countryside and was the masterpiece of Henry Bruce.

The location is not without minor interest, since it is on a line running 110 miles below Springfield, Illinois, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is in the same latitude as San Francisco, Pueblo and Emporia. It is considerably north of the cotton-belt.

With the machine age far away, and with time an element of little importance, a large number of needed articles were manufactured by hand on the place. Already we have

told that materials for the home came from the estate: maple for the floors, window frames, doors; clay used in making the brick, baked in kilns on the premises. We have also said that the furniture was made from lumber supplied by trees that grew in the Bruce woods.

Skilled hands were once busy in the Bruce loom-house, where there was a goodly collection of wool-wheels and flax-wheels, made by local wheelwrights and itinerant spinning-wheel makers. Here, too, were the extra wheel-heads, spindles, cards, quaint niddy-noddys, flax-hatchets, clock-reels, quilting-wheels and swifts for winding yarn. On the great wool-wheel were spun the stents of woolen yarns, and on the daintier flax-wheels was drawn the glossy flax into fine threads for warp and woof of linen cloth.

On almost any day one might have seen the hackling of wool and flax, and the spinning and weaving of each. Substantial woolen jeans cloth was produced from which was fashioned clothing for the men, in both brown and gray colors. Striped and checked linsey was made, from which dresses were evolved for the colored women and children. Soft, fleecy flannels and blankets were woven. Woolen counterpanes in blue-and-white and red-and-white were made, the home-decocted colorings used for these coming from natural barks. Rag and woolen carpets were produced. The loom-house contained spinning wheels of various sizes for different threads. Also looms for making strips of coarse linen, which were sewn into sheets with a seam down the middle, since the machines were narrower

than the beds. They also made linen towels, table cloths, counterpanes and handkerchiefs. Here also were manufactured long bolts of finely woven linen from which were made white shirts for the men and white dresses and underwear for the seven Bruce daughters. Tow linen was considered proper for the white men's work clothes, and was employed also for the negroes' Sunday garments for Summer. The colored women usually wore dresses made from cottonades purchased from a store in town, because the fabric was inexpensive.

The story of spinning is interwoven with the history of home life covering a period of nearly six thousand years, but this Fleming county loom-house was one of the last to be maintained in Kentucky. Later generations had little knowledge of spinning and wondered how the word "spinster" originated, since the noun came gradually to be loosely applied to almost any unmarried woman over thirty.

The filling of the Bruce linen-press was the duty of each daughter in turn—under the supervising eye of "Miss Nelly," who knew how to spin and hackle, and could bleach linen rivaling that imported from Ireland. Specimens of her linen are prized today by her descendants.

The wearing apparel for the Bruce daughters was stitched and trimmed and quilted at home. This represented handwork since the sewing machine was not available until 1858. Dressmaking was usually going forward in a certain room on the second floor.

The skilled picking and sorting of feathers for wide, fluffy beds and bolsters, the hooking of rugs from old scraps of cotton and yarn, and a dozen other interesting activities were among the commonplaces of life on the farm.

A white man, named Hildreth, was employed the year round to operate the Bruce blacksmith shop. A negro carpenter also followed his craft throughout the twelve months. A skilled shoemaker was usually busy making footwear for all on the place. He also served as saddler and harness-maker.

Increasingly Henry Bruce turned to the breeding of stock, and he had many horses, cows and sheep. There were also flocks of peafowls, turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens.

Since there were many open fireplaces (some wide enough to admit logs four and six feet long), and as coal was available for blacksmithing purposes only, trees were carefully marked and felled, the trunks being split, chopped, and sawed into right lengths. As cold days approached, there was always a high stack of cord-wood ready.

The wash house was a busy place on Mondays, for there clothes had to be painstakingly rubbed on corrugated boards in wooden tubs, as washing machines belonged to a distant future.

More than once Henry Bruce warned that prosperity was not to be found by those who purchased supplies from

stores in Elizaville or Flemingsburg. But as manufactured novelties of various kinds were introduced, he was likely to be among the first to purchase them. Thus, he bought a thermometer of unusual design, possessing uncommon features. A neighbor, hearing of its marvels, rode over to ask to "see the Geewhillaker!"

We have told elsewhere of the gay gatherings or "bees," which took place on various occasions. Jelly and apple butter making and quilting were especially interesting periods. Peach and apple "leather" were made and stacked in slabs. From the maple trees came sap, which was boiled and cut when hard into sugar cakes.

In the Fall, hogs were butchered and their parts might be seen hanging in long rows in the smoke house. There were also stored for the Winter enough sides of bacon and Kentucky hams to feed all who came. Each year there was rendered an ample supply of lard.

An ice-house was filled with ice from Johnson creek. Churning was done almost daily in the milk-house, which was half buried in the hillside. Walnuts, hickory nuts and other nuts indigenous to the territory were spread on boards each Fall in a house especially provided.

Many varieties of fruit came from the orchards, some of which were skillfully dried. This dried fruit was in demand in the market, but it was usually kept for the Bruce table. The quality of the vegetables from the garden and the richness of the dairy products were long mentioned in the vicinity. Great quantities of pickles and preserved

fruits were each year placed on long rows of shelves in the pantry, which was kept locked.

Many barrels each Autumn were filled with fresh cider, much of which gradually turned to vinegar. There may have been a still on the place, for its owner shipped whiskey to New Orleans. This was low in cost, not over 20c a gallon, as there was yet no tax on alcoholic liquor. Henry Bruce would have heard with surprise that in less than a century his distilling would violate a Constitutional amendment. In his wine cellar was stored a delicious quality of homemade peach and apple brandy.

It appears that the Bruce slaves were able to grind and bolt rye, buckwheat, corn and wheat, for Henry Bruce sold flour in quantity.

On a corner of the farm where the rails of the Maysville branch of the Kentucky Central railroad (now Louisville & Nashville) cross it, a small shelter was built and called Bruce's station. There trains stopped on signal. Sheep, hogs, cattle, horses and mules could be directly loaded into the cars for shipment to Cincinnati. But that change directly followed the passing of Henry Bruce, who died just before the completion of the road.

Among the dozens of buildings on the farm was one for the office of the overseer, Duncan Sims, who long maintained order and system among the workers.

CHAPTER XII

The Slaves

The fashion of this world passeth away.
—*Paul, in Corinthians.*

MANY things that Henry Bruce viewed as commonplaces of life have disappeared, but none of the customs of a century ago seem now so strange as that of one man holding another in bondage. The ownership of slaves was the common ambition of Southerners, and black bondmen became almost as numerous as the free whites. Slavery was a powerful force, often giving the white people a lofty disdain of physical toil. Thomas Jefferson said that "the owner (of slaves) must be a prodigy who can retain his manners and morals undepraved," yet it is but sheer justice to record that Henry Bruce worked as hard as anyone on his big place. He summarily discharged a valued overseer because he was caught unjustly punishing a defenseless black.

One afternoon at Longwood, as the world's great captain was standing in a path in the grounds, talking to an English woman who had come to visit the noted prisoner, a mulatto approached, bending under a load. The woman holding her ground, the former Emperor stepped aside with the remark: "Respect the burden, Madame!" It was with that same considerate feeling that this Fleming county

slaveholder ruled the little family of human beings in his charge. Not only have traditions of this been handed down, but we have his written suggestions regarding their treatment, which give us a key to his heart. Here is one—

> "Treat them with humanity. Try to ameliorate the condition of these poor, degraded human beings. Give them plenty of necessary food and clothing. Exact only reasonable service. Should you be under the necessity of administering chastisement, let it be in moderation."

Beginning with four slaves inherited in 1798, the number gradually increased to a total of six men, four women, and about ten boys and girls, in 1834. In addition he had given each son and daughter a negro as a wedding gift. Altogether, between forty and fifty slaves were owned by Henry Bruce.

When the "big brick," as the darkies called it, was finished, the original log house, in which most of the Bruce children were born, was moved to the side yard. Although Mariah was at that time but eighteen, she had two children and was installed as mistress of the log cabin. She became the mother of fifteen, but several died in infancy. As ten or eleven of her brood grew and married, the master endeavored to purchase their husbands or wives. He built four additional log cabins, Mariah's being in the center with a porch in front. It was the largest, containing the huge fireplace in which the fire never was permitted to go out. If the fire in the Bruce kitchen died, it was rekindled by a flaming brand carried through the yard

by Jerry or Hagar from the fireplace in Mariah's cabin.

Mariah cooked the meals in her cabin for the colored people generally, and only those among them ate in the "big house" who were servants there. In due course there were negro grandchildren, some of whom were "let" to others, preferably at places where their parents worked and could look after them. Big or little, they were all sent away with the understanding that they were to return on alternate Sundays.

Supper was served at an early hour in the Summer. After the little colored ones were washed and put to bed, the older slaves, wearing clean, white headrags and aprons, gathered on the porch of Mariah's cabin. Meanwhile, its mistress had sorted the fallen fruits garnered by the children. As each black boy was permitted to have his own watermelon patch, there was generally plenty to eat. Mariah always took charge of the Bruce grandchildren when they came with their parents on a visit to the old homestead. When Hagar and Eliza were preparing dinner in the main kitchen, Mariah was making ready a meal for her children and theirs, to be enjoyed with her.

One such meal in the cabin consisted of cold pone corn bread; hot johnnycakes, baked on boards before the fire; rabbits, which had been hung on wires, roasted and basted with drippings; sweet milk; buttermilk; and hot sassafras sipped from tin cups. The visiting white children loved to steal away to where the colored people were celebrating and join in the evening's festivities, consisting of cake-

walking, jigging, or dancing "Ole Joe," either on the porch or on the lawn. There was music with two or three jews-harps, someone patting, and much singing. Finally, Jerry's tap at nine on the bell in the yard was the signal for going to bed.

The darkies had great fun at the husking bees, when the corn was husked, and on occasions when the apples were peeled and strung to dry. The neighboring negroes were invited to attend and a good-sized crowd seated themselves before big piles of corn on the barn floor. When a red ear was found by a woman, the men vied for a kiss. If discovered by a man, the women raced after him, and whoever caught him first became his mate for the evening. At dancing time, each lucky couple who had found the red ears took their positions on the floor for the first dance. Sometimes there were so many red ears that it was suspected a few were smuggled in.

At the end of the husking season, came a barn dance in the large space beneath the hayloft. It was lighted with candles inserted in homemade holders, and by twisted rag wicks in little pans of melted grease. The floor was carefully cleared, and the musicians with banjo, violin, guitar and bones were seated on a rude platform supported by barrels.

When dancing started, the overseer was on hand to see that all behaved properly. From among the favorite songs, which all joined in singing whether on the floor or not, a few have come echoing down to us. Here are two of the

countless verses of one: "The Darky Sunday School"–

De earth was made in six days
And finished on de sebenth;
But according to de almanac
It should have been de 'leventh.
But de carpenters got drunk
And de masons wouldn't work,
So de cheapest way to do it
Was to fill it up wid dirt.

Adam was de first man
And Eve was de todder;
Cain was a wicked man
Becas he killed his brudder;
And den de Lord got mad
And said it wasn't right,
Dat he'd put a mark on Cain,
Kase brudders shouldn't fight.

Mariah distributed plenty of molasses ginger cake and fresh cider among the dancers. One who was several times present on those annual occasions in the old barn, afterward affirmed that freedom then soon to come, never brought a tithe of the happiness that she saw among the Bruce slaves in the early Fifties.

As we have elsewhere said, the price of a slave in 1824 was about $350; but values later increased to twice or thrice that figure. In 1830 Henry Bruce purchased a shoemaker, who was needed in a family so large as his.

Cicero was a humanitarian, but we will search the hundreds of his letters in vain for an expression of sympathy for the plight of the Roman serfs, most of them white and

many of them men of education and character. When Henry Bruce recorded that he had buried twelve negroes in the period preceding 1834, we fear that he was thinking principally of his financial loss. When two ran away to Ohio he spent $230 in order to procure their return.

Mariah, on whose pictured face one may now look, was virtually freed in 1855, when she was fifty-nine, but she continued to live with the various members of the family, preferably Harriet. But after Harriet moved into Flemingsburg in 1865, Mariah yearned for the country and returned to the old Bruce neighborhood in the Spring of 1868, going to her son and wife, who lived at William Darnell's. There she died within the twelve months. For seventy-two years she had served the Bruce family. Of her ten "white chilluns," only Harriet and Lucinda were near enough to follow the aged body when it was tenderly laid to rest beside her babes in the opposite corner of the Bruce graveyard from "Marse Harry and Miss Nelly." The others had sold their homes and moved away early in the period of the Civil War.

In the year before he died, Henry Bruce, who had given much thought to the subject of slavery, wrote—

> "I believe it was bad policy to have permitted negroes to be brought to this continent, especially as slaves. I could wish there never had been a black man in these United States."

At the same time he wrote in his will a request that all the negroes be divided and left in the family, and not sold to slave traders.

CHAPTER XIII

Trader

> I will tell you what my pursuits have been. The cultivation of the soil was the main business, tho I have traded abroad considerably.
>
> —*Henry Bruce, Feb. 22, 1855.*

THE mind of Henry Bruce was restless. He anticipated Henry Ford, who has said that no farmer should be content merely to till his acres, but should combine some other gainful employment with the pursuit of agriculture.[1]

In the early part of the Nineteenth Century, the South, as today, was largely a one-crop country. The plantation owner raised tobacco or cotton and little else. Thus an opportunity was provided for enterprising men in more Northern climes to supply, among many other needfuls, lard, bacon and pork. Only one method could then be employed to bring these to the consumer at a low price: by driving long distances and delivering the animals on the hoof.

As early as 1808 Henry Bruce (originally in partnership with his wife's brother-in-law, Roly Porter),[2] began taking small droves of horses from Kentucky to Virginia and Maryland. The driving of hogs Eastward on his own account started in 1812[3] and continued until 1817. The

[1] Benson's "The New Henry Ford," Chapter XVIII.

[2] Roly Porter was married to Nancy Threlkeld, a younger sister of Eleanor Bruce.

[3] Henry Bruce recorded that the profit of driving that year was $500.

selling was effected in far-off Fredericksburg or Baltimore.[1] Later, two of his droves were sold in Richmond. The rapid growth of the Ohio river towns brought increasing competition so that securing a profit from the annual undertaking was made precarious. Henry Bruce did not include trading as a serious part of each year's effort until, in 1823, when he decided to go to Sparta, county seat of Hancock county, Georgia, to repay a visit made by his brother, two years before.[2] With inherent Scotch thrift, he started in October, after the corn had been cribbed and, thinking to pay expenses, arranged to take with him several hundred hogs. Since Sparta is located seventy-five miles Southeast of Atlanta, the journey and visit caused an absence from home of several months. Henry Bruce made what he termed "a handsome profit," $1900, from that earliest of his Southern trips.

From a letter he wrote on March 24, 1824, shortly after arrival home, we gain some idea of the push and force of Henry Bruce: "I am now making preparation to go to New Orleans in April, with flour, lard, bacon and whisky.[3] The prospects of making money there at the present time are very flattering."

With three flatboats,[4] he embarked from Maysville,

[1] Up to 1816 Bruce had never paid more than 3c a pound for his hogs.

[2] Twenty-nine days were required for George Bruce to reach Northern Kentucky from Southern Georgia.

[3] Henry Bruce usually quoted whisky at 18c to 20c a gallon.

[4] They were usually made of trunks of big poplar trees, and some of the boats measured from sixty to eighty feet in length. On arrival at destination the rafts were sold at whatever price they would fetch.

Kentucky, on April 27th, living on one and using the other two to hold the freight. They were probably linked. There were several hundred barrels of flour and thousands of pounds of lard, with a considerable quantity of bacon. He engaged men to navigate the boats down the river, who worked their way back as best they could. The trip required thirty days. At night the boats were tied up at a wharf, all sleeping on board to watch the cargoes.[1]

Arriving at his destination a little late for the shippers to buy flour, Henry Bruce made but a small profit on his sales, although he bartered one hundred barrels of flour for groceries, including coffee, sugar, tea, pepper, spice, rum, peach brandy, and fish. On the lard and bacon he made a profit of about $500.

As he was anxious to visit his half sister in Southwestern Kentucky, he wrote that he preferred "to return by land, but could secure no company, as all the traders now travel in steamboats."[2] On June 9th, 1824, he purchased a ticket for $40 and arranged for the transportation of his property at 75c a hundred weight, on the fast, new steamboat "Caledonia." On June 21st he arrived at the Falls, at Louis-

[1] April was the time commonly chosen, to catch the flood at its full, after the long Winter and to avoid ugly snags in low water. Four years later, also in April, a tall youth, aged nineteen, made a bow hand (working the foremost oar) on a similar trip, for which he received $8 a month. He pushed out, as had Henry Bruce, into the same stream, the Ohio, and then into the Mississippi; remained for some time in New Orleans, and returned on a big, sumptuous steamboat to his home near the river from which he had started. The name of the second voyager was Abraham Lincoln.

[2] The statement could not have been accurately made six years earlier, as steamboats did not begin to ply upon the river until 1817.

ville, having "got up" in twelve days. There he reshipped his goods to Maysville and in another day was at home. That was the beginning of several Bruce shipments of merchandise to New Orleans, in the course of the years that followed.

In New Orleans Henry Bruce became acquainted with Manuel White, a successful young business man and apparently prominent. They became steamer companions and good friends on the Kentucky-bound boat. Henry Bruce told of a good deed performed by his acquaintance on that trip: "He had with him different kinds of medicine and was very attentive to the sick, especially those on deck. You know that was a mark of humanity and generosity too, for all was gratis." Thirty years later Henry Bruce wrote to Manuel White, receiving a friendly reply.

In the Fall of the year in which the journey down the Mississippi had been made, the now enthusiastic Fleming county trader prepared again for another long, winding trip of more than five hundred miles to Georgia. One almost imperative reason for making this overland journey each Fall was the necessity of collecting a portion of the money for the sales made on credit during the previous Winter.

We are able to present some details about the old-time business of drover as followed by Henry Bruce. In addition to feeding as many pigs as he could on his own farm, he contracted for many more in his home neighborhood, to be delivered to him in the following October. During

the journey South, accompanied by his helpers, he made further purchases. One driver was assigned to each hundred hogs. While the drivers went afoot, the master rode a horse, which enabled him to arrive at certain centers ahead of the drove and interview prospective purchasers.

The little caravan traveled down through Southeastern Kentucky and Eastern Tennessee, into Western North Carolina, and then crossed a wide section of South Carolina, into Georgia. There usually were pauses in Kentucky at Boonesboro, Richmond, Jackson, London, Big Hill, before arriving at Cumberland Gap (the only place where the mountains could be crossed). A Tennessee stopping point was at Tazewell, and a halt in North Carolina was commonly made at Asheville. South Carolina cities visited were Spartanburg, Greenville, Anderson, Lowdesville and Abbeville. The Savannah river was crossed at Petersburg. Many places were visited in Georgia, including Crawfordville, Washington, Milledgeville, Lincoln Courthouse, Augusta, Powelton, Warrenton and Sparta.[1]

Progress was at the rate of eight miles a day, for faster driving would have reduced the weight of animals fattened for market. Henry Bruce early began the practice of taking a two-horse wagon, into which tired or crippled hogs would be lifted and carried. Each evening all were gathered in camps which were provided at intervals.

Henry Bruce observed, in 1825, that he had to pay $1 a bushel for corn to feed the animals en route, compared

[1] Sparta, Ga. is directly South of Fleming county, Ky.

with 50c the year before. Even the smaller figure seemed to him a high price to pay for grain, but he was forced to purchase in a one-crop country. In 1828 he paid $1.75 per hundred weight for swine, although another year the price would sometimes run up to $4.50, payment of which price would make the venture hazardous.

Henry Bruce headed three droves in 1829, including nearly 1,900 hogs, which he sold for a good profit. But he began to fear that the business was coming to an end, because the Southern farmer, due to the lowered price of his staple crop, cotton, was turning to the raising of hogs. In that year the purchasers of pork at Sparta, noting that the only hogs offered to them were owned by Henry Bruce, began to murmur, suspecting that through conspiracy among the drovers, the Kentuckian had been given a monopoly of their market. In former seasons there had been competition among the drivers, some undercutting the price, whereas the Fleming county man usually set his quotation and did not deviate from it. When news of the talk penetrated to Henry Bruce, he wrote to his brother at Sparta, as follows:

"I have been informed that some of the people about Sparta were reporting that I said there were no other hogs going there but those I drove. I never intended to even insinuate so, for I did expect that some other drover would be there, though I knew not who. When I was repeatedly asked if I knew of any more hogs coming there, I stated invariably that I did not know of any drover that was to be there. Further, I stated that Whitesides, Bedford, Goodman, Stanford, nor any other drover that I knew that had heretofore driven there were not to drive, as they had all told me,

which was the fact. If any person has understood anything else, he is mistaken.

"Mr. Cord[1] recollects that when my last hogs were weighed at Sparta, he began to throw down the pen instead of opening the slip gate as usual and I stopped him and said that as the pen was already fixed, it would suit for some other drover, probably, that might come; that I further observed that it would be strange if no other drover did not come there.

"I expect to drive some hogs again this Fall and hope always to so act as never to be afraid nor ashamed to face any man living, for I do glory in the purity of my intentions, whether my conduct is approved or not. My ardent desire is to love mercy, deal justly with all men and walk humbly before man and God.

"I have laboured hard with my hands to procure a competent living to make my family comfortable and have given many dollars to the poor and for other uses. At the same time my determination has been as intensely engaged in watching over my conduct, that I could bid defiance to any person charging me with an ungentlemanly action, yet you know there is no man without some enemies, though I declare if I have any, I know not who they are."

In 1830[2] he left home about November 1st, driving 1,100 hogs from Kentucky and buying 1,000 on the road, hoping to prevent the price from breaking below $5 per hundred weight. He sold 1,600 at $5.50, and salted 500 to bacon, some of which brought 10c a pound. That appears to have been his largest speculation up to that time, and he hoped

[1] Wm. H. Cord, of Fleming county, usually had charge of at least one of the Bruce droves. Over twenty years later, he testified to the correctness of the signature of the will of Henry Bruce.

[2] Beginning in this year and continuing until the end of the driving, the family of Henry Bruce objected to the long, arduous, hazardous trip that annually deprived them of their head for several months. The venture was somewhat speculative and the children may have doubted if it proved sufficiently profitable, especially as each year Henry Bruce borrowed money to purchase hogs, yet in turn was forced to sell much of the pork on long credit. But he pointed out that he must return to the South to make collections.

to clear $2,000, if all the bacon should be sold. His son, Henry, aged nineteen, accompanied him to Georgia and was sent on alone to Florida, where he made contracts to supply bacon, flour and whisky in the following year. In the Spring of 1831 this son was sent down the Mississippi to Florida, by way of New Orleans, to deliver the property. His father expected to clear $1,000. "He is very young to travel so far, but a steady boy indeed," was the father's comment on the successful conclusion of a double round trip totaling over two thousand miles.

Again in the Fall of 1831 the drive was made to Southern Georgia but in 1832, after an eight weeks visit made by Henry and Eleanor Bruce to Northern Missouri, the then experienced drover concluded to listen to the pleadings of his family and remain at home. However, he sent a drove of 716 hogs under the management of three men, including his two youngest sons, Henry Bruce, Jr. and James Bruce; and Wm. Todd.[1] From letters written at that time by the father to his sons, we are enabled to secure an insight into some of the Bruce business instincts—

"Mr. Conley, of Madison (Ky.) is the only drover behind my drove, that I know of, going to Georgia. You know he always undersells us.

"Many are not driving this season. So I think that the drovers can all do tolerably well if they will not crowd on each other. However, Robert Allen, from Elizaville, is on the road with 400 good hogs. Jeremiah Wells has 700 hogs. They are going to Georgia. Neither of them ever drove there before. I fear they may

[1] Henry Bruce accompanied the drove, which he declared the best he had ever owned, as far as Crab Orchard, Ky.

be in our way. Wm. Wells and three others have droves ahead of us. These I expect you will find at several of our old stands. Tell Mr. Wells not to sell at a price below you.

"The drovers are too much in a crowd. Sell all you can in Carolina. That will save considerable expense. Try to sell to (naming certain people).

"If you find it difficult to sell for cash and can get a dollar a hundred more, or near it, on credit, it would be advisable to do so. In all such sales take security. Have the bonds bear interest from date, if not punctually paid. You can probably sell some such bonds for your cash price for the pork, if there are any note buyers in the neighborhood where you may sell. You can add interest of seven per cent in S. Carolina, and eight in Georgia.

"You had best divide the drove in as many lots as you can and get Mr. Woodson Morgan to assist you, if he is at leisure.

"I received a letter from Mr. Duke Hamilton, of Sparta. He will assist in selling our pork, but said he tried to engage at $5., but could not do so then. He states that pork would be wanted there as usual. I have written to him. If he assists you, you must make his lady a present of a fat little hog or something else; also satisfy him for his services. You know that the people in Georgia always appear loath to give $5. for pork, but we cannot afford to sell for less and hardly at that.

