

the power of the Rudder or helm with the
ship - I suppose you have Dr. B.'s late volume.
I am living very cozy, quietly & agreeably with
Maj. Saxton, his wife & little Eddie (two years old).
Well Dodie Eddie is almost as heavy as he but
he gets tired when we work as long way of
town & asks to be carried - He cannot tick much
except by gestures or signs - Is a blue eyed - light haired
& rather handsome little fellow - his eye looks dark
and long. We have beautiful roses in bloom
"Black Tea" & "Cinnamon" and "Morning Glories" in
all their glory - Alexander, three blossoms of almost
both pink & white - There will be great suffering
among the people though they count - destitution of food, clothing &
adequate attendance. We are expecting to relinquish our loan
any day as all this poverty now exists of its own.

How is mother? Love to Ella & Dadi - Don't tell her I say much?

Where is the Meeting Congl.?

Yours affectionately,
C. H. Howard

No. 4 Meeting St.
Charleston S. C.
Oct 8 1865

My dear brother

I am going on a
tour of inspection - intending to
start for Columbia tomorrow
morning at 10 o'clock and

may not write for the week

I am absent from this city.

It is cool fine weather - like

our pleasantest in September

and I am enjoying excellent

health - better than while at

home - Have plenty to do &

pleasure of & this is conducive

to health you know. I like

my new situation - particularly

because it seems to be a stride
in the world made on purpose

And the fact that they wish to get rid of
this Bureau which is entirely *philanthropic* in
its object seems to me that they *desire* ~~and~~
intend if they can, to put the foot again
upon the neck of the black man.

I attended Church at the Episcopal
(West 11th St) this morning - Good music -

Very indifferent sermon - Large congregation -
Rather an elegant house. I am uncertain
whether I will return before another Sunday or
not - Probably will - *Week goes today*
from Breakfast on the *Platte* - *West - Small*.
Was almost alone - Read three of Bushnell's
sermons - One about to small & the pilot - It
was about Christian ability - Comparing it to

for me - I shall well adapted
to work with Gen. Lorton. During
the past week I have written
many of his official commun-
ications and have gone
in his stead ^{several times} to arrange with
the Mayor various matters
concerning the destitute in
this city - I have to do with
the cause of education and
can lend a helping hand to
all our benevolent societies of
the North. The newspapers
here cry out against the
Freedmen's Bureau - Call it
only an irritant to prevent
the natural healing of the
wounded parts of society in
the South. But the real
trouble is they desire to
have full liberty to deal
with the negro as they please.

10/8/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: Brother [Rowland B.
Howard]

CHH-185

No. 4 Meeting St.
Charleston S.C.

No. 4 Meeting St.
Charleston S.C.
Oct 8 1865

My dear brother [Rowland B. Howard]

I am going on a tour of inspection, intending to start for Columbia tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock and may not write for the week I am about from this city.

It is cool fine weather, like our pleasantest in September and I am enjoying excellent health, better than while at home. Have plenty to do & think of & this is conducive to health you know.

I like my new situation, particularly because it seems to be a niche in the world made on purpose for me. I seem well adapted to work with Gen. Saxton. During the past week I have written many of his official Communications and have gone in his stead several times to arrange with the Mayor various matters concerning the destitute in this city. I have to do with the cause of education and can lend a hand to all our benevolent societies for the North.

The newspapers here cry out against the Freedmen's Bureau - Call it only an irritant to prevent the natural healing of the several parts of Society in the South. But the real trouble is they desire to have full liberty to deal with the negro as they please, and the fact that they wish to get rid of this Bureau which is entirely philanthropic in its objects, proves to me that they desire and intend if they can, to put the foot again upon the neck of the black man.

I attended Church at the Episcopal (Wentworth St) this morning. Good music. Very indifferent Sermon. Large Congregation. Rather an elegant house. I am uncertain whether I will return before another Sunday or not - probably will.

Week ago today I came from Beaufort on the Planter. Cap. Robt Small. Was almost alone. Read three of Bushnell's sermons - one aloud to Small & the Pilot. It was about Christian Ability, comparing it to the power of the Rudder or helm with the ship. I suppose you have Dr. B's later volume.