"If you are obliged to 'bacon' any hogs, let them be the smallest and leanest of choice and let no person have more than fifteen, and I would rather not trust that many. You must be particular how the hogs are cut out (if you salt any). Have the feet cut below the knee and hack the joints, and the backbone taken out bare as possible.

"I want you to see all lists of sales to see if we have gotten seven pieces of the hog. Where that is not done you know we can be easily imposed upon.

"Tell all the drovers you see not to be alarmed and be uniform in their prices for pork; to avoid crowding on each other in market and they can all do tolerably well. I only want fair play and a reasonable profit for my pork.

"You must not make any promise to furnish anyone pork in

Georgia, unless the price is agreed upon and a contract closed and the hogs to be received gross, if the weather is not suitable to kill when the hogs arrive there."

By the Fall of 1833 Henry Bruce insisted that he must go again with a drove to Georgia, and after a successful trip returned home on January 29, 1834, having "had a disagreeable journey, as the roads were generally too muddy or else rough frozen, and the water courses generally high."

Late in 1834 he said of the annual driving: "I have made some money by it, but not every year; it is an expensive, dangerous business." In 1835 he purchased several thousand hogs and drove them South, with the assistance of his three sons and his son-in-law, Woodson Morgan. A curious Bruce note has survived from December 23, 1835, written at Sparta, Ga. Finding that his Georgian purchasers of the past were refusing to pay the price he asked, he gave out many hogs to people he knew, to salt. At last he wrote:

"I now haven't many left. I will drive the remnant to and fro till they eat their heads off before I knock under on the price."

In that year 69,187 hogs passed through the toll gate at Cumberland Gap, Ky.

As a further indication of the difficulties attending the long Southern journey, Henry Bruce wrote on October 15, 1836, just prior to his tenth trip to Georgia—

"I have labored hard through life and do yet—'tis by that means I am enabled to contribute to my childrens' welfare. Every person that has health and strength ought to be diligently employed to

earn something to make himself comfortable in old age. I am by these considerations reluctantly induced to leave home in a few days, as I have done many years previously, to try to better the condition of my children. Great is the sacrifice, I assure you, to leave my wife, children and friends, and the comforts of our own table and fireside. But 'tis a duty I owe to them to try to make some provision for their future benefit, especially when I reflect on the circumstances I was in when I married and located myself on fifty acres of unpaid for land."

Directly after writing that letter, Henry Bruce went sixteen miles from home to a bank in Maysville, Ky., where he sometimes borrowed money to finance his purchases. There he may have encountered on the street a young student of twenty-four, in the local academy. His name was Ulysses S. Grant.[1]

Henry Bruce, aged sixty, caught in the fever of speculation that had gripped thousands, in 1837 contracted for 3,130 hogs at high prices. He engaged to pay $4.50 and $5 a hundred weight when, at driving time, prices fell to $3 and $3.50. Then came the "Panic of 1837," with the price of pork falling to a point that caused him to lose $7,000—a sum equal to the profit of three or four successful driving seasons.

On December 7, 1837, when at Washington, Ga., he said of the disaster—

"I commenced selling in Carolina slowly at 6c gross and the farther we drove, the cheaper the pork. The last sales we made in Carolina consisted of about seventy hogs at $5.75. In every direction I heard of hogs selling from 5c to 5½c. The weather is not

[1] General U. S. Grant was born about 25 miles from the home of Henry Bruce.

cold enough to induce many to kill pork. This is a rainy day and there are only seventeen hogs to take out of my pen to kill tonight.

"I left some of my poorest hogs in Carolina to 'bacon.' I fear I will be obliged to 'bacon' some in Georgia, as the people are determined to do without pork if they can't get it very low. As expenses are very high, most of the drovers must lose money. You know my fate was fixed before I left home. Therefore, I am prepared to submit the more cheerfully.

"Cotton is low at 8c or 9c or the drovers would do some better. Speculation is like gambling—sometimes win and sometimes lose. I have determined this to be my last trip and have told the people all along the road."

At this time Henry Bruce concluded to relinquish the personal driving of hogs and devote himself to the farm. After pursuing the business of trading for a period of forty years, he saw that newer methods were superseding the old. However, in 1839 he purchased hogs at an average of $4, sending a drove South by others, and lost $700. In 1840 he sent his two sons, Henry and James, to Georgia, with 1,600 hogs that he had purchased at $3, "when most drovers paid $3.25 and $3.50."

Shipments to New Orleans continued, Henry Bruce sending down surplus farm products of all kinds. The plan of sending meat to New Orleans and Florida was different from the one used in delivering it to Georgia. When the destination was the deep South, he had the animals driven to Maysville, the nearest good-sized river city. There they were slaughtered and the mess pork, bacon and lard placed in barrels and loaded on flatboats, to be floated down the Ohio and the Mississippi. After several years the sons,

Henry and James Bruce, who had continued to drive to Georgia, changed from dealing in hogs to selling horses and mules. Finally, the Bruce energy was largely devoted to the home place, in raising horses, mules, cattle, hogs, and in the production of hemp, wheat, barley and oats.

Many transactions in pork were made in South Carolina, and once when Henry Bruce stopped there for a few hours, the youngest son, James, met Martha Johnson, his wife-to-be, and on an earlier trip to Sparta, Georgia, his son, Henry, met his cousin and his fate: Mary Bruce.[1]

[1] Henry Bruce went thirteen times to Sparta, causing him to be away from home a length of time totaling about three years.

CHAPTER XIV

"The Letter to Lucy"

"Words are things, and a small drop of ink,
May make thousands think."
—*Adapted from Byron's Don Juan.*

HENRY BRUCE was forty-four when the first wedding in the family took place, with the marriage of his eldest daughter Lucy to Thomas Porter.[1] There were then seven Bruce daughters, the youngest having been born in February of that year. The father of ten children was impressed by the gravity, perhaps by the solemnity, of his new experience as a father-in-law, and directly afterward wrote what is known in the Bruce family as "The letter to Lucy."[2]

It was intended as a guide to the bride of eighteen and her husband, who were starting married life with little more than their hopes. The bridegroom, then twenty-five, was soon to begin a prosperous business career, as owner of the leading dry goods store at the county seat, Flemingsburg.[3] Thomas and Lucy Porter occupied a pleasantly-situated home there, but moved to Covington, Kentucky, about the year 1840. There in 1852-3 they erected a large,

[1] September 20, 1821.

[2] Henry Bruce carefully made a copy of the letter, and it was found by his executors in his desk, in 1855. The copy is now in the possession of his grandson, James Morgan, Lynn, Mass.

[3] Thomas Porter also served as a member of the Kentucky legislature.

LUCY LAING BRUCE PORTER, 1802-1875. Eldest daughter of Henry and Eleanor Bruce.

brick residence, which stands today in good condition and continues to be occupied.

That Henry Bruce could have written these paragraphs, packed with erudition and perspicacity, surprises us. But they exactly reflect the man. The letter throughout breathes the love and anxiety of the father. It would be difficult to improve it by omitting or adding a word. The complete text follows:

Fleming County, Ky.
September 24, 1821

Mrs. Lucy L. Bruce Porter,
Fleming County, Kentucky

My dear Lucy:

As you have lately formed a union with a young man (Mr. Thomas Porter), who has my approbation, I feel it an incumbent duty to suggest to you my views of the course you ought to pursue to insure your present and future happiness and prosperity.

In the first place, you should make it your constant aim to please your husband, carefully avoiding to do anything that you think may have any tendency to wound his feelings, lest thereby you weaken the bonds of his affection, and should he at any time be refractory, be sure you do not give him an angry word nor a frown, (for remember that the dutiful wife is always submissive to her husband). But do everything in your power to promote his happiness and interest for thereby you promote your own.

As you will embark into the cares of life, with a family, in but limited circumstances, you should be industrious, and careful, using economy in the management of your domestic affairs, and by your united efforts, with the blessing of heaven, you will acquire an abundance of the good things of this world, whereby you will be able to contribute in some measure to the necessities of the poor, which never send empty away, for we are but stewards and "God loves the cheerful giver," and again, "It is better to give than to

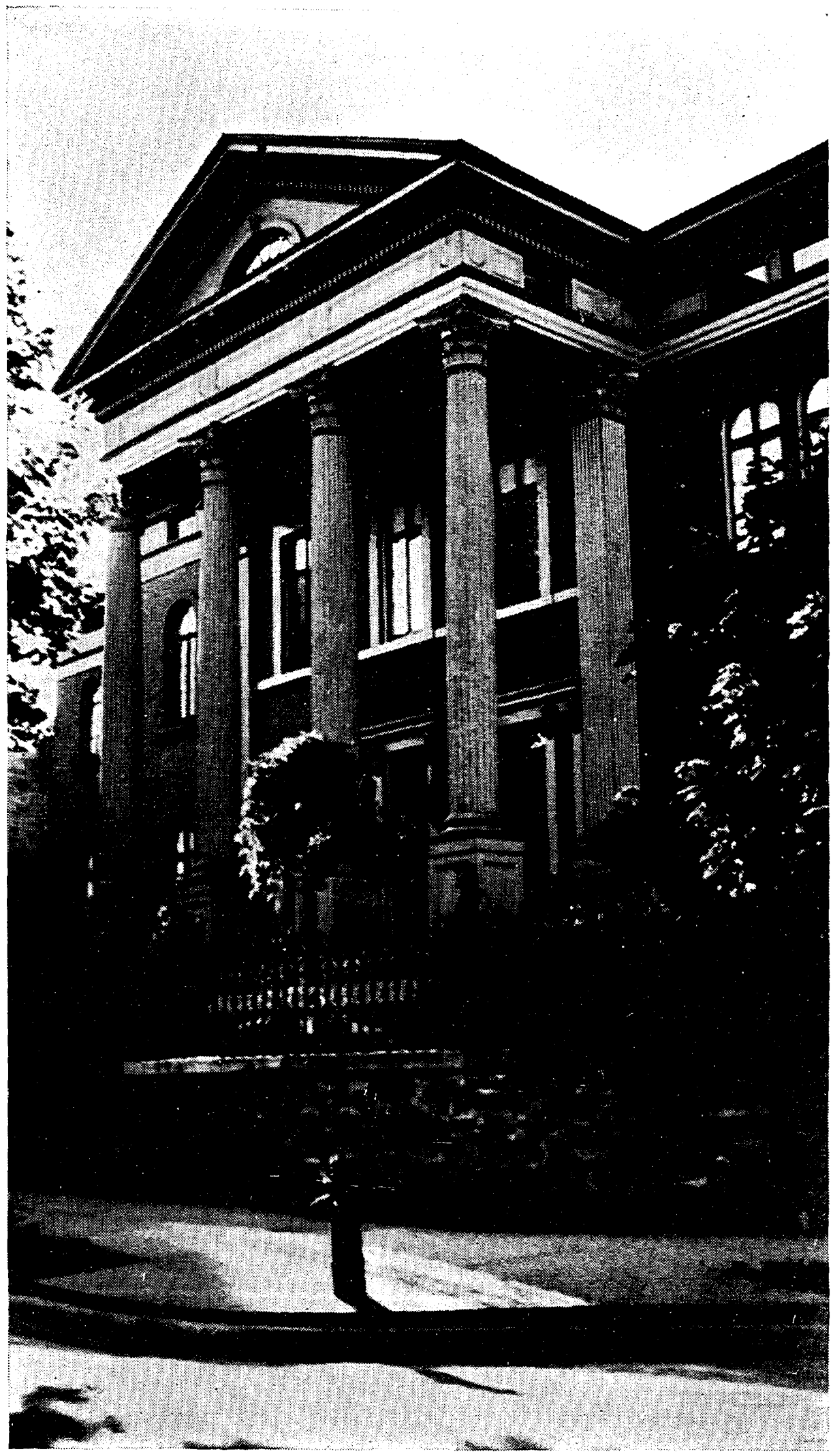
receive," as stated in Holy Writ. Always suffer wrong rather than do it to anyone, and never say nor do anything to wound the feelings of your neighbors, but be always ready to do them a favor when required, if consistent with duty. Cultivate friendship with all, bear malice with none, and never deviate from the paths of morality and virtue.

Should you be a mother, instruct and admonish your children to pursue virtue and abstain from vice, that they may become respectable members of society. Should you have slaves, treat them with humanity. Try to ameliorate the condition of these poor degraded human beings. Give them plenty of necessary food and clothing, and exact only reasonable service and should you be under the necessity of chastising them at any time, let it be in moderation. Let your commands to them, or your children, be positive, teaching them promptly to obey. This will supersede the necessity of scolding, which is too frequent in families, and a practice I abhor, and one I hope you will never pursue.

I commenced housekeeping in low circumstances and have labored hard to accumulate property for the benefit of my children, and am desirous to see you well settled in life, holding respectable stations. I have often, when toiling with sweat trickling down my face, thought of an expression of Saint Paul, who said with his own hands had he labored night and day that he might not became chargeable (which is applicable to me). I hope my children will all have too much ambition to be entirely dependent on their parents or anybody else, for support.

I shall take delight in assisting you all if I see you use laudable exertions to help yourselves. I wish you to preserve this letter and frequently read and ponder these things in your mind. You may show it to your husband, if you choose, as the purport of these broken hints is designed to benefit you both. May the Lord prosper your way, and when your earthly career shall terminate, may you be received to the mansions of eternal felicity, is the prayer of your affectionate father,

Henry Bruce.



THE HOME OF THOMAS AND LUCY BRUCE PORTER. Located in Covington, Ky.

CHAPTER XV

Travel

What do they know of England, who only England knows?
—*Kipling.*

We may think of Henry Bruce as traveling often from one Southern state to another.[1] This hurrying to and fro began even in infancy when, upon the death of his father, his mother took her twelve months old boy from Stafford county, Virginia, to live in Culpeper. When five years old, he journeyed to Orange county, to reside with a paternal great-uncle, Charles Bruce, at "Soldier's Rest." When eleven he returned to Stafford, the county of his birth, to live with his grandfather. Shortly afterward he lived in Botetourt county at the home of Hugh Morrison, his stepfather.

In a former chapter we have noted the fifteen-year-old lad on his mother's horse for the lone ride that took him from Tidewater, Virginia to Kentucky. Although he resolved never to permanently leave the beautiful blue-grass, nearly every year found him again on horseback, his saddle-bags packed, because a "healthy discontent" drove him to new enterprises, calculated to add needed income for a growing family.

His first considerable journey, after becoming of age,

[1] Excepting in a single instance to Cleveland, Ohio, Henry Bruce appears rarely to have ventured above the Mason and Dixon line.

was his return in 1798 to early scenes in Stafford county, but he did not go again to Virginia until September, 1808, repeating the long, toilsome trip in the next year, 1809—a journey then beset with hardships which today are difficult to comprehend. At that time he visited Fredericksburg, which was close to his old home in Stafford, across the Rappahannock. Exactly forty years later he wished he could be in Fredericksburg, and he calculated that if the railroad should ever connect Kentucky and Virginia, the journey might be made in two days, instead of the fortnight then required.[1]

While his visits to Virginia continued in 1813 and 1814, they were abandoned because of the necessity of giving more attention to the increasing acreage of his farm. He made numerous excursions within Kentucky, three times visiting his mother. These trips took him to Allen county in the Southwestern part of the state. We know also that he explored nearby counties for hogs each Autumn, and that he went a number of times to Frankfort, the capital.

When George Bruce, of Sparta, Georgia (whom Henry Bruce had not seen for twenty-four years), came to Fleming county in July, 1822, he succeeded in exacting a promise from his brother that he would return the visit in the Fall of the following year. Accordingly, in

[1] From letter of Henry Bruce to his cousin, Margaret Bruce, Sept. 19, 1852. By today boarding the "George Washington," on the Chesapeake & Ohio, at Maysville, Ky. (but thirty minutes by motor from Bruce's Station), the trip may comfortably be made to Fredericksburg in eight hours.

ELEANOR ("Ellen") BRUCE MORGAN, 1809-1891. Fourth daughter of Henry and Eleanor Bruce.

November, 1823, Henry Bruce set out for what was then the longest journey he had made, across Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina and into the South of Georgia.[1]

The most interesting expedition afield that he ever made was down the Mississippi in the Spring of 1824,[2] and an account is given on another page of the purely business side of that three-months excursion. New Orleans was the largest and most beautiful city he had seen. The traveler remained in it three weeks and described it enthusiastically to his friends. And when he sat down near life's end to write a letter explaining something of his career, he did not fail to tell of the number of days he had spent in the lovely Louisiana metropolis, thirty years previously.

That subtropical capital of trade had then grown to be the fifth largest American center, with a population of 33,000. It was a picturesque place containing narrow streets and foreign-looking houses with colored stuccoes and iron railings. There were also broad avenues, a cathedral, and immense warehouses for receiving, pressing and storing cotton. From the levee could be seen nearly two miles of various kinds of vessels, arks and flatboats. A hundred steamboats gave a sense of novelty. There were also three-masters for foreign trade, with their broadsides to the shore—all expressing the growing commerce of the river and people, and offering "one of the most singularly beautiful" sights that could be conceived.

[1] Described in another chapter.

[2] April 27th to June 26th.

At the market Henry Bruce saw nuts and fruits of the tropics; fish from lake and gulf; sugar, grain and meats. He noted the medley of races and dress—French, Spanish, Mexicans, Creoles, even Indians, and slaves.[1] The Battle of New Orleans had been fought only nine years before, when the hero, Andrew Jackson, aided by the long rifles of the Kentuckians, repulsed the British.

It may be recalled that John Threlkeld, oldest brother of Eleanor Bruce, sold his farm to Henry Bruce and removed to Boone county, Missouri, in April, 1830. Even earlier, Eleanor Bruce's youngest sister, Margaret, had married Enoch O'Rear, silversmith, and they had gone to live in the far-off county named. Henry and Eleanor Bruce, at the suggestion of the latter, on May 20th, 1832, began a trip to their kindred in Northern Missouri. It was the only time that Henry Bruce ever journeyed a distance involving thousands of miles for a purely social reason. After going down the Ohio from Maysville on the daily packet, they embarked on a large boat, the "Statesman," at Cincinnati, and went to Louisville where all passengers were forced to disembark because of the Falls. After remaining there more than a day, they took passage on the "Niagara." The cabin was crowded with good company and five days were pleasantly passed by the voyagers on the Ohio and the Mississippi before they went ashore upon the arrival of the boat at St. Louis.[2]

[1] Latrobe, Vol. 2, 330-4.

[2] The distance as today measured by the aeroplane from Fleming county

Two days were spent at the Western hub, which then had a population of 8,000 people. Henry Bruce thought it "a flourishing town, though a very costly place to live." Here the Bruces called on Basil W. Alexander, a former Fleming county man, who had married a niece of Eleanor Bruce.[1] Henry Bruce rode out fourteen miles to David Smalls through what is now one of the most beautiful residential districts in the world, reporting "the country mostly barren, interspersed with indifferent timber, ponds and slashes of mud and water."

The stage was taken at St. Louis, the visitors riding ten miles to visit an old former Kentucky neighbor, Aaron H. Young, where they remained for the night. Next day, June 1st, their host mounted his guests on horseback for the ride of ten miles to St. Charles, where they waited nearly two days before entering an overcrowded mail coach, traveling seventy miles the first day and reaching their destination, Columbia, at six on the following evening. The road was rough but the jolted tourists were interested by their first glimpse of an open prairie.

Enoch and Margaret Threlkeld O'Rear were waiting

to St. Louis is but 400 miles. But Henry Bruce reported that 1200 miles were traveled on the outgoing trip alone over the two curving rivers.

[1] Basil Williams Alexander had often visited in the home of Henry Bruce. Already prominent in business, he became a Missouri millionaire. He married Sarah Ann Threlkeld, daughter of John Threlkeld. After the death of Sarah, Basil Alexander in 1838 married Octavia Orme. From that union came a son, Linden Alexander, who married Nannie Bruce, daughter of Henry Bruce, Jr. Their granddaughter, Mary Catherine Alexander, married first, Mr. Brumback and, in Oct. 1932, John Pierrepont Porter, son of a sister of Parmelee Prentice, the latter a son-in-law of John D. Rockefeller.

in Columbia, to take the expected visitors to their home six miles away in the country. Next day the guests called on John Threlkeld, who received his sister with "tears of joy." He was blind and his brother-in-law wrote: "My sympathy was roused high to see his condition." During this visit Henry Bruce attended two Boone county "regimental musters," where hundreds of men, among them George Threlkeld, volunteered to march upon the Indians.[1]

The visiting landowner was not favorably impressed with the country West of the Mississippi, although he reported that he occasionally saw good soil. "This is no Kentucky," was the laconic comment of one who never in his life thought he had found land equal to that of his home state.

The same winding road-and-river route was followed on the homeward journey, excepting that the travelers stopped in Union county, Kentucky, to see friends near Morganfield. Eight weeks after they had departed they returned to home and family.[2]

The fifteen states that Henry Bruce said he had visited[3] appear to have been Virginia (part of which is now West

[1] At the same time, in the neighboring State of Illinois, other men were volunteering to fight the red men—in this instance headed by the famed Black Hawk. Among the volunteers was a former Kentuckian: Abraham Lincoln.

[2] The owner of one thousand acres of blue-grass land and several dozen slaves spent $190 for the trip and in a letter written to a son upon the return, feared that the travelers had been somewhat extravagant.

[3] Letter to James Coles Bruce, Feb. 22, 1855.

Virginia), Kentucky, Ohio, Missouri, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana and Maryland.

"I have traveled about considerably until I was sixty years old, and was never sick one minute from home in my life," he once recorded. From the first he had sensed the truth in Shakespeare's maxim: "Homeloving youths hath ever homely wits." Thousands of men improved big stretches of land in Kentucky and seldom left their county. But "Squire" Bruce, as his neighbors knew him, rarely remained long on the farm. We estimate that the time spent by him outside of Kentucky (until he reached the evening of life) to have been nearly a fifth. Milton somewhere speaks of "the rapture of the forward view." It was possessed by Henry Bruce.

CHAPTER XVI

Religion

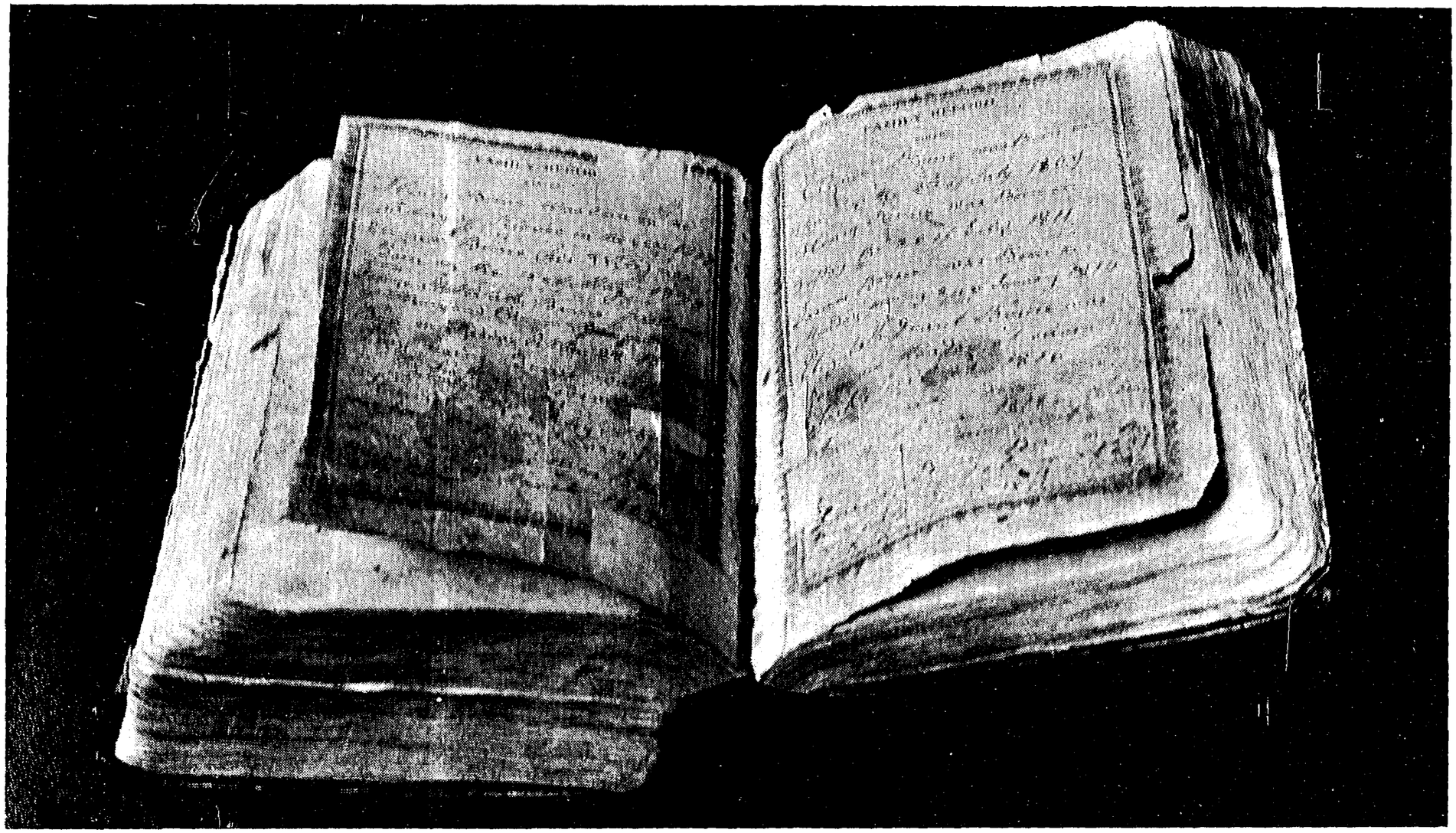
I believe the majority of people will generally do right if correctly informed.
—Henry Bruce, Mar. 19, 1825.

HENRY BRUCE was a religious man: a student of the Bible. He had thought much of the Scriptures, and could readily quote from them. Once when a point mentioned in the Bible seemed obscure, or inconsistent, he procured a different version, which he thought brought increased understanding and content. Ordinarily he attended "old Bethel," the Baptist church at Mayslick. It was long headed by Rev. Walter Warden, who was respected, esteemed and loved by Henry Bruce.

Although the three great men of the Revolution were not adherents of any church, religious issues were discussed with vigor during the following age. Henry Bruce seldom wrote a letter to his brother-in-law, Henry Collins, without giving a page to the subject.

Some idea of the zeal manifested for religion in a pioneer period is given by the number of members of the Baptist church, located in a small village such as Mayslick, Kentucky. In 1822 its membership roll had grown until it contained the names of 635 communicants.

It may interest the reader to know that probably Henry Bruce never heard the sound of a musical instrument in



THE BIBLE OF HENRY BRUCE. Showing it open at the Family Record, with list of births in handwriting of Henry Bruce.

a church. One hundred years ago the organ was considered by many to be a machine of the devil. The "old-time Baptist opposed Bible societies, missionary 'associations,' and even temperance organizations," Henry Bruce once stated. He also reported that a member of "old Bethel" had been "churched" (expelled) for playing cards.

From time to time certain churches banded together, holding an "association," and more rarely a revival. One "association" long discussed in the Bruce neighborhood, was called in September, 1822, at Mayslick. Henry Bruce attended daily, and saw the largest crowds he had ever known to attend divine service.

Barton Stone, Thomas Campbell and other preachers caused much discussion in Northeastern Kentucky, in 1823. Maintaining that the Baptist church had strayed from the literal teaching of the New Testament, they succeeded in establishing the Christian, or Disciples of Christ, church. Powerful exhorters, with warm personalities, these men persuaded thousands from their old moorings. Henry Bruce heard the "elders" as they preferred to be called, several times and said that he thought "they had the most Scripture on their side." He purchased a copy of their favored version of the New Testament, and liked it.

In October of the year named, a man of thirty-six, whom Henry Bruce described as a young Scotchman (although born in Ireland), debated at Washington,[1] in Mason

[1] Twelve miles from the home of Henry Bruce. Washington was at one time called "The Athens of Kentucky." Here Harriet Beecher Stowe secured material for "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

county, with Rev. MacColly, a well-known Presbyterian minister, on the subject of baptism. This was the celebrated Alexander Campbell,[1] sometimes considered to be the actual founder of the Christian church. In the Autumn following, the zealous leader returned to Kentucky from his home in the Western portion of Virginia. He was on his way to Tennessee. On Sunday, September 27th, at Washington, Kentucky, there "gathered the greatest concourse of people to hear him that ever met together there."[2] Henry Bruce wrote to Henry Collins about it, continuing: "Should he (Alexander Campbell) preach in reach of you, be sure to go and hear him, as he is a great man."

Although Baptist leaders in the Bruce neighborhood, such as Rev. Walter Warden, Rev. William Warder, Rev. Vaughn and Rev. Verdiman were heard by Henry Bruce, they were probably unable to equal the eloquence, or quickly meet the arguments, of the notable men then espousing a new faith. Not only did one half the members of "old Bethel" leave their denomination to form a Christian church, but many more would have gone save for the popularity of Rev. Walter Warden and Rev. Vaughn. The new religious sect responsible for this spiritual upheaval was derisively dubbed "reformers," "Newlights," or "Campbellites."

The division in the Baptist church was long discussed, but Henry Bruce said that he wished to see all people

[1] Son of Thomas Campbell.

[2] Henry Bruce letter, Sept. 30, 1824.

united, since "no one can tell which creed is preferred by the head of the church. Therefore," he continued, "they ought to be charitable to each other."

The new ideas did not interest Eleanor Bruce. She uncompromisingly favored the old belief, and nearly all of her children became Baptists. She did not approve of her husband's purchase of a revised Testament and she lent it so effectively that he amusedly complained it was rarely any more seen on his reading table. He even heard the proposal made that it be burned.

Henry Bruce urged his children to attend divine service and worship God. An extract from one of his letters to a young son[1] is typical of his repeated injunctions—

"I hope the Lord will preserve you in health and prosper you on your way home. Whatever may be your general pursuits through life, I will advise you to devote a part of your time to reading the Scriptures earnestly, desiring to understand and obey their righteous requirements. You should never forget to implore a divine blessing daily, to love mercy, deal justly and walk humbly before God. That will prepare you for living and dying in peace."

In September, 1852, he wrote concerning his wife: "She has been a member of the Baptist church for thirty-nine years. Our daughters are all Baptists but one, and our eldest son and wife, and a daughter, are Baptists; also my son Henry's wife is a member, too; James is a member of the Methodist church. I have never made any profession of religion, because have never felt that change of heart

[1] May 30, 1831. To Henry Bruce, Jr., then aged twenty, who was returning from a business trip to Florida.

I hear others talk of, tho I know I like to see the cause prosper and am pleased to hear of my relatives joining any religious society they may prefer. I have charity for all, tho am a Baptist in sentiment."

The last words he probably wrote on the subject were penned on February 22nd, 1855 (twenty-two weeks before the end): "I have not been slack in contributing a mite for charitable purposes and assisting in building churches for various denominations, tho I never attached myself to any society."

CHAPTER XVII

Politics

I care not for men, but for measures.
—*Henry Bruce, April 17, 1826.*

THE issues that divided Kentuckians one hundred years ago, now seem obscure, but they were of import to the settlers. Nearly one-half of the Bruce letters contain references to politics—paragraphs sometimes expanding into pages. It would be tedious to detail the forgotten problems that puzzled men in those early days of Kentucky. The questions were usually local, and generally affected the purse. The comments of Henry Bruce were on a high level. Politicians then were what they sometimes are today: inclined to be self-seeking or grasping for advantage. He understood them and was suspicious of a certain type.

He was interested in the disputes separating the citizens of the young state.[1] The scarcity of money prompted unusual measures. After nearly all the forty-six banks chartered by the legislature in 1820 had failed, a series of laws was passed, designed for the benefit of the debtor class, among them an enactment making state bank notes legal tender for debts. A district court pronounced that measure unconstitutional. A new court of appeals was formed, in 1824, when men divided on the issue: "Old court" and

[1] Admitted to the Union in 1792.

"New court." The currency was debased, and the man owning property was likely to stand on the side of conservatism. So we find Henry Bruce, following in the lead of Henry Clay, speaking and writing in favor of the old court. He became a National Republican and was a supporter of John Quincy Adams. The new court party was for Andrew Jackson. A little later Bruce was known as a Henry Clay Whig, and he continued a member of that political division to the end. His neighbors and acquaintances, from Mayslick to Flemingsburg, were inclined to honor the smiling, hard-working squire. If a political meeting was called, he was sometimes requested to preside.

Through an old arrangement, now all but forgotten, the office of High Sheriff was usually awarded, each term, to the magistrate who had continuously served longest as justice-of-the-peace. Thus Acting Governor James T. Morehead appointed Henry Bruce to the position for Fleming county, in 1834. Having occasionally visited Frankfort on county business, it has been surmised that it was on one of these visits to the state capital that Henry Bruce met John Sanderson Morgan, serving as member of the legislature from Nicholas county. Their acquaintance resulted in the marriage of three of the daughters of Henry Bruce to the three brothers, John Sanderson, Woodson and William Franklin Morgan.[1] John and Woodson, followers of Clay, served several terms in the legislature, and the former also was elected to the state senate.

[1] These three marriages caused an unusual number of double first cousins.

After Jackson's triumph and inauguration, Henry Bruce wrote on September 7th, 1829: "I am no Jackson man but wish him to be treated with the respect due to his rank." He did not favor the brusque soldier of his neighboring state, then often misunderstood, who remains almost the only president who was more popular at the end than at the beginning of his term of office.

The longest and perhaps the most significant statement that we have of the political views of Henry Bruce was written by him on April 29th, 1854, to his son Henry, who was a strong Southern sympathizer. With feeling already running high, with the Civil War but seven years away, he wrote on a subject that would shortly divide the country. Although he was a slave-holder, he kept a cool detachment. He foresaw the coming attempt to separate the states and he wished that the blacks had been left in Africa—

"I am astonished to find that a large majority of the Southern members in Congress are in favor of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise (so called). The law passed in 1850 for the apprehension of fugitives, which was much opposed by the people of the free states, in general, though reluctantly submitted to, will of course be repealed if the Missouri Act is. You know the North has, and ever will have, the majority of members in Congress, and the slave-holders will never have another act passed for their benefit.

"You may expect to see more agitation on the slavery question than ever before. Isn't it somewhat singular that Douglas, a man from a free state, should be the author of this disturbance? I suspect that his object is to influence the Southern voters of both parties to support him for the Presidency.

"The Northern representatives in Congress never will consent

that slavery shall be admitted in any territory that is now free, and Mr. Clay said emphatically that he never would consent to it. He, you know, was not often wrong on any subject.

"I would prefer that slaves should be admitted and held in every state than to have the system exist as it does. I believe it was bad policy to have permitted negroes to be brought to this continent, especially as slaves. I could wish there never had been a black man in these United States. If ever the Union is dissolved, I believe that slavery will be the prominent cause.

"You know that the Southern people are very sensitive and jealous on the subject of slavery. The slave-holders are not willing that anything should be said or done against the further extension of slavery. All must, or ought to, admit that the will of the majority should govern. I believe there is intelligence and virtue enough in the majority of the people to act right on any subject, when correctly informed and not misled by designing demagogues, who sometimes cause the people greatly to err."

The length of this chapter indicates something of the part that politics played in the busy years of Bruce. He was interested. He realized that the laws affected the well-being of the commonwealth. But he knew that his life should not be lived in buttonholing friends and neighbors for their suffrages.

ANN THRELKELD BRUCE MORGAN, 1818-1900.
Next to youngest daughter of Henry and Eleanor Bruce.
At age of 18. From painting by Shackelford.

CHAPTER XVIII

The Charitable Man

Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor,
and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.
–I Cor. XIII, 3.

FAME may count for much, but in the end what is it that ranks highest in human living? Perhaps it is the "little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love," with which Wordsworth evaluated life. There are people in Northern Kentucky today who continue to tell of some kindly act of Henry Bruce.

His life recalls Cicero's boast: There was "nothing about him alien to humanity." When a collection of money was made for helpful work among the Indians, he contributed and wrote that he hoped it would be of aid. Sometimes when the Bruce dining table was loaded with food, the man at its head would startle those present by saying: "There is old So-and-So, over on the Helena road, half starving to death!" He would then back a cart to the smokehouse and load it well for the man in need. Henry Bruce was once heard to say: "I would be glad to hear that I am the poorest man in the county." He wished that the goddess of fortune would perch on the roof of every neighboring homestead.

When he was a young man of twenty-one (as told in a preceding chapter), Henry Bruce insisted that his father's

estate be equally divided between his brother and himself. The younger man could not have expected so generous a division, because the Virginia statute favored the eldest son.

In September, 1815, Henry Bruce, then thirty-seven years old (as already noted), left his home containing several children, and journeyed to Virginia, where he coaxed three of his aunts to return to Kentucky to live with him. He furnished them with a house, located near his own home, where they lived comfortably for at least fifteen years—probably longer. In the Spring of 1836, he defrayed the cost of moving his brother (then almost blind), and his brother's wife and family, from Southern Georgia to Northern Kentucky, again agreeing to support an additional family, although he had ten children of his own.

The warmth of his nature shines through the pages of his letters. For a long time he was involved in litigation with his stepfather who, aided by his son, James Morrison, retained or sold property that appeared to have belonged to Henry's mother. He was loath to sue. He preferred to compromise, and was willing to surrender half his rights. At length the court decided in his favor, but only after much of the property had been dissipated. Finally, after years of effort, he shared with his brother all that was recovered.

Although Henry Bruce was not raised with his half brothers and sisters, he was keenly concerned about them,

repeatedly inquiring after their welfare, and hoped that they would become useful members of society. In some instances they disappointed him, but quickly afterward they would find that all was forgiven, and that he wished them to come and visit him.

He interested himself also in his nephews and nieces, in several instances insisting on defraying the cost of their education. He was solicitous of their progress, discussing their development in his letters to their parents. He was anxious to welcome them in his home.

When the present turn-pike road was projected between Elizaville and Maysville, Henry Bruce gave the right-of-way through the middle of his farm. The members of any proposed church building in Mason or Fleming counties could count on receiving a substantial contribution from the "Squire," and he was likely to be found heading any movement for public improvement.

While cautious in business, he somewhat freely endorsed his neighbors' notes. His executors found a good many thousands of dollars worth of defaulted paper which he had signed and which he had paid to the last penny.

He was thoughtful of others, asking little for himself. When the last weeks of his life approached, he sat down at his desk and spent most of two days writing long letters to far-off kinsmen, who had never heard of him. He knew that he had interesting family lore to impart. He ransacked his memory in order that no detail of value would be overlooked. As a result, his two February letters of 1855 are

not the least of the interesting acts of this Virginia-Kentuckian.

His benefactions, some of which might be listed, amounted to many thousands of dollars. One injunction that he left to his children was: "Contribute to the necessities of the poor. Never send them empty-handed away, for we are but stewards, and God loves the cheerful giver."

The heart of Henry Bruce is shown in the following paragraph of a letter he wrote in February, 1855—

> "I never had a desire to give my children large estates to begin, were it in my power to do so, and if I had a few thousand dollars more to bestow upon the unfortunate, I would be pleased to relieve them. Some parents say that every child should share alike tho I can't feel that way. I have done more for my unfortunate children already than the others and feel like I must continue to do so according to my limited means while I remain on earth."

CHAPTER XIX

Characteristics

I appeal from your customs; I must be myself.
—*Emerson.*

HENRY BRUCE was of medium height, with large frame. His complexion was ruddy; chin firm, but with a kindly mouth. The eyes were brown and brilliant. At times he wore sideburns, such as may be seen in some contemporary pictures of President Van Buren. His hands were quite large. Of rude health, he appears never to have been ill (with a single exception), until late in life.[1] At the age of sixty-three, still possessing the strength of youth, he spoke with gratitude of his strong constitution. Even at seventy-five he wrote that he possessed "almost perfect health." At seventy-six he continued to mount his horse.

In the early period of his life Henry Bruce commonly wore coat and trousers of tow linen, and coarse cowhide boots. These gave way in his later days to garments of

[1] From September 22, 1830 letter of Henry Bruce:

"I had good health till two weeks after I got home, and then became unwell and lost my appetite to eat and lingered about ten days before I would take any medicine. I then sent for a young doctor that lived at a small village about two miles distance (Elizaville). He gave me a puke and a dose of calomel; this was the first I had ever tasted.

"I still continued to get worse and sent for another doctor, and so on till I employed six of them. Some days three would be to see me, and one of them came five miles (from Flemingsburg) every day for two weeks, and two lived in Washington, twelve miles distant. They said I had the nervis and billious fever. I was confined about five weeks, and thank God I have got tolerably well and my appetite good, and am fast regaining my strength and flesh."

broadcloth, polished calfskin gaiters, and linen. He commonly wore a stock collar and a broad silk tie. Several of his walking sticks, one of them with an ivory head, have been preserved.

Exceptionally cheery and good-natured, he was fond of young people and home gayety. If a boy or girl came into the room where he was, the older man was certain to have a little pleasantry ready. He was admired by the children of the vicinity, who called him "Uncle Harry."

With a free state but a short distance away, liberty lay at the end of a journey of an hour or two for the dozens of slaves on the Bruce farm. Although there was an occasional "runaway," there is evidence that the simple blacks were fond of the master. If he had no use for a certain slave, he contrived to "let" his service to another. He started the plan in 1802 and continued it for fifty years. His statement, suggesting that the stories in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which he may have read, were not typical, appears in another chapter.

In the somewhat boastful American fashion, he was not unmindful that his taxes were the largest paid in his county. He was careful of money but protested that he was not wealthy. Modesty and humility were generally apparent in his bearing. He was forgiving and kind, yet bold and active in business.

A grandson said of Henry Bruce: "I have often heard him say: 'Suffer wrong rather than contend too strenuously for your rights.' He had firm principles, but was gentle as

a woman. He was honored, respected and loved by nearly all who knew him. He had no enemies, and he never quarreled with anyone. The entire neighborhood looked to him for advice and counsel. I never heard a profane word from his lips."[1]

A little story will illustrate his determination of purpose. He knew that the butter churned from the cream which came when the cows were turned into the Spring pastures was best. Each year he would have a considerable quantity of it placed in supposedly airtight firkins. This was the "May butter" that invariably was placed at his plate on the dining table throughout the year. Many a guest considered it incumbent to ask his host for a slice of this special delicacy. But he rarely asked twice, for it was too strong usually for the taste of anyone but the deceived epicure.

For supper Henry Bruce sometimes wanted underdone bread. He had learned to like it in that state when, as a half-starved child, he had often to beg it in the kitchen on the sly. A slice or two spread with his "May butter" and a glass of buttermilk contented him.

Wine and liquors stood in decanters on the sideboard of the home, and the Bruce children had free access to them. Yet all grew up temperate, with no thought of undue indulgence. Henry Bruce was fond of tasting sweetened whisky before meals and was likely to insist that visitors "take a small glassful with me in a spirit of old Virginian hospitality." But he was quick to frown on anything

[1] Statement of Wm. Pickett Bruce.

bordering on drunkenness, and on April 30, 1830 wrote:

"I have recently been giving thought to the habit of drinking liquor to excess. I have frequently seen men in embarrassments get discouraged and dejected and apply to the bottle for relief. I think all such should abstain from drinking. All who find themselves inclined that way should best quit tasting ardent spirits entirely."

His eldest son, who outlived his father twenty-eight years, said: "I never knew him to swear an oath, become under the influence of liquor, or quarrel. His generosity and kindness to guests were rarely equaled. He always assisted the poor and needy." A contemporary, well able to judge, said of him: "Squire Bruce is a perfect type of the old Southern gentleman."

It was a time when duelling was in fashion. Feuds often came in those early days and were known to persist for generations. But Henry Bruce loved peace and was far in advance of many of his contemporaries. A daughter recalled having heard him say: "Even if a dog insists on having the path, I give it to him; for I would rather have the good will of a dog than his bad will."[1]

"Scolding is too frequent in families," he once said. "It is a practice I abhor." Again: "Suffer wrong rather than commit it. Never wound the feelings of your neighbors, and be always ready to do them a favor. Cultivate friendship with all. Bear malice with none. Never deviate from the paths of morality and virtue."

Henry Bruce wrote on September 22, 1824: "I have ever

[1] Statement of Ann Bruce Morgan.

been anxiously engaged to so conduct myself as to obtain a proper standing in the society of persons of respectability. Always, parents should be careful to set good examples before their children."

He possessed largeness of nature and honorable scruple. One cannot rise from a reading of his letters without a feeling of respect for the man who wrote them. He was perhaps emotional in temperament. When the unexpected news came, in mid-June, 1852, of the passing of his son-in-law, John S. Morgan, he wept. And when he wrote of him three weeks later, tears almost blinded him.

An amusing example of his early financial caution may be presented. When twenty-four years of age he wrote this advice from Kentucky, in 1802, to his younger brother, then in Virginia—

"As you have left Petersburg, I think you can with as much conveniency come to see me and the rest of your connections here this Fall, as to tarry longer there. I earnestly request you to come while you are yet single to see how you like Kentucky, as I make no doubt but you will be pleased with the country, as it is as fashionable a place as any in America. There are some very handsome young ladies here. Should you incline to stay it will be better to marry here than to have the expense of cart and carriage from Virginia of a wife."

Even earlier he ruefully observed: "I have experienced that it is a hard thing to make money and easy to spend it, for it is easier to make three bad bargains than one good one."

If there was work to do Henry Bruce would sacrifice

thought of comfort. At Greenville, S. C., on January 17, 1832, he remained up on a cold night until a late hour to write letters, although everyone in the inn but himself had retired. In December of that year when a daughter was desperately ill, he did not remove his clothes but once for eighteen days and nights.

At Sparta, Ga., on December 19, 1836, looking for letters on a business trip, he met the mail stage before sunrise. In the same year, at Asheville, N. C., he remained up until one-thirty in the morning to finish his correspondence.

He had a philosophic mind, and when he was not yet twenty-five he was quoting Job. He took precautions. Thus, in 1832, he wrote to a young son who had been ill: "You must be careful not to expose yourself and never go out in wet weather without an umbrella. Be careful of your money and do not journey at night if you can avoid it. When you are traveling with currency, be very careful and never let strangers know your business."

Henry Bruce placed heavy responsibilities on his sons when they were seventeen and eighteen years of age, saying that "Young people have no time to idle away."

With Emerson, he believed that "life is not so short but there is time for courtesy." "Be industrious and punctual," he once cautioned. "Be careful and attentive. Be courteous and kind to every person, and you will never lack friends. Cultivate friendship with all men and speak ill of none. Conduct yourself circumspectly. Make yourself acquainted

with as many gentlemen as you have opportunity of doing. Treat every person with respect. Be human and hospitable."

After having long served as justice-of-the-peace, sheriff and executor, he came to have much knowledge of the law. In letters written in 1824 and 1854, he wrote at length on the subject of recovering judgment note debts and about the duties of an administrator. His neighbors consulted him concerning legal points.

Eighty years before Leonor F. Loree testified before the Senate Finance Committee that many thousands of miles of unprofitable railroad track must be abandoned, Henry Bruce wrote on October 31, 1853:

"Operations on our railroad are suspended for a lack of funds. There are certainly too many railroads being built all over the Union, at this time. This causes iron and labor to be much enhanced. When the various roads are done, the Irish laborers now employed on them must reduce their wages to about half the present rates. They get now $1.10 a day and don't appear to more than about half work."

That Henry Bruce's interest in trading, even at the age of seventy-six, did not relax is illustrated by a paragraph from a letter written to his son Henry, in October, 1853—

"While I am writing, a drove of a thousand hogs is moving through my place from Bath county. There have been several other droves pass before from Bath. The hogs I have seen are generally better than usual, averaging about three hundred pounds. There have passed here more than double as many as ever before this soon, for the Maysville and Cincinnati markets. They pay 35c for corn at Johnsons, where most of them stop. The Bath

hogs were mostly bought at three dollars per hundred."[1]

As the end of life neared, he wrote: "By experience I know that we are not made happy or contented by the accumulation of wealth. I believe the happiest situation in this life is a competency to provide only the common necessities of life and remain clear of debt."

Samuel Johnson lives in our thought, not because of his turgid sentences, but through the richness of his character. It is a quality that sometimes survives in man's memory for centuries, and is what causes people today to remember Henry Bruce.

Those who knew him best deemed him tenacious, thorough, accurate. He was known to be diligent, independent, self-sacrificing, generous. His intellect appears to have been clear and keen. A virile character, possessing shrewd business judgment, he seems to have "walked ever in the sunlight, letting the shadows fall behind."

[1] A little classic has been translated into many languages. It concerns the complaint of a sluggish employe, who sees a quick-witted, younger man promoted. The employer called the latter into his office, saying: "John, I see they are driving some sheep through the street this morning?" "Yes, sir," came the reply, "mutton is this week fetching a high price in Odessa, and they are driving clear from Kulm." Turning to the complainant: "There is your answer." In keen observance and succinctly packing his finding into a single paragraph, Henry Bruce here has given an insight into one of the many sides of his character.

LUCINDA BRUCE BELL, 1821-1891.
At about the age of 60.

CHAPTER XX

"Miss Nelly"

What women wish, God wills.
—French proverb.

No ONE knows when the boy, Henry Bruce, first met Eleanor Threlkeld. We know that they journeyed together to Kentucky in 1793, when he was fifteen and she fourteen years old. Both were born early in the Revolution and perhaps they remembered seeing the soldiers marching to war. It may be that Henry Bruce knew the Threlkeld family somewhat intimately, since he was permitted to steal away from home in their company. In any event, the two young Virginians then began a companionship that continued for sixty-two years.

Eleanor Bruce had all the physical hardiness of her pioneer ancestry, developed by the active and useful labor which nearly all young women at that time performed. While it was then customary for a maiden to be industrious, the devotion to each problem of the home which was given by this mother of ten children, remains a family tradition and still is discussed after the passing of three generations. Early called "Nelly"[1] by her playmates, the name clung to her throughout life.

[1] It was a nickname then frequently bestowed. George Washington's favorite step-granddaughter was designated in his will: Eleanor Parke Custis. But Mt. Vernon knew her as "Nelly."

An old Spanish adage reads: "In the garden, more grows than the garden shows." Many persons in the neighborhood of the bit of earth carefully guarded by Eleanor Bruce would have vouched for its truth. Because the Bruce home was a considerable distance from a doctor, Eleanor Bruce had a plot set apart for the cultivation of medicinal herbs, over which hung a pleasant odor, and which was separated from the vegetable or kitchen garden by a gate. There were no flowers in the quaint old patch, save the blossoms of the herbs, but a few of these, we are told, surpassed in beauty and coloring the hothouse plants of today. There were beds of spearmint, peppermint, white and yellow dock, tansy, burgamont, heartsease, "old-man" and a dozen others—all thought to possess healing qualities which Eleanor Bruce studied. In the prescribing of the medicine brewed from these plants she was thought to be almost as skillful as a physician. Even as late as 1891, bunches of her herbs, tied with tow linen, were still found hanging in the old garret.

Henry Bruce sometimes brought presents home from his Southern trips, and one time his gift to his wife was a collection of silkworms. While a modern woman might run from them, Eleanor Bruce, though sixty years of age, immediately began to plan to produce silk. She planted mulberry trees back of the house and as soon as they showed their leaves in the Spring, great armloads of the branches were thrown to the silkworms on the floor of a small unused room. If a visitor to the room at that time stood quite

still, he could hear a noise, as of some little insect nibbling. Fresh branches were thrown in when necessary; then the old ones were searched and the cocoons removed, to be kept until a considerable number were collected.

At the proper time the cocoons were placed in a tub of water, presided over by a little negro holding a pronged switch. The child was warned to keep the water in gentle motion, and to be careful that the stick did not touch a cocoon. This movement caused the strands of silk to loosen and float on the surface. Eleanor Bruce gathered these and spun them on a spindle screwed to a bench. She would turn its small wheel with her right hand, holding the numerous strands of silk with her left; the entire frame was not over eighteen inches high. Among other useful things, including hosiery, eight large shawls were made, each with deep fringe. One who saw the collection marveled at the patience required in the making.[1]

We have stated that in will power and ambition, the wife was equal to her husband. Energy and thrift were her outstanding virtues. She had no time for whiners or loafers, and was of exceptional assistance in the expansion of the Bruce possessions from small beginnings. Never idle, she set to work each morning with indomitable will. Those who knew her have left records stressing the qualities mentioned here. She was once heard to repeat an old maxim: "Be hopeful: the darkest hour is just before the dawn!"

She united with the Baptist church in 1813, and rarely

[1] Nearly all the shawls are now owned by descendants of Eleanor Bruce.

failed to attend the weekly religious service at "old Bethel" Meeting House, the nearest church of that denomination. She went on horseback, through storm or cold, and sometimes the horse could scarcely bear her through the mud. Others might read revised versions of the New Testament, or listen to famous preachers, such as Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone. But always and forever she would stand for the old principles with Reverend Walter Warden, her pastor, who was esteemed throughout Northeastern Kentucky.

As she grew older, "Miss Nelly" became stout of build. For eight years before the end, she suffered from a paralytic stroke, losing the use of one side. She retained her mental faculties until the last hour. Although helpless, having to be turned in bed while wrapped in a strong sheet, and nearly blind, no thought of complaint seemed to enter her mind.

With a negro maid at her bedside to assist, Eleanor Bruce was fond of knitting gifts for members of the family. Thirty counterpanes were among the trophies of the bedridden years. These were of cotton cord, every yard of which passed through the skilled fingers of the mistress. If the young girl sitting at the side of the bed fell asleep, she would be awakened by a tug on the thread.

After the passing of her husband in 1855, the widow continued to live in the old house with her son, James, until 1858, when he moved from Kentucky. She then went to the nearby home of her daughter, Ann Bruce Morgan,

where she remained until Ann moved to Illinois in 1862, when she took up her residence with the youngest daughter, Lucinda Bruce Bell, in the brick house which had been erected in sight of her old home.

The strife between the blue and the gray was indeed a Civil War in Kentucky, and Eleanor Bruce sadly learned that her descendants were divided, some following the stars and bars, others the stars and stripes. More than once the old Bruce home and the newer one of Dr. Bell passed from the possession of one side to that of the other.

While it was an anxious period for the woman whose life began, and was now ending, in a time of bloodshed, nearly all of her children visited her and assisted in softening the last hours. Finally, on April 6th, 1863, with the terrible contest at its height, Eleanor Bruce, having come to the age of eighty-five, quietly bade good-bye to her sorrowing sons and daughters, and was gently laid to rest.

CHAPTER XXI

The Family Portraits

"But O! for the touch of a vanish'd hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still!"

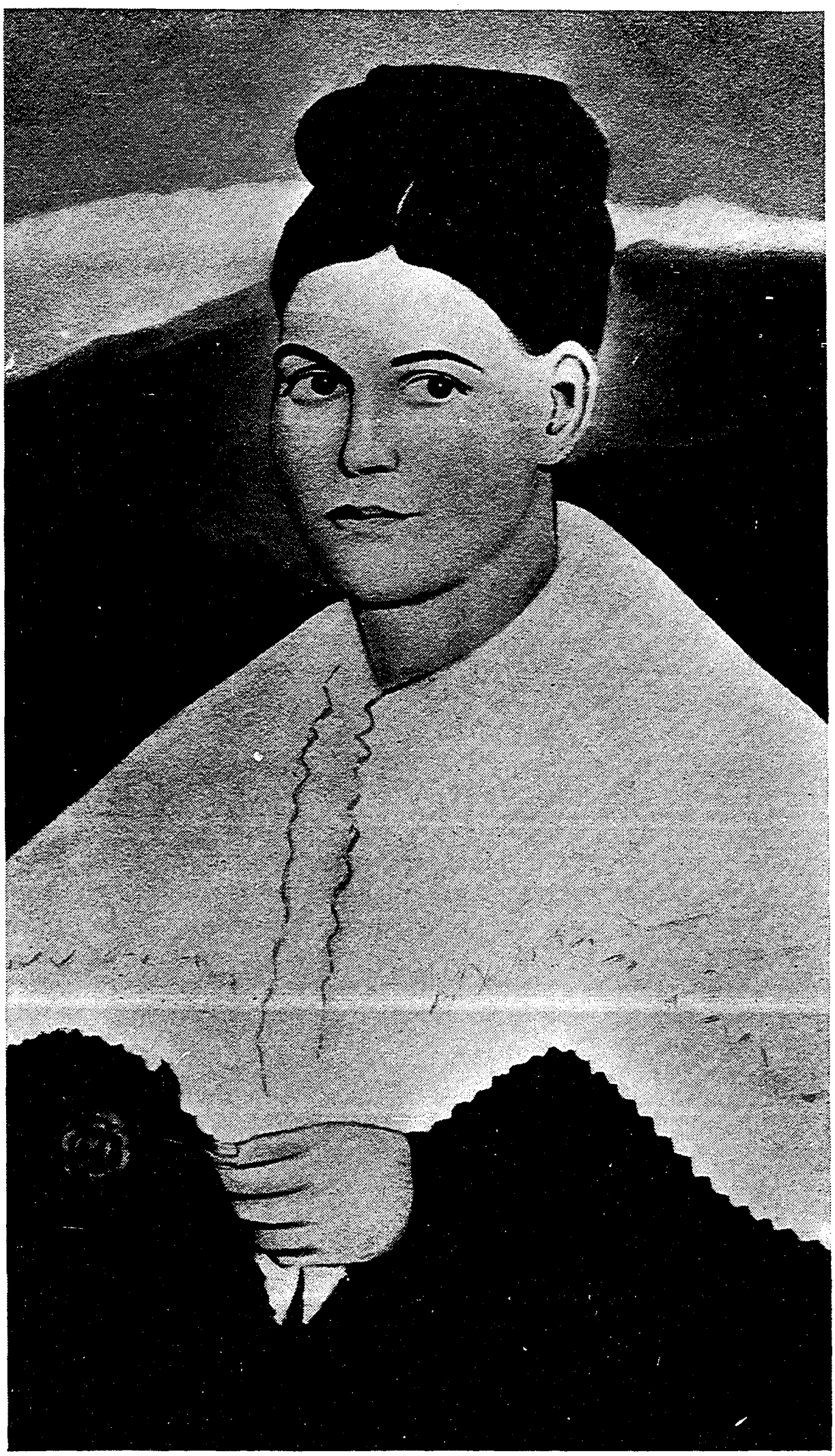
In his historical investigations Carlisle recorded that his "primary want was to procure a bodily likeness of the personage inquired after; a good *portrait*, if such exists; failing that, even an indifferent, if sincere one. Often I have found the portrait superior in real instruction to half-a-dozen written biographies." It is perhaps fortunate, then, that we are able to reproduce in this volume a number of representations of Henry Bruce, permitting a clearer understanding of him than may be obtained through the printed pages.[1]

When the youngest Bruce daughter was just emerging into womanhood,[2] portraits were painted of fourteen of the family—twelve of the immediate members, from Lucinda, aged fifteen, to Henry Bruce, then fifty-nine; and also of Sabina Metcalfe Bruce and Thomas Porter. The artist engaged was named Shackelford, thought to have been a pupil of Peale.[3] He set up his easel in an improvised

[1] The best portraits made of Henry Bruce were those produced by the daguerreotype process, invented in 1839, but not in common American use until about 1845. Owners of daguerreotypes of Henry Bruce include Thomas Atkinson, Pauline Bruce Alexander McLeod, Gertrude Richards Layman, Iolene Ashton Hawkins, Bessie Bell Barnes (each a great-grandchild).

[2] In 1836.

[3] Statement of Lucy McIntyre Brown.



ELIZABETH GRANT BRUCE MORGAN, 1816-1851. At the age of 20. From painting by Shackelford.

studio in the Bruce home and lived in the house for more than a year. The time consumed in painting each picture was about three weeks. The limner superintended making the frames from native wood, and also painted and gilded them.

That this was an unusually gay family is suggested by several incidents, one of which concerned the difficulty of the painter, who said that it was all but impossible to persuade the younger girls, when sitting for their pictures, to remain quiet long enough even for the roughing in of the head. At last he threatened Ann, then eighteen, that he would portray her laughing!

Painted life-size, each picture measured 28 x 32 inches in its frame, and when hung almost filled the wall space of the parlor. A granddaughter[1] has told how nearly the paintings came to serious injury—

"Mentioning the paintings reminds me of one thing we visiting children did, for which we should have been punished. But we escaped as the portraits never told on us, as we had been led to believe they had after another of our misdeeds.

"We would come in from our long tramps in the fields hungry and get some bread and butter, slip into the closet under the front stairway and steal some of Aunt Lucinda's good preserves. She was then the housekeeper. Then we would sneak into the parlor and eat, of course leaving tell-tale crumbs. Well, we concluded to put a chair upon the piano and one of the tables, and the tallest boy climbed up and stuck his knife into the eyes of those we thought had discovered our secret.

"I was so glad that mother's escaped, but I think Aunt Elizabeth's, Uncle Henry's, and two others, whom I have forgotten,

[1] Alice Dudley Power.

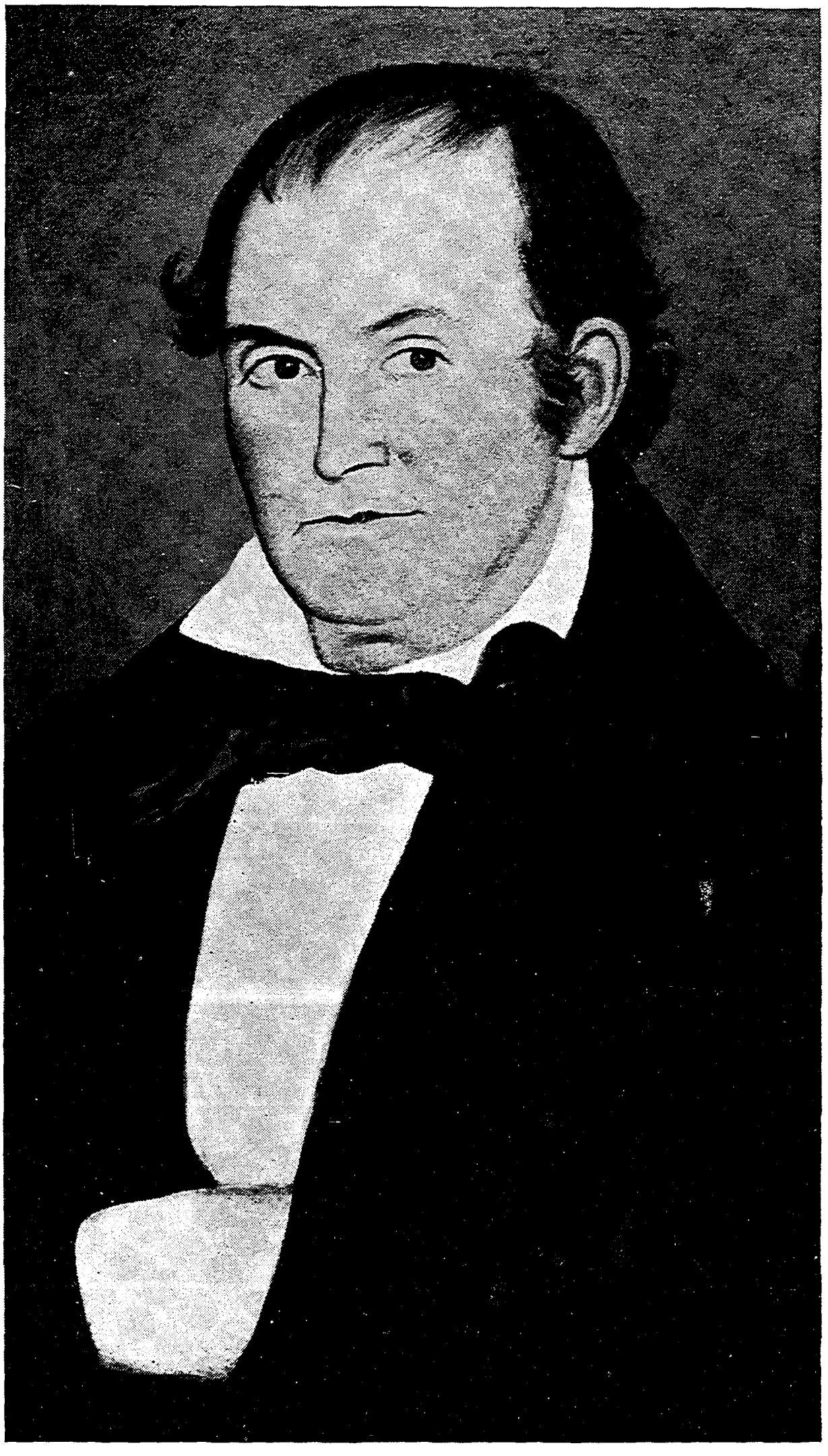
were the victims. Fortunately, none of the canvas was torn out and all were neatly mended, having had only the knife blade stuck into them. But we never went in there again to eat our stolen fruits! Not from any malice were the portraits stabbed. Ah, no! We judged them by their costume or arrangement of hair; also their proximity to the piano and tables, fearing to make a noise lest we be heard and caught."

A big fire screen, six feet high, its panels showing various scenes, was decorated by Mr. Shackelford, and a detailed description of its marvels was made by one writer, since it was an object of considerable attention by young visitors who rarely saw a picture in color.

It was the wish of Henry Bruce that the portraits hang in their stately rows as long as the place was in the possession of the family. At the sale of the Bruce home in 1858, the pictures were distributed to the various members, some of whom had then left the home county. We have authentic record of but six of the portraits[1] although photographs of two others have been preserved.[2]

[1] Henry Bruce, in possession of the author.
Harriet Bruce Dudley: Mrs. Harriet Grannis, Dayton, Ohio.
Elizabeth Bruce Morgan: Mrs. Bruce Denman Allison, Denver, Colo.
James Bruce: James Bruce Moseley, Bluefield, W. Va.
Ann Bruce Morgan: loaned to James Morgan, Lynn, Mass.
Lucinda Bruce Bell: Mrs. Bessie Bell Barnes, Enfield, N. C.

[2] George Stubblefield Bruce; Sabina Metcalfe Bruce: in possession of Mrs. Bessie Thomas Jones, Hollywood, Calif.



HENRY BRUCE AT 59.
From painting by Shackelford.

CHAPTER XXII

The Bruce Letters

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.
—*Proverbs XXV.*

For the last forty years most of the descendants of Henry Bruce supposed that the twenty-one letters written by him to Henry and Kitty Collins were almost the only ones extant, but during recent months thirty-nine others have been found. These had carefully been preserved by Henry Bruce, Jr., who bequeathed them to his daughters. They were stored with a mass of other matter and only recently has their interest and significance been fully understood.[1]

In another chapter will be told something of two exceptionally interesting Bruce letters. These were directed to James Coles Bruce, and later bore an important part in the unearthing of facts about the Bruce family in Virginia. One important Bruce message is given complete in this volume: the letter to his eldest daughter upon her marriage in 1821.

Thirteen letters addressed to Henry Bruce, Jr., at Covington, Ky., are now in the possession of the latter's granddaughter, Pauline Bruce Alexander McLeod. Exceptional interest attaches also to twenty-five other Bruce letters,

[1] Henry Bruce, Jr., during a long, varied business life, saved every notice, letter, receipt, bank check, etc., filling several boxes and trunks.

saved by the son just named, and now in the possession of his granddaughter, Mary Bruce Green Sharon. When Henry Bruce, Jr., married a daughter of his father's brother, George, he asked the latter if he might have the letters written to him by his brother Henry, and long saved by the recipient. Thus many old Bruce communications, two of them penned as early as 1801 and 1802, were secured and preserved, together with others written much later by Henry Bruce to his son and namesake.[1]

One of Henry Bruce's earliest written statements suggests the largeness of heart behind many of his letters: "The reflection on the goodness of God in devising the means whereby we mortals can have correspondence while at a distance, gives me peculiar satisfaction."[2] The last sentence that we have reads: "Sally (Bruce) Thomas has a daughter, born in Maysville yesterday."[3]

A total of sixty-five Bruce letters have been recovered and these serve to reflect much of the everyday life of their writer.[4] The first of these was written by Henry Bruce at the age of twenty-three, and the last when in his seventy-eighth year.

[1] As nearly all of the Bruce children, excepting Henry, Jr., lived in Fleming county, there is reason to think that these are almost the only letters that Henry Bruce wrote in which intimate news of the family is given. One, bearing date of March 22, 1855, is probably the last long letter that he penned.

[2] To Henry and Kitty Collins, June 26, 1817.

[3] Emily Tolle Thomas, born March 2, 1855.

[4] Copies of all Henry Bruce letters so far found are in the possession of James Morgan, Lynn, Mass.; Bruce Morgan, Chicago, Ill.; Nina Morgan Wheeler, Peoria Ill.; and the author.

The opportunity of "a poor orphan" (as he once called himself) to obtain learning in the period directly following the Revolution was slight, but Henry Bruce perhaps again proved the truth of the old Grecian dictum that "Education is merely a remembering." In some manner he was able to acquire a fairly good training in English. He wrote legibly and "kept" his ledgers and accounts. Books were few but he diligently read the newspapers. While he appeared to have little time for the study of governmental or other problems, when an important question arose, he usually knew the subject thoroughly.

He possessed descriptive power of a rather high order. When a daughter unexpectedly died, in 1832, an account of her passing was written by him to a son far away that succinctly gave the facts free from excess lamentation.

The two brothers, Henry and George Bruce, wrote to each other for more than a half century. Among Henry Bruce's other correspondents were Samuel Pannill, Campbell county, Virginia; James Kenyon Bruce, Albemarle county, Virginia; Anne Bruce (daughter of Charles Carey Bruce); Robert Bruce, of Nashville; Thomas Hay; Margaret Bruce; Wm. H. Sayre, of Sparta, Ga.; Manuel White, of New Orleans. Twenty-two letters written by Henry Bruce were addressed to Henry and Kitty Collins, Allen county, Kentucky.[1]

[1] Henry Bruce usually wrote to Henry and Kitty Collins once in the Spring and again in the Fall of each year. After being carefully copied, most of the original Collins letters have been distributed among the grandchildren of Ann Bruce Morgan.

All writing is biography, and these letters "fire true and blade straight" reveal the man, who would have agreed with the axiom pronounced by Cardinal Newman: "Beware of those who write mistily." No one can read one of the messages of Henry Bruce and be puzzled concerning its meaning. On June 3, 1831, he wrote: "Plain words are of no other importance than to convey our ideas. The English language is now much improved, and no doubt will change much more in a few centuries to come." Although we have read these letters a dozen times, each time we peruse them with ever-growing admiration for the man who wrote them.[1]

Most of the Bruce letters were probably written with a quill, the steel pen not having been improved until after 1830. When finished, the pages were folded, sealed and the superscription placed on their back, for most of them antedated the common use of envelopes. Several weeks were often necessary to transmit a letter to its destination.

Many of the family messages divide into four parts: business, including the condition of the crops, with the prospective prices; politics; religion; and news of the family. We could wish that there might have been more information in the letters about the Bruce children.

Letters to relatives were usually signed: "Your friend,

[1] The Bruce letters so far found were written in the following years: 1801; 1802; 1813; 1816; 1817 (2); 1818 (2); 1819 (4); 1820 (2); 1821 (2); 1822; 1824 (2); 1825 (2); 1826 (2); 1829; 1830 (3); 1831 (3); 1832 (5); 1833; 1834 (3); 1835 (3); 1836 (4); 1837; 1840; 1847; 1852 (4); 1853 (6); 1854 (3); 1855 (3).

H. Bruce," for an early formality persisted. A letter to George Bruce ends with: "Your sincere friend and brother." But those to his son, Henry, were often signed: "Your affectionate and devoted father." The familiar "Harry" of his contemporaries is never found. When he wrote his full name, it appeared: Henry Bruce.[1]

[1] A middle name was rarely bestowed in the Eighteenth Century, but in the initial year of the Nineteenth, Henry Bruce gave one to his first son, George Stubblefield.

CHAPTER XXIII

George Bruce, of Sparta

Neither make thy friend equal to a brother.
—*Hesiod.*

GEORGE STUBBLEFIELD, younger brother of Henry Bruce, was born on January 28, 1779, in Staunton, Va., where his mother had gone to live with her family after the death of her husband the preceding October.[1] Little is known about George Bruce's youth. He did not accompany his elder brother in 1782 to "Soldier's Rest," but presumably continued to live with his mother, then married to Hugh Morrison. He resided with his grandfather, William Bruce, in Stafford county, from January, 1789, to August, 1792. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to a saddler at Fredericksburg, where he continued for the full term of seven years, when he was paid a stipulated amount. He received also the equivalent of about fourteen hundred dollars in 1798 from his father's small estate.

In 1799 George Bruce spent some time in Richmond, but soon began business for himself in Petersburg, where he started a small saddlers and harness shop, which he combined with farming for he owned several slaves.[2] He con-

[1] For information of the ancestry of George Bruce, see the early chapters of this volume.

[2] They consisted of a negro woman, named Fortune; her grown son; and a young man named Ben.

tinued there for about two years. With certain savings, plus his inheritance, he was able to begin business life advantageously, but he confessed, in a letter to his brother, that he had made one or two questionable investments. George was never indolent, but was more filled with fun and humour than was his more sober elder brother. He played the violin, and was fond of company.

Early in 1802 George left Petersburg and settled in Port Royal, Va. He married Nancy Tomkins Weaver, of Halifax, N. C., on February 3rd, 1805. She was born on December 16th, 1787, and was a daughter of Frances Anders, who had married a Mr. Weaver, both of Halifax.[1] Letters preserved and today cherished attest to the fine character of Nancy Weaver Bruce, whose fine qualities were repeatedly mentioned by Henry Bruce.

Soon after his marriage George Bruce moved to Warrenton, Georgia, where most of his children were born. About 1816 he took his young family to Sparta, Georgia, where they lived for many years. A home, with considerable ground, was purchased in the environs. On a portion of the land a camp was constructed, about 1825, for the care of live stock, particularly hogs. Here Henry Bruce personally brought his drove each December for thirteen years, and sent it there by others during other years.

In July, 1818, George Bruce received a letter from his brother, Henry, announcing the death of their mother. In

[1] When Nancy Weaver was eleven her mother died and her father appears to have remarried. A brother of Nancy bore the name of D. A. Weaver.

June, 1822, when forty-three, he journeyed North to Kentucky, accompanied by his eldest daughter, Lucian, fifteen years of age, and his youngest son, George, then twelve, to spend a month with Henry Bruce, whom he had not seen for twenty-four years. Shortly after arriving in Kentucky, he wrote the following letter to his wife:

"Fleming County, Ky. 1822.[1]

"Dear Nancy:

"We arrived here safe in twenty-nine days with no other horse but my own, but we were very much fatigued in crossing over the mountains, as they were much worse than I had expected. I had to travel very slow. We had good company for three hundred miles of the worst of the way.

"I should have written to you before this but I had a wish to see some part of the country before I wrote; what little I have seen of it I like right well, and the manners and customs of the people I like better.

"I found my brother and family all well, and my old aunts also.

"I hope you will not want for anything while I am absent, as it is the first time I ever was so long from your sweet arms. But it will not be in my power to start home for two or three weeks.

"Lucy Ann (Lucian) and George are very much pleased here and all our relations wish for them to stay with them; Lucy Ann wishes to be remembered to her school mates. Kiss all the children for me. Tears drop while writing.

"George Bruce."

Liking the blue-grass region, the Georgian wished to remove to Kentucky, but the plan was deferred.

In another chapter has been told something about the first visit of Henry Bruce to Georgia, in 1823. Two months after returning from that trip he wrote concerning his

[1] This is the only letter written by George S. Bruce, of Sparta, Ga., known to be in existence.

brother: "He lives plentifully and has a fine, agreeable wife, who is a very pious Methodist. They have eight children and talk of moving to Kentucky, if they could sell their place in Sparta." At the age of fifty, George Bruce became almost blind. Each Fall he looked forward to the visits of his brother, who usually spent the holiday season with him.

Lucian Bruce, eldest daughter of George Bruce, on December 15, 1829, married the successful physician-farmer and Kentuckian, Doctor George Grant Lowry, whose large place adjoined that of Henry Bruce. He became the wealthiest resident of Fleming county prior to the Civil War. Soon after the marriage, Lucian Lowry's sisters began visiting Kentucky. They were attractive and, in the end, all five daughters married there.

Six years after the marriage of Lucian, occurred another wedding, serving to bring the families of Henry and George Bruce into exceptionally close relationship, when Mary, beautiful, much loved daughter of George, wed her cousin, the son and namesake of Henry Bruce. That event occurred on May 31st, 1836. Henry Bruce, Jr., was a daring, prosperous, young financier.[1]

[1] The marriages of the other children of George and Nancy Weaver Bruce:

Eleanor Bruce married Benjamin Teal, Fleming county farmer and saddler, on Oct. 23, 1836.

Frances ("Fanny") Bruce, on a visit to her uncle, Henry Bruce, about 1840, married R. P. Bell. (Both the Bell and Teal families moved to McLean county, Illinois, prior to 1867.)

Nancy Bruce, seventh child, became the second wife of Dr. Geo. Lowry, on February 3, 1842.

With a brother and several daughters living in a single Kentucky county, the Northern urge became strong, and George Bruce and family moved to that State in the Spring of 1836. Not only did Henry Bruce offer to defray the cost of the journey, but he arranged that his friend and neighbor, Mr. Bateman, accompany and take charge of the party, which consisted of George Bruce, Nancy Bruce, their daughter Nancy, aged fifteen, and their son, Oscar Wm. McKendree, aged ten. In addition, there were four slaves.[1] At the suggestion of Henry Bruce the following plan of removal was adopted: Three ponies and a light wagon were used—two to haul the vehicle and one for members of the party to ride upon occasionally.

Coarse cotton was purchased which was employed to make a tent under which the travelers camped at night when the weather permitted. Those composing the little caravan were advised to rest the three animals by walking up the Cumberland mountains. Henry Bruce journeyed to Tazewell, Tennessee, to meet them.

George Bruce lived at first near the home of his brother, the slaves that had been brought from Georgia serving the newcomers. The two brothers visited, spending hours in talking over old Stafford county days in Virginia.

The eldest son of George Bruce was named Henry Weaver, and after marrying Ann W. Rivers, in 1831, went into business for himself at Lexington, Ga.

George S. Bruce, Jr., second son of George Bruce, married Catharine Cochran, on February 23, 1843.

Oscar William McKendree Bruce, youngest son, married Rebecca Atwell.

[1] Their names were Beck, Mariah, Guinny, Jefferson.

Later, perhaps about the year 1848, Henry Bruce, Jr., persuaded his uncle (who was likewise his father-in-law), and his aunt to come and live in his Covington, Ky., home, where they might be with their daughter, Mary, and with their grandchildren, Pauline, Fanny and Nannie. Henry Bruce, accompanied by his wife, visited his brother each Autumn.

It was a happy family. Only one child, a son, had been left behind in Sparta.[2] Twenty-four or more grandchildren grew to maturity, and nearly all lived in Kentucky. Interesting letters written between grandmother and grandchildren have been preserved that tell of pleasant visits.

Twenty days before the end of George's life, Henry wrote of his brother, saying:

"If my poor afflicted brother is still living, please let him know of my lameness. I reckon there never were two orphan children more fond of each other than we were until we had to part, when he was about fourteen years old. He was absent once for about twenty-four years, but we have met and enjoyed the society of each other many times since; but 'tis a melancholy reflection to believe that we will never meet again. I hope and believe he is prepared for the enjoyment of a better world than this. I trust I may be prepared to know him where pleasure is without alloy and parting is no more."

On January 24th, 1853, George Stubblefield Bruce quietly passed away and was buried in Linden Grove cemetery, Covington. His wife, Nancy Bruce, lived until

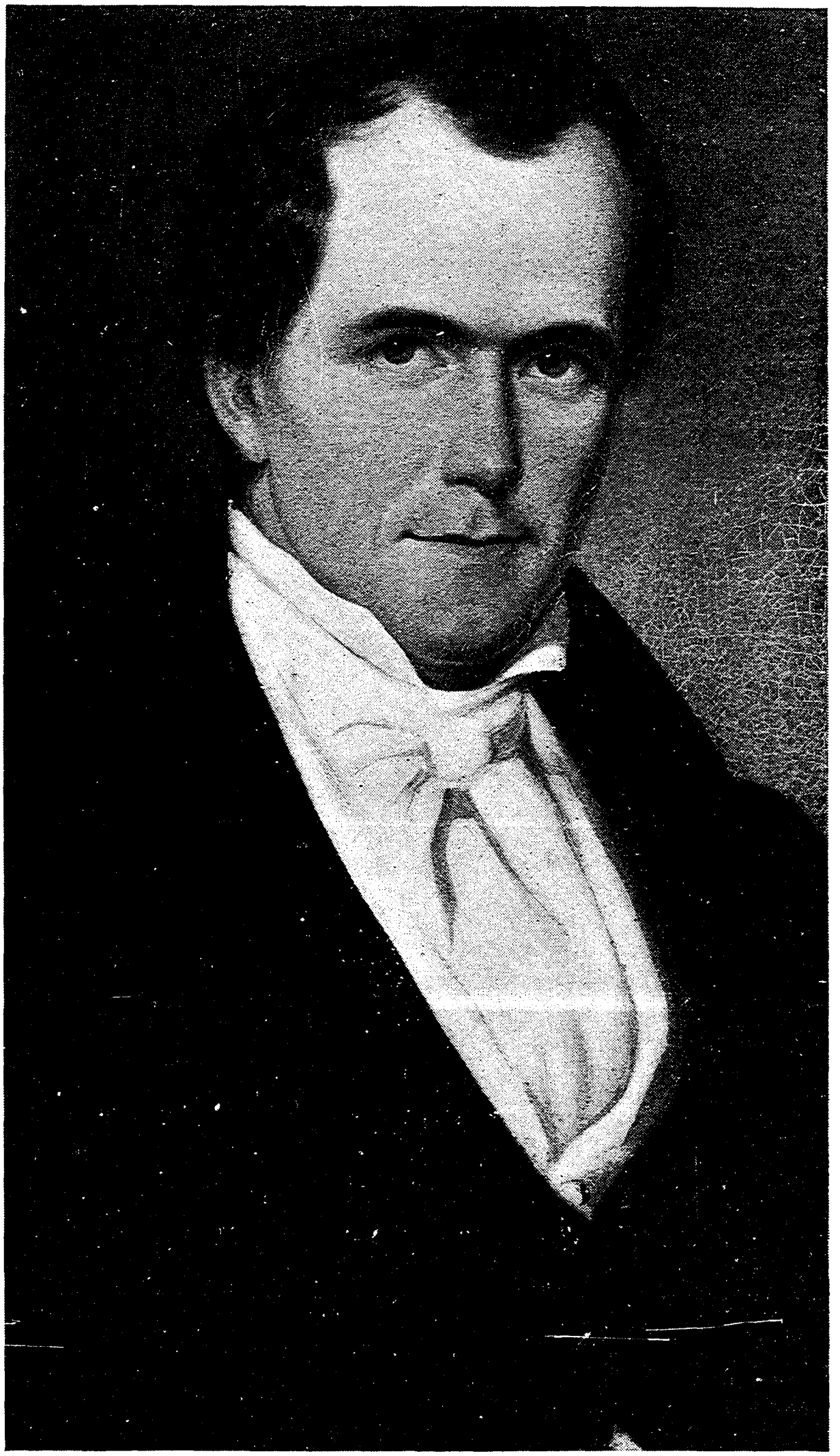
[2] Henry Weaver Bruce had been married for five years, when his parents removed from Georgia. Henry Bruce several times visited his namesake and family, living in Lexington, Ga., bearing news of the family. Later, it appears that the family moved to Warrenton.

the middle of the Civil War, dying on December 6th, 1863.

The children of George and Nancy Bruce were as follows:

(1) Lucian Pollard, born January 4, 1807; died Dec. 10, 1840.
(2) Henry Weaver, born Jan. 27, 1809.
(3) George Stubblefield, born July 28, 1810; died Nov. 1, 1843.
(4) Frances Anders, born July 2, 1812; died June, 1882.
(5) Mary Elizabeth, born April 22, 1817; died Sept. 16, 1882.
(6) Eleanor Roberts, born March 21, 1819; died after 1875.
(7) Nancy Weaver, born April 28, 1821.
(8) Oscar William McKendree, born Aug. 3, 1826; died after 1853.

Three children died in infancy.



JAMES COLES BRUCE, 1806-1865. Builder of "Berry Hill," in 1830. To him Henry Bruce addressed two important letters in 1855.

CHAPTER XXIV

The Virginia Bruces

> High birth is a thing which I never knew anyone to disparage except those who had it not, and I never knew anyone to make a boast of it who had anything else to be proud of.
>
> —*A learned bishop, in the House of Lords.*

HENRY BRUCE was alive to the relationship existing between the Virginia descendants of George Bruce, of Richmond county, and the Kentucky family which he himself had founded. Between the years 1798 and 1811 he made a number of visits to the Old Dominion. On some of those journeys he seems to have visited his mother's sister, the widowed wife of Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," and once he talked with the latter's youngest son. We have his letter telling of a visit in 1808 at White Sulphur Springs, in Greenbrier county, even then celebrated as a health and social resort. There he met Charles Bruce, brother of the famed James Bruce, both sons of Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," who had passed away eighteen years before. Henry was then thirty-one years of age. His cousin, Charles, was forty. They had not met since about 1790. For six years they had lived under the same roof and shared the same bed. So altered was the Kentuckian that his cousin found difficulty in associating the youth with the man. Charles was planning to test the healing properties of both White Sulphur and Hot Springs for the rheumatism that

afflicted him. Henry was delighted for this opportunity of inquiring after Charles' stepmother, who was his own "Aunt Bruce," the widow of Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest." Charles told him that she had recently returned to Orange county, from Halifax, where she had visited her stepson, James Bruce (then a widower through the passing of his wife, Sarah Coles Bruce), and James's only child, James Coles Bruce.

Henry Bruce visited the remaining brothers and sisters of his father in other parts of Virginia, and renewed acquaintance with their children which was afterward continued through correspondence.[1] He had a strong affection also for the children and grandchildren of the only brother of his paternal grandfather. This great-uncle, Charles Bruce, had taken the young nephew into his home at "Soldier's Rest" for six years. That environment influenced the youthful mind. "He (Charles Bruce) was like a father to me," Henry Bruce wrote early in 1855.

Of the three surviving children of Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," the eldest, James Bruce, moved to the Southern county of Halifax; Charles Bruce, Jr., followed his brother; and Elizabeth Bruce, who inherited "Soldier's Rest," married General James Williams. Henry Bruce saw James and Charles Bruce only once after the passing of their father. He was both first and second cousin to Elizabeth Bruce Williams, eight months his senior. They had

[1] The records show the names of twenty-six paternal first cousins of Henry Bruce.

been reared from their fifth year under the same roof, and presumably they played together as children.[1]

While Henry Bruce loved Kentucky, his mind frequently turned fondly to kinsmen in the then-adjoining state. But his growing family and property gradually absorbed him, and after he began the series of long journeys to Georgia and Louisiana, the Kentuckian lost contact with Virginia. As Cowper's familiar lines suggest, "Mountains interposed make strangers of families who had else, like kindred drops, been mingled into one." The Alleghenies, when penetrated only by toilsome wilderness trails, cut off a multitude of migrating men from those left behind on the seaboard.

While an occasional letter reminded Henry Bruce of his Stafford county relatives, a time came when all communication ceased between him and the family of his grandfather's brother, Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest." He explained in detail to his children the connection between the Virginia and Kentucky branches of the family. But the Old Dominion was not yet joined to the West by the railroad, and seemed to Kentuckians a long way off.

[1] Elizabeth Bruce, the only daughter of Charles Bruce and Frances Stubblefield Bruce, married General James Williams (captain in the Continental army, and a major-general in the War of 1812). There are many descendants. One son, Philip Williams, married Mildred Catlett. Issue: General Robert Williams, U. S. A., who married Adele Cutts, the famed, beautiful widow of Stephen A. Douglas.

Another son of Philip and Mildred Williams was George Morton Williams, who married Gertrude Long. Among their children are Mary Jane Williams, who married H. St. George Tucker (son of John Randolph Tucker), who was thirty years in Congress (died August, 1932). Another daughter, Bruce Williams, is the wife of Malcolm Bruce, of "Berry Hill."

The passing of Henry Bruce, followed soon by the Civil War, nearly erased recollection of the relationship. A grandson, William Pickett Bruce, wrote in his unpublished work: "I believe that the Virginia Bruces are related to us. When Mary Stubblefield Bruce (the mother of Henry Bruce) married the second time, and moved to another part of Virginia, the two Bruce sons were left in care of a Bruce uncle."[1] Henry Bruce, Jr., second son of Henry Bruce, stated in a letter that his father was a cousin of James Bruce, of Halifax county, Va.[2]

William Pickett Bruce endeavored for years to trace the relationship. He corresponded with descendants of Charles Bruce, and representatives of both the Virginia and Kentucky families became convinced that a connection existed. But the effort to find just how the separation came was baffled. Philip Alexander Bruce, in the first of his seven genealogical Bruce articles, in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, in October, 1903, gave more than a hint of the two Bruce divisions (Virginia and Kentucky). He used information that could probably have been supplied only by William Pickett Bruce, who had passed away in the preceding July.

The Virginia-Kentucky relationship was not established

[1] True of Henry Bruce, but not of his brother, George Bruce, of Sparta. Both boys, however, went to live with their grandfather, in 1788. In 1932 Wm. G. Stanard recalled having had correspondence upon behalf of the Virginia Historical Society, over thirty years previously, with a Kentucky Bruce. The Kentuckian was probably W. P. Bruce, whose name appears on a family chart preserved at "Berry Hill."

[2] Letter written to W. P. Bruce in 1891.

"Berry Hill," near South Boston, Halifax Co., Va. Here have been carefully preserved for 79 years, the letters received from Henry Bruce.

definitely until October, 1905, when, in the fifth of the Philip Alexander Bruce series named, that distinguished historian told of finding two letters written by Henry Bruce to his cousin, James Coles Bruce, in 1855, and preserved at "Berry Hill," containing information that caused him to revise much that he had previously published about the Bruce ancestry.

Another grandson of Henry Bruce, James Morgan, saw one of the seven Philip Alexander Bruce articles, while glancing over an old file in the Boston Public Library. He did not happen upon the October, 1905, number and was not conscious that an entire Bruce series had been published, but he strongly advised the author of this memoir, in the late Spring of 1932, to go to Richmond. We had recently been to the old Capital of the Confederacy and through it to Williamsburg and Jamestown. When we had gone as far on the way as Charlottesville, we were tempted by the heat of June 30, 1932, to turn North, but instead continued on to Richmond. Early that afternoon, while sitting at the work table of Wm. G. Stanard, Secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, we read extracts from letters written by Henry Bruce—letters that had turned the course of a study in genealogy. It was a dramatic moment in the preparation of this book.

We then wished to see the original letters and, after correspondence with Malcolm Bruce, grandson of the recipient and present owner of "Berry Hill," we journeyed to Halifax county. There, in the great Doric Bruce home,

hours were spent in study of the messages that had been long safeguarded, and in helpful talk with members of the family.[1]

No reader of the two letters written by Henry Bruce in 1855 to James Coles Bruce, the eldest son of James Bruce, could doubt the keen family interest that the writer had held for nearly fourscore years. While he had not heard directly from the descendants of his great-uncle for a generation, traders had told him of the prosperity of his second cousin, James Bruce; and of the son, James Coles Bruce (whose mother was Sarah Coles); of the second marriage of James Bruce to Elvira Cabell Henry (the widow of Patrick Henry, Jr.); and of the four children born to the latter union.

The letters are too long for inclusion in full, but the first one begins as follows:

"Fleming County, Kentucky.
"Feb. 21, 1855.

"Mr. James (Coles) Bruce,
"Halifax Co., Va.
"Dear Sir:

"I have been thinking for some time that I would try to write to you and give some information of our ancestry, of which I presume you have little or no previous knowledge; also to make some inquiries respecting the time of the death of your father, and of your uncle, Charles Bruce, and also their ages. I would like to also

[1] It is because of the letters mentioned that it has been possible to clearly connect each Bruce generation for a period approximating three hundred years—from 1640 to 1934. Those who believe in the mystical significance of the numeral seven, will be interested to recall that Henry Bruce was born in 1777, and wrote the letters mentioned, explicitly explaining the Bruce relationship, when 77 years of age. Exactly 77 years then intervened before the letters became known to his descendants.

hear something of the family of General James Williams, who owned your grandfather's old residence (Soldier's Rest) in Orange county. Lastly I will tell you who I am and where I am living, with a large family around me, tho I suppose you do not know there is such a being in existence, although our fathers were own cousins and our grandfathers were brothers."

The Virginia Bruces (of whom Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," was the central figure) have been identified with the political and social life of "The Mother of States" for eight generations, and have in many instances assisted in molding contemporary events, particularly during the last hundred years. They have lived in affluence since an early day and rank high in a section of the country that boasts many of the fairest names in American history. Through intermarriage the Bruces have long been connected with the Cabell, Cole, Seddon, Tucker, Alexander, Morson and other distinguished families.

Although Charles Bruce,[1] dying in 1790, left a good-sized estate, it remained for his eldest son, James,[2] to amass

[1] The only letter that has come down from Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," is to his eldest son, James, and refers to Charles, Jr. (born 1768, died unmarried), youngest own brother to James. "Dear James: Your brother, Charles, awaits you in the hope that you have provided a place for him either to do business for you or some other person. I long to see you to know from your own mouth the situation of your affairs and whether you intend to have a store in this neighborhood (Orange Co.) next Fall. Charles Bruce." Letter preserved at "Berry Hill."

[2] Hundreds of letters written by James Bruce are preserved at "Berry Hill." Here is an extract from one bearing date of June 17, 1836: "You observe that the pressure in the money market continues, which I take to be the effect of Gen. Jackson's financing, who is better fitted for Indian warfare than the subject of finance."

James Bruce first married Sarah Coles, a great heiress; later married Elvira Cabell, widow of Patrick Henry, Jr.

a fortune which in 1837 was reckoned to be among the largest three in America, and which, twenty years later, had grown to four million dollars, one item representing three thousand slaves.

In 1830 James Coles Bruce[1] (the only surviving child of the first marriage of James Bruce), erected beautiful "Berry Hill," about four miles below South Boston, in Halifax county, Virginia.[2] About twenty years later,

[1] James Coles Bruce (third cousin of Henry Bruce) was born January 26, 1806. He was educated at the Universities of North Carolina and Virginia, and at Harvard. Although one of the largest slaveholders in the South, he favored gradual emancipation, delivering addresses on the subject. He was a finished public speaker, and an able debater, in Virginia legislature and political conventions.

He married Eliza Wilkins. Among the children was Alexander Bruce, who married Mary Anderson, a famous beauty, daughter of Judge Francis T. Anderson, of Virginia Court of Appeals. Alexander Bruce inherited "Berry Hill," occupying it until his death in 1906. Issue: Walter, Malcolm Graham (now owner of "Berry Hill"); and Ellen Douglas (married Richard Crane, son of Chas. R. Crane, and grandson of R. T. Crane, founder of The Crane Company, of Chicago. Ellen Bruce Crane owns and occupies famous Westover, ancestral home of the Byrds, on the James).

[2] Fourteen miles above the North Carolina line; 20 miles East of Danville, Va.; 128 miles from Richmond.

"Berry Hill" was finished in 1830, within the lifetime of James Bruce, father of James Coles Bruce, the builder. The Professor of Art and Architecture at the University of Virginia recently said of it: "With its dependent buildings, 'Berry Hill' is the finest specimen of private Doric architecture in the United States." The erection of this great home by a young man of twenty-four is an indication of the luxurious Southern life of another day.

"Berry Hill" is seventy feet in width and stretches back in part for two hundred feet. It is of brick, with walls three feet thick. The walls of the parlor, located at the left, are covered with the original wall paper. With the adjoining library (separated by wide doors always open), the dimension is 23x60 feet. The ceilings are 13½ feet. The hall, with double stairway, is 21x45 feet. There are seven bedrooms, 23x23 feet, each possessing dressing room with bath.

Among other valuable contents of the house originally was an extraordinary quantity of silver of the finest designs. Even the basins, pitchers, etc., of the sleeping rooms were made of this material.

"Berry Hill" Plantation, at one time, included what is now the main street of South Boston, today a city of nearly five thousand people. It then extended for four or five miles, and contained 4,000 acres.

Charles Bruce,[1] the only son of the second marriage of James Bruce, built "Staunton Hill," in the adjoining county of Charlotte.[2] The two sisters of Charles Bruce also had homes of great distinction. One of the sisters, Sarah Bruce Seddon, owned and occupied a residence on Clay street, in Richmond, which became shortly afterward the war-time residence of President Jefferson Davis and is cherished as the White House of the Confederacy.[3] The other sister, Ellen Bruce Morson, erected "Dover," one of Virginia's most beautiful mansions, in Goochland county.

It is difficult today to picture the old-time magnificence

[1] Charles Bruce (third cousin of Henry Bruce), was born August 17, 1826; graduated at both the University of North Carolina and Harvard. Eight years in Virginia Senate. In 1861 equipped "Staunton Hill Artillery Company," at own expense, acting as captain. Married Sarah Seddon, youngest sister of his brother-in-law, Hon. James A. Seddon. Their children included:

Anne Seddon Bruce; married Thomas Nelson Page.

Thomas Seddon Bruce; married Mary Bruce Anderson, daughter of Gen. Jos. R. Anderson, graduate of West Point, brigadier-general, C. S. A. Among their children: Kathleen Bruce, Ph.D.

Philip Alexander Bruce, Virginia historian. Married Mrs. Betty Taylor Newton. Issue: Philippa Bruce.

Professor James Douglas Bruce, distinguished educator and author.

William Cabell Bruce, member of U. S. Senate, 1923-9. Married Louise Este. Among their children: David K. Este Bruce, who married Ailsa, only daughter of Andrew Mellon; James Bruce, President Baltimore Trust Co.

Albert Bruce, married Mary Howard. Among the children: Howard Bruce, Chairman of the Board of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; Chairman Baltimore Trust Co.; head of Bartlett, Hargraves & Co.; Member of National Democratic Committee from Maryland; Manager of campaign of Governor Ritchie, for Presidency, in 1932.

[2] Twenty-four miles Northeast of "Berry Hill." "Staunton Hill," built of Carrara marble and native stone continues to be owned by the Bruces. It is now occupied as a country club, composed of ten members, including members of the Bruce family.

[3] Erected in 1819, this house has become the South's largest and best-known Confederate Museum.

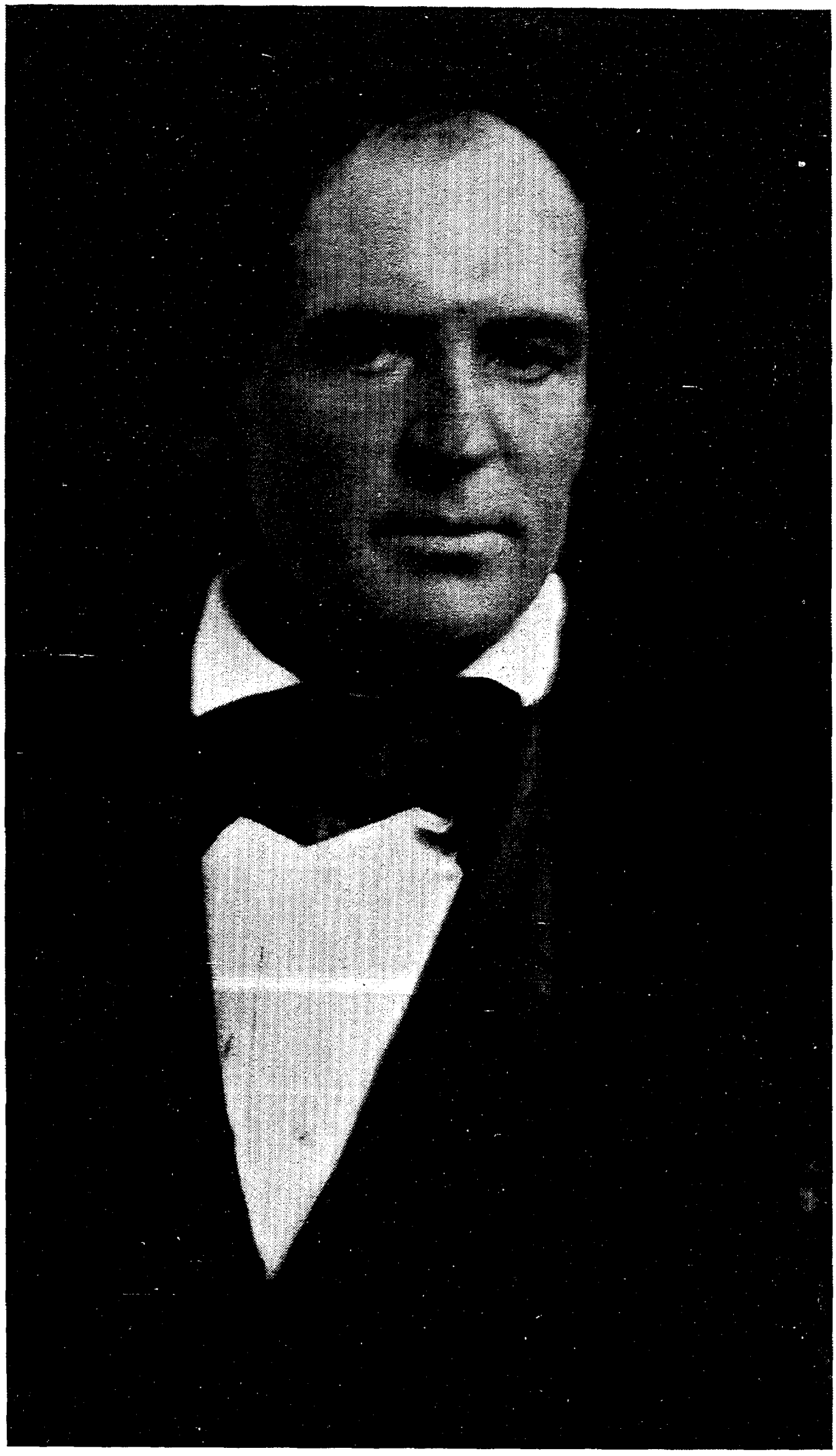
surrounding the stately ante-bellum Virginian homes, among which those of James Coles Bruce and Charles Bruce were notable. A son of the latter[1] has told this story: "Lorenzo, son of Polydore Johns, a favorite negro headman of Charles Bruce, once said: 'I'se bin down Souf. I'se bin in de Wes'; I'se been among de Cherokees, de Choctaws, and de Chickasaws, but I ain't nuvver seen no tribe like de Bruces.' "[2]

By intermarriage the Virginia Bruces are connected with such historic figures as James Alexander Seddon, member of Congress from the Richmond district and Secretary of War for the Confederacy during most of the conflict, and beautiful Adelle Cutts, to whom Beveridge gave considerable space in his "Lincoln"; for she was the young wife of Stephen A. Douglas.[3]

[1] Wm. Cabell Bruce, in "Recollections," privately printed.

[2] A nearly complete list of the first four generations of the descendants of Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," may be obtained from the following three numbers of the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, on file at large public libraries: Vol. 11, Jan. 1904, p. 328-32; Vol. 12, April, 1904, p. 440-43; July, 1904, p. 93-96.

[3] After the death of Stephen A. Douglas, Adelle Cutts Douglas married General Robert Williams, U. S. A., a grandson of Elizabeth Bruce Williams, only daughter of Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest."



JAMES BRUCE, 1814-1880. Youngest son of Henry and Eleanor Bruce.

CHAPTER XXV

The Children

> What gift has providence bestowed on man that is so dear to him as his children?
>
> —*Cicero.*

THE lives of the ten children of Henry and Eleanor Bruce nearly spanned the Nineteenth Century. George, the eldest, was born on October 28, 1800. Ann, next the youngest, lived until July 4th, 1900.

Bigelow Paine said that while Mark Twain loved his daughters, his affection for them could be likened to the relation borne by a mountain to the trees on its sides. The devotion of Henry Bruce to his children was marked by unusual warmth. His pride in them was often shown. Repeatedly he said: "We raised ten as dutiful and respectable children as any parents in the State." The names of each child with dates of birth and death follow—

George Stubblefield, born Oct. 28, 1800; married Sabina Metcalfe, Oct. 9, 1823; died Sept. 10, 1883.

Lucy Laing, born Nov. 6, 1802; married Thomas Porter, Sept. 20, 1821; died February 12, 1875.

Harriet Hackley, born Jan. 9, 1805; married Joseph Dudley, Feb. 6, 1826; died April 24, 1883.

Mary Ann, born March 26, 1807; died Dec. 4, 1832.

Eleanor (Ellen), born July 27, 1809; married John S. Morgan, May 8, 1828; died Oct. 10, 1891.

Henry, Jr., born July 26, 1811; married Mary Bruce, May 31, 1836; died Dec. 31, 1891.[1]

[1] In 1859 Henry Bruce, Jr., headed a company as president in pushing

James, born Jan. 24, 1814; married Martha Johnson, March 3, 1842; died July 7, 1880.

Elizabeth Grant, born April 22, 1816; married Woodson Morgan, March 10, 1835; died July 21, 1851.

Ann Threlkeld, born June 9, 1818; married William F. Morgan, April 10, 1838; died July 4, 1900.

Lucinda, born Feb. 2, 1821; married Dr. Wm. Bell, May 15, 1850; died April 19, 1891.

The three younger Bruce daughters attended school at Flemingsburg or Carlisle, living in those towns during the school term. The father surprised each daughter with a gift on her eighteenth birthday. On June 9, 1836, Ann received a beautiful spinet and soon learned to play hymns on its small keyboard. Each of the sons received a farm upon marriage.

Nearly all the Bruce children married early in life; George at the age of twenty-three; Lucy at eighteen;[1] Harriet at twenty-one; Eleanor at eighteen; Henry at twenty-five; James at twenty-eight; Elizabeth at eighteen; Ann at nineteen; Lucinda at twenty-five.

The wedding of Harriet Bruce to Joseph Dudley typified that of each of her sisters. The only announcement of the engagement came on the Sunday morning preceding the marriage ceremony, when the Baptist preacher, Rev-

plans for the erection of the present Cincinnati Suspension Bridge, at that time the largest in the world. He interested the famous engineer, Roebling, in the project, arranged the financing, and carried the project through to completion.

[1] The marriage of Lucy Bruce, on Sept. 20, 1821, was the first in the series of nine weddings that extended to May 15, 1850, a period of nearly thirty years. Henry and Eleanor Bruce attended each wedding, excepting that of James.

erend Walter Warden, paused before dismissing the congregation assembled at church (the only one then in the neighborhood), and said: "There will be a wedding at Squire 'Harry' Bruces tomorrow night, and everyone is cordially invited to attend." The bride-to-be had gone to church that morning on horseback, accompanied by the best man, and the prospective bridegroom had escorted either Mary or Ellen Bruce. Henry or James Bruce rode with the bridesmaid. Although some of the neighbors had little idea which daughter was to wed, they filled the house on Monday evening, going through deep mud on horseback or in wagons.

As noted, weddings occurred in 1821, 1823, 1826, 1828, 1835 and 1838. After the latter year but one daughter remained in the house that had long been filled with gayety. A round dozen years passed before Lucinda was united with Dr. William Bell—Henry Bruce, then seventy-three, smiling upon them benignantly. A granddaughter[1] present at the ceremony recalls today that happy Wednesday afternoon, with a hundred members and friends of the family trying to crowd into the parlor. The young guest of ten will perhaps be forgiven for remembering more about her own gown than that of the bride. She has not forgotten her pride in a new white frock, with lace-trimmed pantalets,[2] projecting several inches below the skirt. A pretty ribbon tied her braided hair. She also recol-

[1] Lucinda Bruce Morgan Green.

[2] In fashion 1840-1850.

lects that after the ceremony she strolled with a crowd of cousins through the house, garden and orchard.

A brief word is here given of the men and women who married the Bruce sons and daughters—

Sabina Metcalfe, born Feb. 6, 1804, died Oct. 23, 1883; niece of Governor Metcalfe, of Kentucky.

Thomas Porter, born in 1798, dry goods merchant, Flemingsburg and Covington, Ky.

Joseph Dudley, born July 8, 1797, died April 1, 1864; inventor, plow manufacturer, owner of a saw mill.

John Sanderson Morgan, born Jan. 24, 1799, died June 19, 1852; State Senator; founder and president of the State's first railroad: The Kentucky Central (now part of the Louisville & Nashville).

Mary Bruce, born April 22, 1816, died Sept. 16, 1892; a first cousin; daughter of George Bruce, of Sparta, Ga.

Martha Johnson, born Aug. 16, 1824, died Nov. 15, 1882; from a well-known South Carolina family.

Woodson Morgan, born Jan. 18, 1804, died Sept. 17, 1887; member in 1840 of the Kentucky State legislature.

William F. Morgan, born April 19, 1813, died Sept. 13, 1900; general storekeeper, Elizaville.

Dr. William Bell, born Nov. 25, 1815, died Sept. 7, 1898; member of the Kentucky State legislature.

Fifteen years after the passing of the father and seven years after the death of the mother, came a reunion of five Bruce children, in February, 1870. This meeting was at the home of Lucy Porter, in Covington, and, besides the hostess, included Harriet Dudley, Ellen Morgan, Ann Morgan, Lucinda Bell. One afternoon the visitors crossed the Ohio river, where they called on their brother, Henry, in Cincinnati, then owner of the Merchants hotel. They likewise visited their brother, George, at Carlisle. In 1882,

three of the daughters, Harriet, Ellen and Ann, met at the home of Woodson Morgan, Jr., son of Ann, in Paris, Kentucky.

The Christian names of the Bruce sons and daughters generally were borrowed from the paternal side of the family, and included: George, Henry, James, Lucy Laing, Hackley, Elizabeth Grant, Mary Ann.

All lived to maturity; nearly all rounded out old age. They led honorable (and successful) lives, and impressed themselves upon the communities in which they lived.

The Bruce daughters exceeded the sons in number. That was true also of the family of George Bruce, of Sparta. Partly as a result of that disparity, the Bruce name in the Kentucky branch of the family is now held only by George Stubblefield Bruce, of Houston, Texas, a grandson of George S. Bruce (eldest son of Henry Bruce), and his two sons, Samuel Morse and George Stubblefield, Jr., together with the latter's son, William Kirkland. And also by William Cooper Bruce, of Minneapolis, Minn. (another grandson of George S. Bruce), and his sons.

CHAPTER XXVI

The Grandchildren

There are monuments more lasting than bronze.
—*Horace.*

AFTER having been married for twenty-four years, Henry and Eleanor Bruce became grandparents, at the birth on September 2, 1822, of a son to Lucy Bruce Porter, promptly christened with the maternal surname. Eighteen months later, a little girl came and received the name of Molly. On November 15, 1826, was born to Harriet Bruce Dudley a son, the first of many descendants to bear the name of Henry Bruce.[1] In the January following arrived Ellen, daughter of George S. and Sabina Bruce. In the next year, to the same parents, was born a son, destined to considerable fame: Eli Metcalfe Bruce.[2]

As suggested, the custom of bestowing Bruce as the Christian name began early, for the family was not without pride. Henry Bruce, Jr. wrote to his sister, Ann Bruce Morgan, on November 24, 1891: "There are but two of us left of a once large, happy, proud family."

From the time of the birth of the first to the last grand-

[1] Killed at Jalapa, in Mexican War, 1848.

[2] Member of Confederate Legislature, Kentucky; Member of Confederate Congress; companion of Jefferson Davis, in flight from Richmond to Georgia, 1865. Capitalist. In a letter from Jefferson Davis, on Sept. 5, 1875 to Henry Bruce, Jr., he wrote: "I am glad to know that I shall soon meet a kinsman of my lamented friend, E. M. Bruce."

William Pickett Bruce, 1832-1903.

Alice Bruce Dudley Power, 1847-1918

child, forty years elapsed, the final member of the second generation of Bruces arriving on December 18, 1861. By that time the third generation had made its appearance, for on October 19, 1846 had come Russia Moore Dudley, the first of the numerous Bruce great-grandchildren. Henry Bruce Chappell, another early great-grandchild, was born on August 26, 1849. The fourth generation was led by Perry Thomas Hunter, born on July 1, 1879.

Although an extensive record of Bruce descendants (begun by the author in 1899 from conversations with Ann, then the only remaining daughter of Henry Bruce) lies before us, we regret that we are unable to identify the first of the now numerous great-great-great-grandchildren.

An almost complete list follows of the grandchildren of Henry and Eleanor Bruce—

Children of George S. and Sabina (Metcalfe) Bruce:

Ellen, married Jas. A. Chappell.
Eli Metcalfe, married Sallie E. Withers.
Sallie, married O. H. Perry Thomas.
Henry C., married Sue M. Stockwell.
William Pickett, married Ora Norwell.
Lucy, married Jas. A. Chappell.
Elizabeth (Lizzie), married Chas. Wm. McIntyre.
Mattie S., married F. M. Peale.
Nancy (1838-1841).
James George (1842-1849).

Children of Thomas and Lucy Laing (Bruce) Porter:

Bruce, married Pickett Stockton.
Lucy Ellen, married Sherman A. Ford.
John Thomas, Jr., married Virginia M. Pearce.

Children of Joseph and Harriet Hackley (Bruce) Dudley:

Henry Bruce (1826-1848).
Lucy Porter, married John Sparks Dunbar.
Nancy Stockton, married John Atkinson[1]; Dennis Belt; and John Belt.
William, married Cynthia Williams; Areline Kimball.
Joseph, Jr. (1836-1864)[2].
Harriet, married Charleton Ashton.
Ellen, married Thos. L. Pumphrey.
Charles L.[3], married Emma Franklin.
Alice, married John S. Power.

Children of John S. and Eleanor (Bruce) Morgan—

Henry Woodson (1830-1895).
George W., married Kate Smith.
Sallie, married John B. Holladay (Major C. S. A.).
Lucy, married Wm. Pickney Dorsey.
Thomas Sanderson (Major C. S. A.), married Sarah Casey[4].
John James (1840-1862)[5].
Leonidas (1842-1863)[6].
Ellen Pickett, married John Morgan.
Bruce (1844-1913).
Phoebe Ann McMillan (1847-1859).
Will G., married Fannie Brooks.

Children of Henry, Jr., and Mary Bruce:

Pauline, married James K. Duke.

[1] U. S. A. Civil War. Died in service.

[2] Adjutant U. S. A. Killed during Civil War.

[3] Commander, Grand Army of the Republic, Kentucky, 1934.

[4] A son, Rear Admiral Casey Bruce Morgan (1867-1933), was a veteran of the Battle of Manila. In the World war, transports commanded by him carried 50,000 soldiers to France and back without the loss of a single man or ship.

[5] C. S. A. Died in battle.

[6] C. S. A. Died in battle.

LUCINDA BRUCE MORGAN GREEN at 20.
Oldest living Bruce descendant.

Fannie Anders (1843-1853).
Nannie, married Linden C. Alexander.
Henrietta, married Richard Lashbrook Green.
Lillie Ellen, married Charles Horne.

Children of James and Martha Bruce:

Annie J., married Dr. James Bruce Mosely.
Robert E. (1850-1872).
Ellen, married J. J. Johnson.
Mary E., married T. J. Baskin.
Hattie R., married D. L. Barnes.
Henry (1859-1861).
George S. (1861-1891).

Children of Woodson and Elizabeth (Bruce) Morgan:

William Henry, married Lucy Ann Lowry.
John, married Ellen Morgan.
Ellen, married James Knight; Dr. John Fleming.
George Bruce, married Frankie Waller.
James Madison, (1843-1873).
Ann, married Amos Denman.
Monroe, married Emeline McMurtry.

Children of Wm. Franklin and Ann (Bruce) Morgan:

Lucinda Bruce, married Rev. Wm. Thos. Green.[1]
Amelia I., married P. Richards.
Garrard, married Florence Saxton.
Henry Bruce,[2] married Jennie Woodruff.
Woodson, married Harriet Atkinson.
Elizabeth, married Stephen C. Knight.
Wm. Bruce, married Ida Sanford.
Annie (1856-1870).
Millard, married Stella Kirkpatrick.

[1] First Baptist missionaries to Mexico.

[2] Chairman of the Greater Waterway Commission of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, 1934.

James,[1] married Helen Dailey.

Children of Dr. Wm. and Lucinda (Bruce) Bell:

Henry ("Harry") Bruce, married Blanche Strode.

[1]Editor *The Boston Globe;* author of *Theodore Roosevelt, The Boy and the Man; Abraham Lincoln, the Boy and the Man; The Life of Chas. H. Taylor; The Life Work of Edward A. Moseley; The Birth of the American People; In the Footsteps of Napoleon; Our Presidents,* etc. Awarded honorary degree of M.A. by Tufts College, Boston.

JAMES MORGAN.
Youngest grandchild of Henry and Eleanor Bruce.

CHAPTER XXVII

The End

Time rolls its ceaseless course.
—*Scott.*

DURING the first six decades of the life of Henry Bruce, he proceeded on the maxim, "To carry through great undertakings, one must act as though one could never die." But when he had passed the age of sixty he intuitively conducted himself upon Emerson's thought, "It is time to be old, to take in sail." Gratefully he said at sixty-three, "I know of no man of my age with better health or stronger constitution." A week after he had entered his sixty-fourth year he wrote, "I can't expect to remain here many years longer. I believe it is an excellent arrangement that all men die and I would not have it otherwise if I could."

As we have recorded, at that time he decided to give to his two younger sons the task of undertaking, each October, the long, slow journey to Georgia, and was content to assist in managing the operation of the farm. He interested himself also in what he termed "internal improvements," meaning the construction of churches, schools, toll pikes and railroads, making donations or subscribing for shares of stock. It was said of a great man that he "lived until he died." Henry Bruce was active until the last day of his life in creative, helpful service.

Until well past seventy years of age, he appears to have

retained his strength and vigor. When he had reached seventy-five, some trouble with his hip, causing lameness, forced him to the use of crutches when walking.[1] But that did not interrupt the supervision of the farm, or the transaction of business. He obtained a low-built carriage in which he rode about, attending to many details. A young negro boy carrying a long-handled hoe, usually accompanied him. If the master spied a weed he drove nearby and asked the attendant to uproot it. Or if he saw a good-sized stone in the road, he paused while it was removed.

The last major undertaking in which Henry Bruce became interested was the erection, by Dr. Wm. Bell, a son-in-law, in 1854-5, of a commodious brick house on a high hill, almost directly across the road from the Bruce homestead. By that time all the Bruce children had left the old home, but most of them still lived in the neighborhood.

For years Henry Bruce had not hesitated to go into debt for his various enterprises, but at seventy-five he paid each creditor and rejoiced in feeling "free," as he expressed it.

In his final half year, he thought much of Virginia and his relatives there. He possessed in strong degree a love of family, "especially the Bruce stock," as he more than once loyally termed it. With surprising prescience he wrote to his Virginia cousins. Hours were pleasantly em-

[1] April 12, 1854: "The pain and weakness in my hip has increased somewhat and one leg is shorter by about two inches than the other. I can't account as to how it could become so as the joint appears to still be in place. I still can walk with two canes or crutches and ride about occasionally, though I have not been to Flemingsburg since last Fall."

ployed in penning letters to Bruces whom he had never seen—who perhaps had never heard of him—carefully explaining the genesis of the family. Today those letters are valued by their owners, the descendants of the recipients. "I am the oldest Bruce on earth," he wrote to one cousin in 1852. To another, in 1855: "I am the oldest one of our (Bruce) family now living and, of course, know most about ancient connections."

Toward the last Henry Bruce said: "I hope that I will not suffer lingering sickness, but prefer to lie down and die, when the time comes, with my harness on."[1] On Tuesday, July 10, 1855, he was actively engaged in driving about the farm. He partook of the evening meal on a wide, open piazza, commonly used in Summer. For a time he sat in an easy chair reading a newspaper. Without a warning of the nearing end, he retired early as usual, and was soon asleep. At ten o'clock, Eleanor Bruce awoke and endeavored to rouse him, but he had died of failure of the heart. The noble head had sunk a trifle; the breath that had been unceasing through the first seventy-eight years of the Republic, had stopped forever.

[1] Recollection of W. P. Bruce.

CHAPTER XXVIII

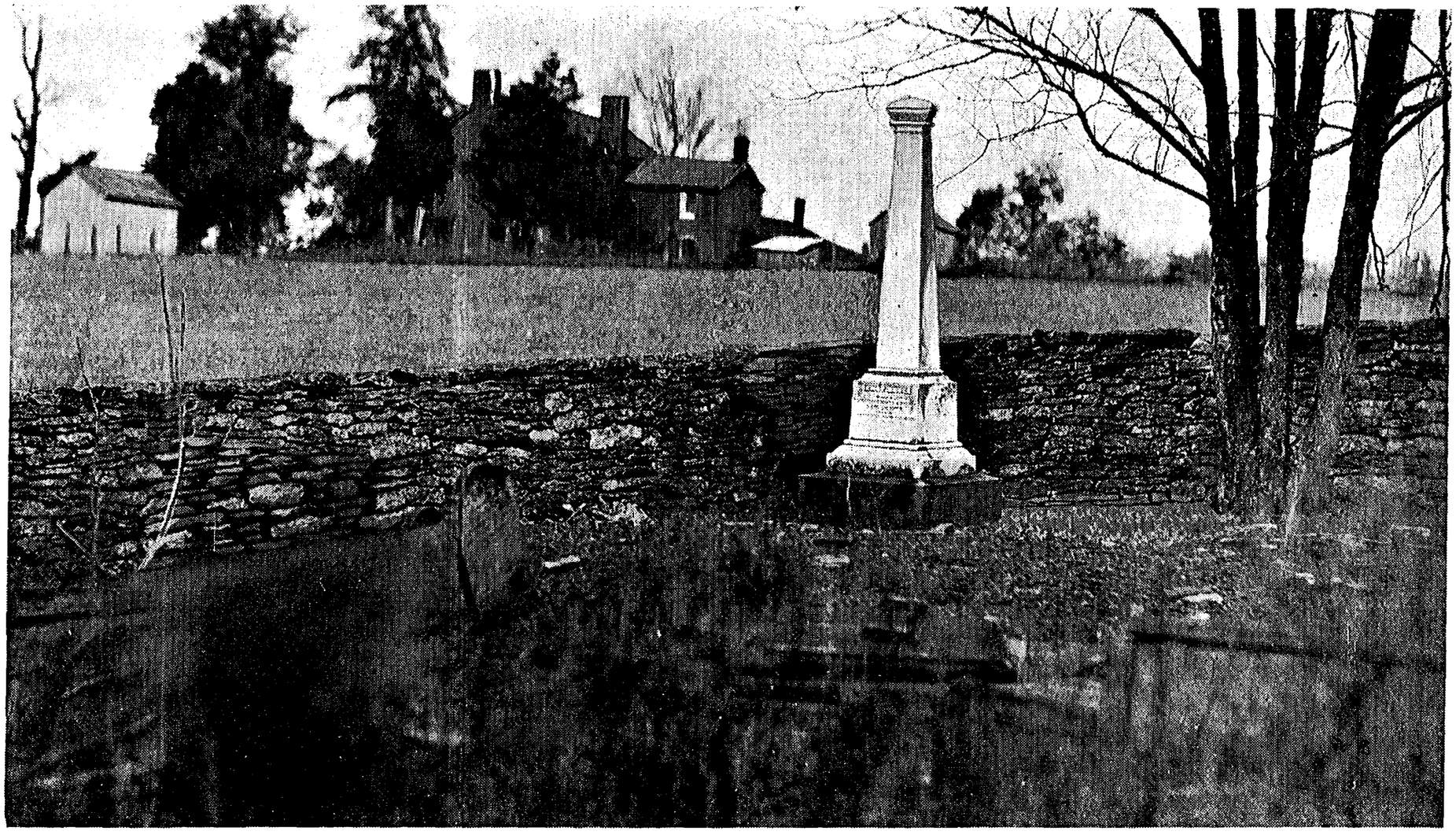
The Last Rites

When the sun's last rays are fading,
Into twilight soft and dim.
—*Barker.*

For more than sixty years Henry Bruce had lived in one neighborhood. His aggressive rise from poverty to a position of prominence had enlisted the interest of many who never were to read the books of Horatio Alger. Numerous examples of successful struggles upward to success might at that time have been seen in Northern Kentucky. But to few of his contemporaries had come experiences similar to those that had filled the life of this man, known to everyone in the vicinity, long a familiar figure on the turn-pike roads and a frequent visitor in the nearby towns.

Many of the people of Fleming and surrounding counties mourned the death of Henry Bruce. The "Squire" was no more. The former sheriff would never again send his summons. His signature had headed the last subscription list. "Uncle Harry," as he had come to be commonly known, would no longer be seen at "old Bethel" Meeting House. "Marse Henry" would not again smile upon his loyal blacks.

The body rested in a plain oaken casket in the Bruce parlor during the simple service, befitting the man whose life had been as easily read as an open book. There are



THE GRAVE AND MONUMENT OF HENRY BRUCE. Showing side of the Bruce home in background, as it appears today.

several grandchildren now living who recall the lifelike face of their grandfather on that day, for no sickness had come to destroy his natural appearance. Throngs of friends passed by and looked at the sturdy figure for the last time. Most of the men then retired to the lawn, for the weather was warm, and it was impossible to provide seats for all who came to pay homage to a good man's memory.

Neighbors served as pallbearers, carrying the coffin the few hundred feet to the little half acre in the midst of the farm which had been set apart forever, under the provision of a Kentucky statute, as a burial ground for the family of Henry Bruce.

When Henry Bruce died eight of his children survived, together with eight to whom he was father-in-law. There were then living more than fifty grandchildren and a dozen great-grandchildren. The widow, Eleanor Bruce, was infirm and blind. Nearly all of the family, accompanied by the negroes, followed the slow march over the broad flagstone walk that led to the last resting place, which is now the only possession shared by those who revere his memory.

Although not living quite long enough to see one revolution of Uranus, yet born when George III still claimed his allegiance, Henry Bruce lived as a grown man under all the fourteen presidents from Washington to Pierce.

A number of obituary articles were printed by the newspapers of Fleming and surrounding counties, only one of which has been preserved—

Extract from the Carlisle, Nicholas Co., Kentucky, "American":

Died: Suddenly at his residence in Fleming county, on the night of the 10th instant, Henry Bruce, Sr., in the 78th year of his age.

Impelled by sentiments of profound esteem and respect—and by a feeling of warm personal attachment for the honored dead—we are induced to offer a brief tribute of respect to his memory, yet deeply conscious of our inability to do justice to the subject.

Henry Bruce was born in Stafford county, Va. on the 30th October, 1777; he removed to Kentucky in 1793, and settled in Fleming county, where he afterward married and continued to reside up to the time of his death. Although but a boy when he came to Kentucky, and possessed of little save an unflinching integrity and a determined energy of purpose, coupled with habits of industry and perseverance, he soon drew around him scores of friends and rapidly rose into affluent circumstances. During the whole period of his life, up to his death, we are not aware that he ever had a single enemy. As a citizen he was distinguished for his public spirit, his patriotism, and his loyalty to his country; as a man, for his generosity and unbounded hospitality. In either relation of life he was a distinguished and shining ornament; the life of the social circle, the benefactor of the poor, and a friend of the distressed.

He lived to see a numerous family of his descendants, even to the fourth generation, grow up around him, and sunk calmly and serenely to rest, while yet the measure of his usefulness was at its full, and before the infirmities and childishness of age had impaired the vigor of his intellect, or lessened the benevolence and warmth of his heart. A glorious death! Well might he say with the patriarch, "Lord, lettest now thy servant depart in peace."

He has left a rich inheritance to his descendants in the example of an honorable, useful and well-spent life.

His remains were followed to their last resting place by a large concourse of deeply sympathizing neighbors, acquaintances and friends; and around the open grave, while busy memory restored the illustrious dead in a thousand kindly acts, woman's soft heart sobbed aloud in grief and many a tear was wrung from manly eyes.

But vain alike to him are the words of eulogy or sententious grief:

"Can honor's voice provoke the silent dust,
Or flattery soothe the dull, cold ear of death?"

Thus has passed away one of nature's noblemen; the true type of a Virginia gentleman, a class once numerous but now, alas! few and seldom found—Editor.

CHAPTER XXIX

The Will

He mourns the dead who lives as they desire.
—*Young.*

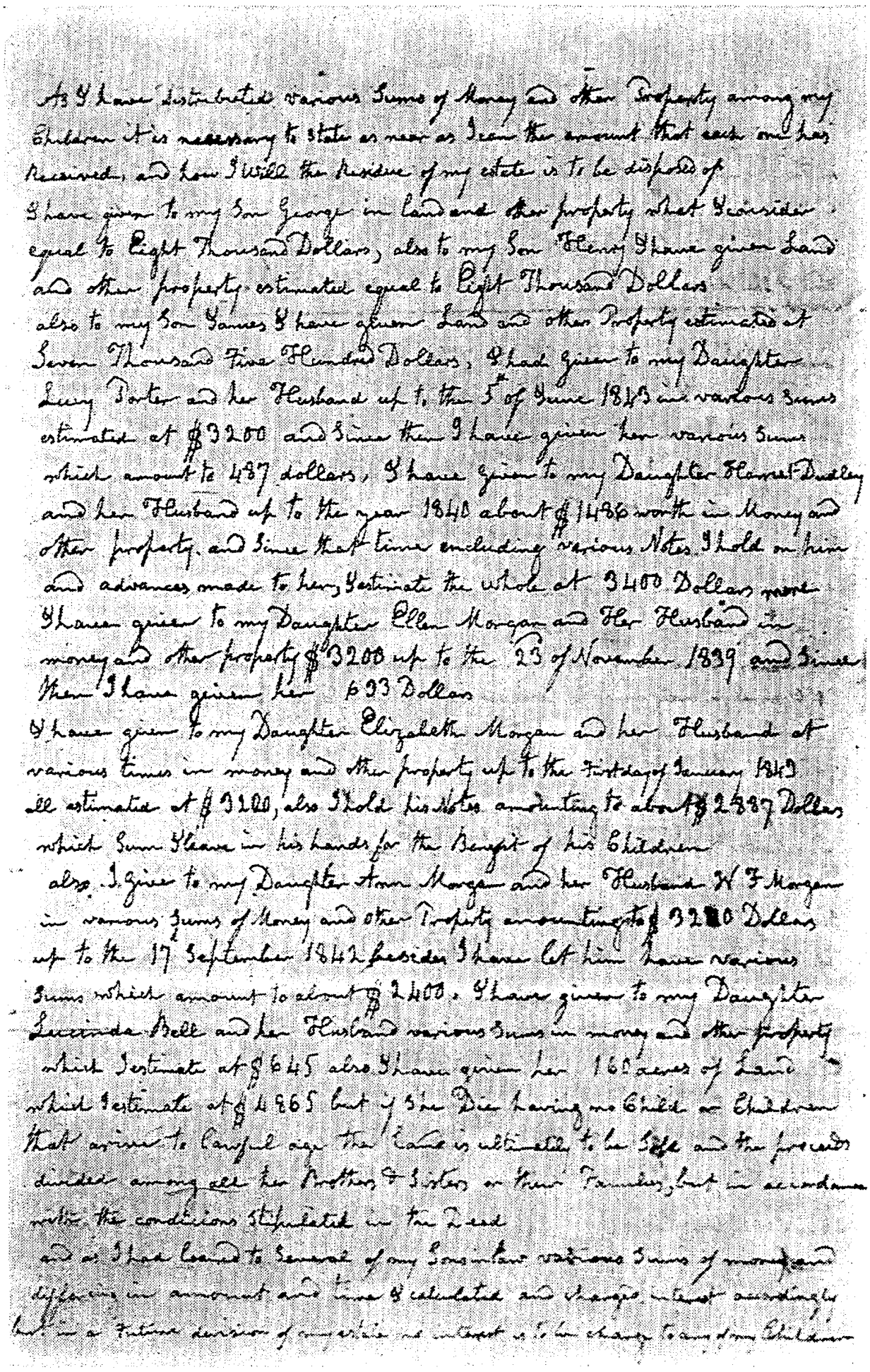
THIRTEEN months before he died Henry Bruce penned his final desires relating to the division of his estate.[1] As the signing of the will had not been witnessed, several friends [2] testified to the correctness of the signature, after which the instrument was recorded.[3]

For a quarter of a century prior to his death the father had given or loaned money to his sons and sons-in-law, in order to begin the distribution of his estate and to assist them in their business ventures. He had advanced various sums to several others, who usually were family connections. Some of the notes taken by him as evidence of the indebtedness could not readily be paid. As a result, in one or two instances, Bruce children found little due them from the estate when it was administered. The seeming inequalities of the inheritance, through the comparatively small amounts due certain of the legatees in the settlement which Henry Bruce saw was near, caused him in 1854 to write that the matter "weighs heavily upon my heart."

[1] Of about $80,000. Judged by modern standards, the estate was larger than that amount would suggest.

[2] L. W. Andrews, Wm. H. Cord, and Wm. S. Botts.

[3] The Will is today in an almost perfect state of preservation and may be seen at the Courthouse, Flemingsburg, Ky.



As I have distributed various Sums of Money and other Property among my Children it is necessary to state as near as I can the amount that each one has Received, and how I Will the Residue of my estate is to be disposed of

I have given to my Son George in Land and other property what I consider equal to Eight Thousand Dollars, also to my Son Henry I have given Land and other property estimated equal to Eight Thousand Dollars

also to my Son James I have given Land and other Property estimated at Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars, I had given to my Daughter Lucy Porter and her Husband up to the 5th of June 1843 and various Sums estimated at $3200 and Since then I have given her various Sums which amount to 487 dollars, I have given to my Daughter Harriet Dudley and her Husband up to the year 1840 about $1486 worth in Money and other property, and Since that time including various Notes I hold on him and advances made to her, I estimate the whole at 3400 Dollars more

I have given to my Daughter Ellen Morgan and Her Husband in money and other property $3200 up to the 23 of November 1839 and Since then I have given her 693 Dollars

I have given to my Daughter Elizabeth Morgan and her Husband at various times in money and other property up to the First day of January 1843 all estimated at $3200, also I hold his Notes amounting to about $2387 Dollars which Sum I leave in his hands for the Benefit of his Children

also I gave to my Daughter Ann Morgan and her Husband W F Morgan in various Sums of Money and other Property amounting to $3200 Dollars up to the 17 September 1842 besides I have let him have various Sums which amount to about $2400. I have given to my Daughter Lucinda Bell and her Husband various Sums in money and other property which I estimate at $645 also I have given her 160 acres of Land which I estimate at $1265 but if She Die having no Child or Children that arrive to Lawful age the Land is ultimately to be Sold and the proceeds divided among all her Brothers & Sisters or their Families, but in accordance with the conditions Stipulated in the Deed

and as I have Loaned to Several of my Sons in law various Sums of money and differing in amount and time I calculated and charge interest accordingly but in a future division of my estate no interest is to be charged to any one Child

THE WILL OF HENRY BRUCE.
Written by him in his 77th year.

I will that each of my Daughters or their Children shall have $8000 Dollars including the various advances herein set forth; provided there be enough in the hands of my Executors, and if not to divide accordingly, to be furnished to each as I may herein direct; tis my desire that my Daughter Harriet Dudley have for her exclusive benefit the Vaughn tract of 50 acres of land at $30 per acre and if she does not prefer to occupy it and rather have it exchanged for other land or property, my Executors may have the discression to do so. taking care that her Children ultimately is to have the benefit thereof. and the residue that may be due to my Daughter I will that my Executors let them have money or such other property they may deem most advisable for their benefit and that of their Children and as my Son James remained and labored on the Farm some years longer than his other Brothers. and he received less amount than they have. besides I had the use of a Negro Boy I gave him Several years. I think he will be entitled to about eighteen Hundred Dollars more of my estate

and I will that he have the residue of my land at Fifty Dollars per acre to be paid in two annual instalments, the tract contains about 180 acres, a half acre is reserved exclusively for a Burying place for the Family and such persons only that are connected by Marriage or otherwise and is to be kept well enclosed

and if my Wife Shall Survive me the Law has made provision for her Support; tho tis my wish that my Executors shall obtain her consent to Sell or divide the property in a reasonable time after my Decease Securing to her a bountiful Supply of the necessaries of Life

if the Negroes cannot be divided they must be sold only among the Family connection on a years credit unless any of the Negroes prefer to be sold to others; the amount that may be coming to the Children of my Daughter Elizabeth Morgan Dec'd is to be paid to them according to age

if my estate is more than Sufficient to make up to each of my Daughters or their Families $8000 tis my desire that the Residue be divided as my Executors think proper, and Lastly I appoint my Sons George and James as Executors to consumate every request herein made and they are not required to give Security for the performance of their duty

given under my hand and Seal this 15 day of June 1854

Henry Bruce Seal

THE WILL OF HENRY BRUCE (continued)

In carefully kept account books, a record had been personally compiled showing the amount of the various advances made, to which interest was added. It was the wish of Henry Bruce that each son and daughter should receive a total amounting at least to eight thousand dollars.[1]

The record in the books mentioned, together with instructions that had been given to the two sons that Henry Bruce nominated as executors, (George Bruce and James Bruce), assisted them in settling the somewhat complicated reckoning, simplified by the fact that their father had died free of debt.

In a short period of time after July 10th, 1855, the property was divided among the children, proper provision being also made for the bedridden widow. Each one agreed to the settlement that was made, and there was thus no serious difficulty in arriving at a complete and equitable distribution along the lines that had been thoughtfully prescribed.

Here follows in full–

The Last Will of Henry Bruce

As I have distributed various sums of money and other property among my children, it is necessary to state as near as I can the amount that each one has received, and how I will the residue of my estate is to be disposed of.

I have given to my son, George, in land and other property what I consider equal to Eight Thousand Dollars; also to my son,

[1] Two or three received a larger amount, due to losses sustained by them, which prevented repayment of loans made by their father; and because of additional contributions.

Henry, I have given land and other property estimated equal to Eight Thousand Dollars. Also to my son, James, I have given land and other property estimated at Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars. I had given to my daughter, Lucy Porter, and her husband, up to the 5th of June, 1843, in various sums estimated at $3200. and since then I have given her various sums which amount to 487 dollars.

I have given to my daughter, Harriet Dudley, and her husband, up to the year 1840, about $1486. worth in money and other property, and since that time, including various notes I hold on him and advances made to her, I estimate the whole at 3400 Dollars more. I have given to my daughter, Ellen Morgan, and her husband, in money and other property $3200. up to the 23rd of November, 1839, and since then I have given her 633 Dollars.

I have given to my daughter, Elizabeth Morgan, and her husband, at various times in money and other property up to the first day of January, 1843, all estimated at $3200.; also I hold his notes amounting to about 2887 Dollars, which sum I leave in his hands for the benefit of his children.

I gave to my daughter, Ann Morgan, and her husband, W. F. Morgan, in various sums of money and other property, amounting to 3200 Dollars up to the 17th of September, 1842. Besides I have let him have various sums amounting to about $2400.

I have given to my daughter, Lucinda Bell, and her husband, various sums in money and other property which I estimate at $645. Also I have given her 160 acres of land which I estimate at $4,865., but if she die having no child or children that arrive to lawful age, the land is ultimately to be sold and the proceeds divided among all her brothers and sisters, or their families, but in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the Deed.

And as I had loaned to several of my sons-in-law various sums of money and differing in amount and time, I calculated and charged interest accordingly, but in a future division of my estate, no interest is to be charged to any of my children.

I will that each of my daughters or their children shall have $8,000., including the various advances herein set forth, provided there be enough in the hands of my Executors, and if not to divide accordingly, to be furnished to each as I may herein direct. Tis

my desire that my daughter, Harriet Dudley, have for her exclusive benefit the Vaughn tract of 30 acres of land at $30. per acre, and if she does not prefer to occupy it, and rather have it exchanged for other land or property, my Executors may have the discretion to do so, taking care that her children ultimately are to have the benefit thereof, and the residue that may be due to my daughter. I will that my Executors let them have money or such other property as they may deem most advisable for their benefit and that of their children.

And as my son, James, remained and labored on the farm some years longer than his other brothers, and as he received less amount than they have—besides I had the use of a negro boy I gave him several years—I think he will be entitled to about eighteen hundred dollars more of my estate. And I will that he have the residue of my land at Fifty Dollars per acre to be paid in two annual instalments. The tract contains about 180 acres. A half acre is reserved exclusively for a burying place for the family and such persons only that are connected by marriage or otherwise, and is to be kept well enclosed.

And if my wife shall survive me, the law has made provision for her support, tho tis my wish that my Executors shall obtain her consent to sell or divide the property in a reasonable time after my decease, securing to her a bountiful supply of the necessaries of life.

If the negroes cannot be divided, they must be sold only among the family connection on a year's credit, unless any of the negroes prefer to be sold to others. The amount that may be coming to the children of my daughter, Elizabeth Morgan, Dec., is to be paid to them according to age.

If my estate is more than sufficient to make up to each of my daughters or their families $8,000., tis my desire that the residue be divided as my Executors think proper, and lastly I appoint my sons, George and James, as Executors, to consummate every request herein made and they are not required to give security for the performance of their duty. Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of June, 1854.

HENRY BRUCE (Seal)

Fleming County

CHAPTER XXX

The Bruce Home Today

I stand by the old thought, the old thing,
the old place and the old friend.
—*James Russell Lowell.*

Two of his three sons had left the home county before the death of Henry Bruce. George had gone to Carlisle, Kentucky, and Henry, Jr. was living in Covington. The father accordingly had arranged that James, the one son remaining near him, should have the homestead with all its furnishing that he desired, and some one hundred and eighty acres surrounding it at the appraisement. He recommended further that if he, himself, should be survived by his wife, she and her servant be permitted to retain their accustomed quarters.

James and Martha Bruce cheerfully acquiesced in the plans suggested, and during the years immediately following the passing of Henry Bruce, the "big brick" continued to be a center of hospitality. The sound of childish laughter once more was heard. For Annie, the eldest daughter of James was eight years old, and there were also two younger children, Robert and Ellen. In the year following, Mary Bruce was born, and in 1857 came Hattie Bruce.[1]

When Henry Bruce advised that everything in the home

[1] Mary Bruce Baskin and Hattie Bruce Barnes were the only Bruce grandchildren now known to have been born in the original Henry Bruce home.

be transferred to James, he requested that the family portraits by Shackelford should hang in their places on the walls of the parlor as long as the home continued in the ownership of the family. He confidently hoped that would be a long time, for James Bruce, after traveling in the East and the South, had expressed a desire for an agricultural life.

Rumblings of the coming strife between the states began to be plainly heard. Nearly all trusted optimistically that bloodshed would be averted. When the father of James's wife died in 1856, leaving slaves in South Carolina to his daughter, the question arose: Should Southern blacks be brought to a point but a few miles distant from the free state of Ohio? James Bruce was also a slave owner. Moreover, his wife Martha was not in robust health, and relatives and girlhood friends of the former Martha Johnson begged her to return to the warmer clime.[1] The problem was solved through selling the Bruce farm, and by the removal of the James Bruce family to South Carolina, where a number of the descendants are living today.

The home passed uninjured through the War of 1861-5, although troops of each of the contending armies were occasionally there. During the more than two generations since James Bruce moved away, there have been several owners, all of whom have welcomed visitors. Forty years ago the home was purchased by Mr. Schumaker and, since

[1] Statement of W. P. Bruce, approved by Hattie Bruce Barnes in 1933.

his decease, it has been owned and occupied by his son and daughter.

Standing in the old rooms today, we can easily imagine the scene when from ten to twenty people lived there. We can see the almost endless procession on the stairs. We can still see Henry Bruce, freshly returned from one of his Southern trips. His hearty greeting seems still to pervade the air. The floor of the hall seems to creak as he passes over it, and a spirit of kindliness appears to hover in the square rooms which shall seem full of music as long as men want to remember.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

BRUCE GENEALOGY

From *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*,
Vol XII, No. 4, April, 1905, p. 446-453

By Philip Alexander Bruce

Unquestionable evidence has recently been found that proves that this (Bruce) family was derived from George Bruce, whose name first appears in the Northern Neck records as early as 1668. This new evidence consists of two letters discovered a few months ago among the papers of the late James C. Bruce at Berry Hill, Halifax county; they were addressed in 1855 to Mr. Bruce by Henry Bruce, who emigrated to Kentucky in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Henry Bruce, when a boy, had lived at "Soldier's Rest," the home of Charles Bruce, of Orange county, and was familiar with the family's history. In these letters, written when he was seventy-seven years of age, he states that Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," was a son of Charles Bruce, of King George county, who died in 1754. Charles Bruce, of King George county, was, as we shall see, a son of George Bruce, who was a landowner in the Northern Neck in 1668, having been born in 1640. We learn from several sources that Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," always spoke of himself as of the family of Edward Bruce, of Kinloss. This information he could well have obtained from his father, Charles Bruce, of King George county, who in turn could have obtained it from his father, George Bruce.

Among the persons who were most actively interested in the affairs of the London Company and the colonization of Virginia, was the Earl of Devonshire, who had married a daughter of Edward Bruce, of Kinloss, the ancestor of the Elgin and Aylesbury families of the English peerage. It is possible that Walter, William and George Bruce, who were the first of the name to appear in Virginia (which they did by the middle of the seventeenth century), were influenced to emigrate by some relationship to the

wife of this early friend of the colony. Lady Devonshire did not die until many years after 1650 (see Brown's Genesis of the United States). It is a straw of evidence in this connection apart from the traditional statement of Charles Bruce, of "Soldier's Rest," that the name "Christian," an unusual one for a woman, appears as a family name of the Kinloss Bruces down to the present day, and also of those who settled in the Northern Neck. It was the name of Lady Devonshire, we believe, and was also borne by a granddaughter of the first George Bruce of the Northern Neck. An examination of the Scottish records would, perhaps, throw a definite light on the origin of the first three Bruces who came out to Virginia.

As soon as the Northern Neck began to be settled, there was a large emigration thither of people who had first taken up land in Isle of Wight and Nansemond counties. Richard Bennett, afterwards Governor, soon acquired extensive tracts there. The Carters and Fauntleroys, families so long identified with the valley of the Rappahannock, went from Nansemond; so did the Uptons, Smiths and Lawsons, and others equally as well known. There is reason to think that the first three Bruces in the Northern Neck followed the same stream. This was certainly the case with Walter Bruce. It was probably the case with George and William, as all three are found holding land near together in old Rappahannock county. The destruction of all the colonial records of Nansemond county has greatly diminished the sources of information about its first settlers, but we know from the patent books in Richmond (Register's office), that Walter Bruce was a landowner there as early as 1651.

In 1640, a patent was granted to Epaphroditus Lawson, in Tarrascoe Neck, Chuckeytuck parish, Nansemond county. In 1651, a large part of this tract was sold by Lawson to Walter Bruce (see patent to Nicholas Bruce, 1692, Va. Land Patents, Vol. 1689-95). Bruce's purchase began at the mouth of Hole creek, and was bounded by Lawson's bay, etc. In all conveyances, wherever recorded, he speaks of himself as of "Chuckeytuck Parish" (see Surry Rec., 1645-70, Va. St. Lib., p. 361-2 for example). This land was later on in the possession of two of Walter's sons—

Abraham and Nicholas (see patent to Nicholas already referred to, and Isle of Wight Recs., August 9, 1682). Walter Bruce was a man of education, for he could write his name, an accomplishment to boast of in that illiterate age, which he shared with William and George Bruce. He was a gentleman, for in all the references to him in the records, he is spoken of as "Mister," an indication in those times of social position. He was a man of property, as the records of such counties as old Rappahannock, Surry, Lower Norfolk, Isle of Wight, etc., will show. It will be seen that his business operations were not confined to one part of the colony; he must, therefore, have been more than usually energetic and enterprising.

Between the years 1660 and 1666, Walter Bruce married Elizabeth, widow of Thomas Sayer, a leading citizen of Lower Norfolk county (Records, 1656–66, p. 438) and thus became the stepfather of Francis Sayer, one of the justices of the county in 1671. Francis Sayer married the widow of George Newton, the first of that well known family in Norfolk, and his descendants have been people of influence and position in that part of Virginia down to a recent date. Walter's name appears very often in the Lower Norfolk records in the settlement of Thomas Sayer's estate, and as a purchaser of land. The following entry shows that he was a kind stepfather: "Whereas Mr. Walter Bruce, who married ye widow of Mr. Thomas Sayer, did, out of his tender affection to two of ye children (i.e., Mrs. Sayer's children), added some cattle to ye estate of ye s'd Sayer's children, his wife, in his absence out of ye countrey, put forth Sara Sayer, one of the children, to schoole," etc., and devotes four cows to her education (Lower Norfolk Rec., 1656-1666, p. 438).

Walter Bruce was living in 1668 (Norfolk Recs. 1666-75, p. 111), but died some time previous to 1690. In a deed of that year, by Abraham Bruce, he states that "he is the eldest son of Walter Bruce, then deceased," and also that his father's will "had been lost by those who had the keeping of it and no record thereof to be found." By law he thus became entitled to his father's lands, but in this deed he confirms to his brother, John, the 600 acres on Bowman's creek, in Lower Norfolk county, which had been be-

queathed John in his father's will. (Lower Norfolk Rec. 1685-95, p. 123.) Abraham Bruce did the same thing to his brother Nicholas (see patent to Nicholas already referred to).

Abraham Bruce was not a citizen of Lower Norfolk county, though he owned land there (see orders November 15, 1689, Va. Land Pats., 1719-24, p. 81). Like his father, Walter, he lived in Nansemond, doubtless inheriting his father's old home as the eldest son. He married "Ann, sole heiress of Thomas Brown" (Lower Norfolk Rec. Orders, May 15, 1695). John Bruce, his brother, married a daughter of William Keele (ditto Orders, July 16, 1695). The wife of Nicholas Bruce is unknown. From Walter Bruce is probably descended the family of Bruces residing at Emporia.

What was the connection between Walter, Bruce and William and George Bruce, of old Rappahannock county; afterwards, when Rappahannock county was divided, of Richmond county? As early as 1652, when this part of the Northern Neck bore the name of Lancaster county, we find Walter making an assignment of land which he owned there (Lancaster Recs., Order Book, 1652, p. 39). Among other records of interest relating to him, is an assignment witnessed by his stepson, Francis Sayer (Rappah. Rec., Orders March 24, 1663, Va. St. Lib.).

A deposition, recorded in either Lancaster or Westmoreland county, September, 1670 (exact reference mislaid), shows that George was thirty years of age in that year. In 1652, when we find Walter Bruce selling land in Lancaster (later Rappahannock, later Richmond county), George Bruce was only twelve years of age. He was, therefore, much younger than Walter, and might have been his nephew.

As the name "Walter" does not appear among the descendants of George in the next two generations, it is not likely Walter was George Bruce's father.

Some connection between George and William is shown by the Northern Neck records; at least that they lived not far apart. We find in the old Rappahannock (Richmond county) records (Vol. 1671-76, pp. 324-26, Va. St. Lib.), a deed of sale from Henry Reynolds to Mathew Kelly, witnessed by William Bruce

and Barnaby Wells—also a power of attorney from same to same, witnessed by George Bruce and Barnaby Wells—also a power of attorney from Reynolds to Wells, witnessed by George Bruce. These three papers were apparently drawn together, as they bear the same date, November 1, 1675, and were all recorded together. The two Bruces were evidently friends and near neighbors of Reynolds.

At this time, George Bruce was thirty-five years of age, as we know from the deposition already quoted. William was older. In 1654, when George was only fourteen, William was of age, for we find him giving a bond to Sir Henry Chicheley (afterwards Deputy-Governor) for 1,031 pounds of tobacco, "to be paid at his (Bruce's) plantation in upper Wyencock." This bond is witnessed by Cuthbert Potter, one of the leading men in the Northern Neck (Rap. Rec. 1668-72, p. 19, Va. St. Lib.). A deed from Richard Bennett (Governor of Virginia in time of Cromwell), dated May 20, 1658, to John Carter, the father of the famous "King" Carter, for 300 acres at Naemcock (Wyencock ?), mentions that it "was now or lately in the tenure, &c. of William Bruce." Bennett speaks of himself as of "Nansemond county," in this deed. John Carter was also from Nansemond. The fact that William Bruce was a tenant of Bennett's would seem to indicate that he, like Walter Bruce, was also from Nansemond (Rap. Rec., May 20, 1658). Bennett must have known William Bruce in that county, as there is no evidence of Bennett's visiting the Northern Neck.

William Bruce appears in the old Rappahannock records both as a seller and a purchaser of land. A deed from Henry Creighton, November 3, 1668, mentions that the land conveyed to William adjoined a tract already in William's possession (Rap. Rec. 1668-72, p. 19, Va. St. Lib. See also same, Nov. 2, 1663, Sept. 5, 1660; also Va. Land Pats. 1666-79, p. 292).

William Bruce died previous to December 14, 1683 (see deed from Henry Flint, Rap. Rec., Vol. 1680-1688, Va. St. Lib.), nearly forty years before George Bruce. Both describe themselves in the early deeds as of "Sittingbourne parish." The only son of William known positively is Henry, who, in his will, speaks of

himself as residing where his father had lived before him. In the Northern Neck patents (Register's Office), will be found a patent (Vol. 1710-1712, p. 19), in which Henry Bruce, who describes himself as the "son of William," obtains a renewal in one patent of land acquired by his father by patent, October 30, 1669, and lying next to that of Henry Creighton. Henry speaks of himself as of Richmond county, the county in which George Bruce was now residing at an extreme old age. Henry Bruce married Mary, daughter of Andrew Morton, of Northumberland, and in January, 1689-90, sues the executors of Morton's estate for 8,485 pounds of tobacco (Northumberland Rec., 1678-98). A surviving register of North Farnham parish confirms the fact that his wife was named Mary. His will is recorded in Richmond county, June 7, 1727. He makes bequests to sons, Andrew, John, Joseph and Benjamin, and daughters, Mary and Elizabeth.

George Bruce, the youngest of the three Bruces found among the landowners of the Northern Neck about the middle of the seventeenth century, describes himself at first, like William, as "of Sittingbourne parish," but afterwards, when that parish was divided, as "of Farnham." The first reference to George Bruce in the Northern Neck records bears the date of 1668. In that year he bought of William Pierce one hundred and eighty acres of land (Rap. Rec. 1677-82, p. 178, Va. St. Lib.). Pierce had married a daughter of Captain John Upton, of Isle of Wight county. The mother of Mrs. Pierce had obtained a patent to 700 acres in Lancaster (which at that time included old Rappahannock) and, about 1656, married Thomas Lucas, described as "gentleman" (Va. Mag. of Hist. and Biog., 111, p. 61).

"Upton" became later on a family name of the Bruces, and it is possible that George Bruce was a relative by blood or marriage of Mrs. Pierce.

In 1671, George Bruce appointed as his attorney, Henry Creighton, who, as we have seen, lived next to William Bruce's plantation, and had also sold him land—another proof that George and William Bruce were residents of the same neighborhood. Creighton was authorized to represent George Bruce in a suit against Joshua Lawson, a member of the same family as Epaphridi-

tus Lawson, from whom Walter Bruce had purchased an estate in Nansemond in 1651 (Rap. Rec., 1668-72, p. 455, Va. St. Lib.). In 1672, George Bruce's cattle-mark was recorded (ditto, 1671-76, p. 28, Va. St. Lib.). About ten years later, he was allowed a certain amount of tobacco for carrying an important message to the Governor at Williamsburg (ditto, 1686-92, orig., p. 352). The following year he complained to the Governor of the justices of old Rappahannock county, because they had imposed "abuses and taxations, to the scandalizing of several persons" (ditto, May 4, 1692, Vol. 1692-94, p. 1).

There are several records to show the names of George Bruce's children. In 1677, we find in the old Rappahannock (Richmond) county records, a deed of gift from Francis Settle to "George and Jane, children of George Bruce" (see Vol. 1677-88, p. 150, Va. St. Lib.). These were, probably, the only children born by that year. About ten years later, a second deed of gift, this time from Edward Jeffries, is recorded, which mentions the names of George, Hensfield, Elizabeth, Charles, William and John (see Vol. 1680-88, p. 408, Va. St. Lib.). Hensfield doubtless received his name out of regard for the Hensfield family, at that time settled in Rappahannock (Richmond) county. Its ancestor was Captain Robert Hensfield, of Salem, Mass. (ditto, 1680-88, p. 393, Va. St. Lib.). It is possible that George Bruce's wife was the daughter of Captain Hensfield.

George Bruce died in what was then Richmond (old Rappahannock) county, in the year 1715. He describes himself as "stricken in years." Born in 1640, he was then in his seventy-fifth year. In his will he mentions the names of all the children, except Elizabeth, who were the beneficiaries of the two deeds of gift—George, Charles, William, John, Hensfield and Jane, who had married Joseph Russell. Elizabeth was doubtless dead. Having during his lifetime provided for all his sons except John, evidently his youngest, he leaves them simply one shilling apiece. To his son John, he made the following bequest: "My plantation whereon I now live, with all the lands, houses, orchards, fences and other appurtenances whatsoever, thereunto belonging," etc. He also leaves to John all "his personal estate, household goods, cattle,

horses, mares, hogs, debts, credits, goods and chattells of what nature or kind soever." John was appointed executor of the will (Rich. County Wills, book No. 111, p. 238). George Bruce had, during his long life, accumulated sufficient property to leave a good estate to each of his six children.

The second George Bruce, eldest son of the first George, died in Westmoreland county, about 1742. In his will he mentions the names of his sons, William, George and Charles; of his daughters, Koziah, Hannah, Jane, who married Jacob Jordan, and Christian, who married John Young.

John, apparently the youngest son of the first George Bruce (see will) died before 1741, without issue or will (Rich. Co. Rec., deed bk., Vol. IX, p. 661). A part of his estate went to his eldest brother, George, (ditto Rec., same vol. and page. See, also, George's will, West. Rec., Vol. IV, p. 211.) George describes himself (1741) as of "Coply Parish, Westmoreland county." John Bruce had, in 1735 (see Va. Land Pats. for that year) obtained patents to two tracts of land in Orange county on Dark run and Robinson river.

In 1731, there was recorded in Richmond county, a deed from Charles Bruce to Henry Flint. He there speaks of himself as of "Sittingborne Parish, Richmond County" (see Vol. VIII, p. 568). Sixteen years later, we find in the records of King George, the neighboring county, a deed from Joseph Morton to Charles Bruce, who is there spoken of as of "Brunswick Parish, King George Co." (see King Geo. Co. D. B. for September 4, 1747.)

Appendix B

THE MORGAN FAMILY

Three sons of Garrard Morgan married three daughters of Henry Bruce. Large families in each instance resulting, a brief effort has been made to trace the Morgan ancestry to the beginning in Wales, but with questionable result.[1]

"The History of the Morgan Family, from the Year 1089 to the Present," by Appleton Morgan, an exhaustive work, privately printed, contains probably the best account yet written of that family.[2] Among possible connecting branches indicated therein is that of Nicholas Morgan, who married Mary Butler, of "Butler's Independence," Hereford, Md. His family shows some of the same Christian names, including repeatedly the unusual Gerard, or Garrard. He was descended from Miles Morgan, born 1646, whose statue stands in Court Square, Springfield, Mass.

All that is now certainly known is that Garrard Morgan, the father of the three Bruce sons-in-law, was born in Goochland county, Virginia,[3] on October 28, 1773.

[1] Investigations have also been made by others concerning a number of families associated with that of Henry Bruce. "The Threlkeld Genealogy" has already been mentioned. W. P. Bruce wrote an account of the Metcalfe family (unpublished; in possession of Mrs. Harry Whiting Brown). Especially interesting studies have been made of the Dudley family, by Iolene Ashton Hawkins, of Flemingsburg, Ky., and by her daughter, Harriet Dudley Grannis, of Dayton, Ohio.

[2] May be seen in Genealogical Room of New York City Public Library.

[3] We regret our inability to search the early records of this county.

Emigrating to Kentucky,[1] he married in 1798 Sarah Sanderson, who was born in Virginia, on June 10, 1774. The wedding occurred in Nicholas county, and housekeeping began in a home located near Licking river. Later, a farm one mile from Concord church and three miles from Carlisle, in the same county, was purchased and occupied by the young couple. This was deep within the blue-grass territory. There the seven Morgan children were born. Their names in order were: John Sanderson (Jan. 24, 1799–June 19, 1852); James (b. 1802); Woodson (Jan. 18, 1804–Sept. 17, 1887); Garrard (1806–1889); Betsy (b. 1808); Mary, called "Polly" (b. 1811); and William Franklin (April 19, 1813–Sept. 13, 1900).

When the elder Garrard Morgan died suddenly on April 14, 1814, his children ranged in age from twelve months to fifteen years. He was buried in Old Concord church cemetery.

The widowed mother had six Sanderson brothers and sisters: John, Robert, Jane, Nancy, Ruth, Betsy. Three of the sisters married men of the name of Howard and two of these moved to Decatur county, Indiana, where they were joined in 1823 by Sarah Sanderson Morgan, who purchased a farm near Greensburg, clearing the land of its timber and erecting a one-room home with a loft above. She was accompanied by all of her children except the eldest, John, then already in business in Carlisle, Ky. Wil-

[1] Garrard Morgan may have gone with his parents to Kentucky. He was accompanied by a sister, who first married a Mr. Thatcher and later a Mr. Doty. Garrard Morgan also had a brother.

liam, the youngest boy, was ten years of age and James, the second son, twenty-one. Left with many small children, the mother not only succeeded in rearing them, but she lived to see some of them occupying places of distinction. Three of her sons were elected to membership in the legislature of either Kentucky or Indiana. Henry Bruce once said that Sarah Morgan's successful management of her fatherless family deserved a pension from the United States government. Her death occurred at Covington, Ky., in 1848.[1]

The five Morgan brothers became men of exceptional appearance: tall, lithe, broad-shouldered, dark-haired and apt to possess shaggy eyebrows. The writer talked often with one of them, who was her paternal grandfather. He was stalwart, handsome and possessed a ruddy complexion.

Certain facts concerning John Sanderson Morgan, Woodson Morgan and William Franklin Morgan, sons of Garrard and Sarah Sanderson Morgan, and sons-in-law of Henry Bruce, are given in one of the chapters of this book.

John Sanderson Morgan continued in Carlisle, where he had engaged with a partner in the dry goods business, under the firm name, Morgan & Hughes. In 1833 he purchased a very large farm and engaged extensively in agriculture. In the same year, John was joined by his youngest brother, William.

[1] Lucinda Bruce Morgan Green recalls seeing her paternal grandmother in 1847, standing in a doorway of the home on the Wallace farm, near Flemingsburg, Ky., when on a visit to her youngest son, (the father of Mrs. Green). Mrs. Green has lived to see six generations of Morgans.

James Morgan, the second son of Garrard and Sarah Sanderson Morgan, born in 1802, married Betsy McCoy, in Decatur county, Indiana. Issue: one son, six daughters. James Morgan owned a large farm near Greensburg, Ind. He served in the Indiana legislature three terms and became captain of the 7th Indiana regiment in the Union Army in 1861. Later he was offered a Colonelcy by Governor Morton, but he retired. Many descendants, including Henry Morgan, an Indiana official, are living in Decatur county.

Garrard Morgan, son of Garrard and Sarah Sanderson Morgan, born in 1806, married Eliza Hamilton and moved from Indiana to a farm near Summit, Illinois. Issue: William, John, Lon, Garrard, Lou, James. In April, 1889, the father died. William, eldest son, practiced medicine in Chicago, where he married and had two children. John became a leader and preacher in the Mormon church, at Salt Lake, Utah, marrying three wives. His children occupy prominent positions today in Salt Lake City.

Betsy Morgan, fifth child of Garrard and Sarah Sanderson Morgan, born in 1808, married a Mr. Stephenson. Issue: two children.

Mary "Polly" Morgan, sixth child of Garrard and Sarah Sanderson Morgan, born in 1811, married Robert Marshall Hamilton, near Greensburg, Indiana, and died in 1883. Issue: four sons, two daughters. One of the latter (Sarah) married a Mr. Rankin, now living in Greensburg, Ind. The

other daughter (Mary) married a Mr. Jackson, also living in Greensburg.

The name, Morgan, is of Cymric derivation, meaning: "One born by the sea," (muir, sea; gin, begotten).[1]

[1] The author hopes that the scattered hints appearing in this Appendix will be broadened by someone into a worthwhile memoir of this branch of the Morgan family.

Appendix C

THE COLLINS FAMILY

Kitty, half-sister of Henry Bruce, was born on February 19th, 1781. From the first she appears to have remained with her mother, Mary Stubblefield Bruce Morrison, accompanying her to Fleming county, Kentucky, in 1793. After a few years spent there Kitty moved with her mother to Allen county, Kentucky, in 1799, where Hugh and Mary Morrison located their home ten miles from the settlement of Kitty's future husband, Henry Collins.

Henry Collins was born in Virginia, June 13th, 1772. He was the son of Richard Collins who married Sarah Gatewood, both born in Virginia. His paternal grandfather, John Collins (of Welsh ancestry) and his wife, Catherine Crutcher, were also born in the Old Dominion.[1] When Henry was between fifteen and eighteen, about the year 1788, the Collins family moved to Kentucky, settling on the North Elkhorn river, in Scott county, near Georgetown. At the age of twenty-one, Henry Collins volunteered to join the Wilkerson campaign against marauding Indians, enlisting under Captain William Dudley, who died at Dudley's Defeat at Fort Meigs. Under Capt. Henry Lindsay he assisted in erecting Fort Defiance on the Maumee river, and shortly afterward was present at a victory over the redskins. In 1797 he left for the "wilder-

[1] All born in Spotsylvania county, Va.

ness" or "Green river country" of Southern Kentucky, staking his Allen county "headright" claim for 200 acres, near a big spring three miles distant from the present Scottsville. In the year following Henry Collins cleared two acres, living alone and never daring to waste a bullet excepting to shoot a deer for meat. By the year 1800 the nearby countryside began to slowly fill with emigrants.

It was about this time that Henry Collins met the half-sister of Henry Bruce—wedding her on August 3rd, 1800. The young couple began life with little but a horse and the uncleared farm. They raised cotton, flax and sheep—Kitty Collins spinning, knitting and performing the hundred household duties required by a pioneer period. She picked the cotton, carded and spun the wool, dyed it with barks, and made all the clothes for the family, which finally consisted of thirteen children. She managed the home and found time to take medicine to the sick.

In 1812 and 1813 Henry Collins enlisted under General Harrison and was at Tippecanoe. He saw bullet-ridden "Niagara," Commodore Perry's flagship, directly after the victory on Lake Erie.

The children of Henry and Kitty Collins were—

1. Annie, b. July 25, 1801, d. June 14, 1804.
2. Dudley, b. Jan. 8, 1803, d. same day.
3. Polly, b. Feb. 28, 1804; married John McReynolds, Aug. 8, 1822, who died in following month; second marriage to Allen Ferrill, Oct. 2, 1827, moving to Missouri in 1829. Polly Collins Ferrill died Nov. 8, 1887. Issue: Benjamin; Amanda; Eliza; Kitty; Ann; Lucy; Margaret; Alanson.

4. Lucinda, b. April 28, 1806; married Obidiah Ferguson, Nov. 14, 1826. Moved to Missouri in 1829. Issue: William Henry; Amanda Melvina; Caryell Bruce; Julia Ann; Frances Catherine; Thomas Gilmore; Mary Emeline; Elvira Elizabeth; Sarah Cary; Clementine Davis; Rebecca Duval. Lucinda Ferguson died July 30, 1865.

5. Lucy, twin sister of Lucinda, died in infancy.

6. Larkin Dudley, b. Aug. 29, 1808; moved to De Sota, Missouri, in 1829, marrying Suzanna McGee, Aug. 4, 1836. Issue: William; Henry; Elizabeth; Mary Blair; Sarah Ann; Lucinda Frances; Ella Catherine; Henrietta Caroline; Samuel Perry; Larkin Brooks. Larkin D. Collins died Nov. 30, 1891.[1]

7. Sarah Ann, b. Jan. 4, 1811, d. March 28, 1837.

8. William Lewis, b. Feb. 22, 1813; married Nov. 19, 1835 to Elizabeth Matthews. Issue: Lucinda; Arthur B.; Adeline; Henry Scott; Ellen; John William; Thomas F.; Margaret; James; Herschel. William L. Collins died July 5, 1872; Elizabeth Matthews Collins died May 20, 1892.

9. Peggy, b. Oct. 12, 1815; married Bethuel R. Spilman, Aug. 18, 1836. Issue: Calvin; Kitty; William Talbert; John Dudley; Henry Bruce. All born in Allen county, Ky. About Sept. 1, 1856, family moved to California, their descendants living near Pennington. Bethuel and Peggy Spilman visited their old Kentucky home in 1881. Bethuel Spilman died Oct. 14, 1888. Peggy Collins Spilman died March 3, 1896.

10. Malinda, b. Jan. 7, 1818; married James S. Patton, Dec. 11, 1842. Issue: William Henry; Sarah Ann; Robert Richard; Lettie Catherine; Melissa Ellen; Quinton A. James S. Patton, b. July 20, 1818, d. Nov. 20, 1880. Malinda Collins Patton died Jan. 20, 1884.[2]

11. Richard Perry, b. March 30, 1820; married Julia Ann Matthews, Sept. 1844. Issue: Walter W. (died in Confederate Army); Louisa, married Roger Tandy Young; Alice; Hal Young. Richard

[1] The families of Polly Ferrill, Lucinda Ferguson and Larkin Collins (then unmarried) moved to Missouri at the same time, in 1829.

[2] Malinda Collins Patton for forty years preserved the twenty-two original Bruce letters written to her parents; at her death, her children gave them to W. H. Collins.

Perry Collins died April 11, 1884;[1] Julia Matthews Collins died Sept. 17, 1897.[2]

12. John Henry Collins, b. Sept. 29, 1822,[3] d. Feb. 7, 1911; married Mary Elizabeth Goodnight, Oct. 28, 1856; (b. Aug. 4, 1834, d. Aug. 31, 1910). Issue: Lecesta Goodnight, b. Feb. 7, 1858, d. Feb. 9, 1889; William Henry, b. Feb. 21, 1860.[4]

13. Nancy Ellen, b. Dec. 12, 1824; married Tolbert B. Spilman, Jan. 18, 1849. Issue: Mary Eleseph, b. April 5, 1850; Festus Winfield, b. Feb. 21, 1853; Ann Toy.[5]

Henry and Kitty Collins joined the Bethlehem Baptist Church, in Allen county, Kentucky, directly after its organization in 1801. Early appointed a deacon, Henry Collins continued in that post until his death.

[1] Author of "History of Barren County," in Collins "History of Kentucky."

[2] A daughter, Mrs. R. T. Young, lives at Morganfield, Ky. Likewise her two daughters: Mrs. Annie Reburn and Miss Hal Collins Young.

[3] Author of "History of Allen County," appearing in Collins "History of Kentucky." Latter was originally written in 1847 by Lewis Collins, a kinsman of Henry Collins. A son of Lewis, Richard H. Collins, rewrote and enlarged it in 1881. Collins "History" forms the basis of all later histories of the State.

[4] William Henry Collins, now living at Louisville, Ky., long ago gave to W. P. Bruce twenty original letters of Henry Bruce written to his grandparents, these inspiring and materially assisting in the writing of the present book. On Dec. 8, 1888, W. H. Collins married Laura Ragland. Issue: Robert Wentworth, b. March 19, 1890; John William, b. June 6, 1892; Bruce Goodnight, b. Oct. 17, 1894; Mary Ella, b. Sept. 21, 1896; Laura Elise, b. Dec. 4, 1898. Although no longer a young man, Mr. Collins has for twenty-two years acted as Financial Agent of the Kentucky Children's Home Society of Lyndon (suburb of Louisville), traveling throughout the year in Western Kentucky, in the interest of the Home, which is partially supported by the State. He has taken a deep interest in the present work.

[5] Eleseph Spilman married Samuel T. Hughes. Issue: Six children.

Festus W. Spilman married Laura Martin. Issue: Jessie; Harry Collins Spilman. Latter is a public speaker, having lectured in Egypt, Europe, England, Scotland, and all over America, resides at 250 W. 75th St., N. Y. City, with wife, mother and sister.

Ann Toy married Tibbis Carpenter. Issue: Effie, who married E. G. Dent, living in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Kitty Collins died on December 4th, 1848. For fifteen years she was survived by her husband, who thus lived until past ninety. A daguerreotype made in 1863 shows him as an old-time patriarch.