I am living very cozily, quietly & agreeably with Maj. Saxton, his wife & little Eddie (two years old). Tell Dadie Eddie is almost as heavy as he but he gets tired when we walk a long way up town & asks to be carried. He cannot talk much except by gestures or signs. Is a blue eyed, light haired & rather handsome little fellow. His eye lashes dark and long. We have beautiful roses in bloom "Blush" "Tea" & "Cinnamon" and "Morning Glories" in all their glory. Oleanders still bloom & flourish both pink & white.

There will be great suffering among the Freed people this winter - destitution of food, clothing & medical attendance. We are expecting to relinquish our house any day as all this property now reverts to the owners.

How is mother? Love to Ella & Dadie. Does little Otis laugh much? & how is the Whooping Cough?

Your Affectionate Br.
C. H. Howard

as they heard about her I
have no doubt she will be
found by & by and I
like the idea of having the
farm to work quite well.
I shall expect him to do
well - saving something for
himself & taking good
care of the property - I
have the necessary data for
transferring my mortgage
which I have with me &
will attend to it as soon as
I get time - I am ⁱⁿ good deal
pressed by business just
now - Our purpose is to
go to Florida with Otis & Rowland.
Mr. Alvord, also, is stopping
here with me. Our home (with
Major Saxton & wife) is very
pleasant & happy. Major & his
wife both said I must invite
you to come down - They said
this morn'g but if Gen. Saxton

P. S. Ellie wrote in
is called spirits
It is a heart from
Mother - you were
there? W. H. P.

Charleston S.C.

Oct. - 23 1865

My dear Mother

Your letter reached
me today. Rowland & Otis are
with us - the former in our
house - Otis at Gen. Saxton's -
They came last Tuesday
week ago tomorrow - I went
to Columbia with Otis & Major
Hinson - Rowland had the
misfortune to get the Dysentery
& was not able to go with
us either to Edisto Island on
Thursday or to Columbia on
Friday - He is all well again
now, however, and we expect
to start for Savannah tomorrow

morning at 5 o'clock.
I have been over at Gen. Lox-
ton's this evening. He seems
cheerful & well. It was a
pity to disappoint the negroes
about the Sea Islands as
they thought they were to
have possession there soon &
then be allowed to buy the
land - But the President
having pardoned all the Rebels
but bound to restore their
property. Gen. Loxton will
probably be removed as he
is not satisfactory to the
President nor the old citizens
of South Carolina i.e. the
Whites - The negroes think
him their best friend.

It is late & I am to start
pretty early so will have to
write hastily - I was very glad

indeed to get this the first
letter since parting from
you at Easton. I was very
wondering from Rowland that
you thought I was not
sufficiently polite to Mr.
Ames. I saw him every
day I remained in Boston
& I am sure he did not
think me impolite as he
now that I could not easily
go out to Easton again.

I have written him a letter.
I received a letter from Allen
by some mail as you see.
He wrote from Cedar Rapids
& seems to like the place
much - Thinks it quite
probable he may return
there & go into business
though he will first go
on farther.

I was very sorry "Wash"'s
wife was not bound but

is ordered away I suspect
we will all be broken
up - I may remain in
this State for the present or
I may go to Washington
or possibly elsewhere. Pro-
vidence will indicate -

If my writing is blind tonight
you may lay it partly to the
fact that I have signed my
name 180 times within the last
hour and about 500 times
today - I am very glad Row-
land had this opportunity of
visiting the South - We rode
out to Magnolia Cemetery
this P.M. Mr. & Mrs. S. in a
Carriage with ^{little} Eddie Sutton & the
Major & I on horseback.

We have a pleasant sitting room
on 2nd floor - good cool fan in
the grate - Every body else in bed
now as it is past ten o'clock.
We all enjoyed your letter - Dory, Arthur
is not contented - Hope you will write

other letters for Wash to the
best and that Wash will
tell him to be satisfied
for this Winter & then if he
don't like Belfast he can
come in the Spring to work
for some one in Leeds - in
case he can so arrange with
Dr. Maurice. But Dr. M.
was put to a good deal of
expense and Albert ought
to stay contentedly for 6 or
8 months. Rowland
preached to a Colored Congrega-
tion last Sunday morning & this
spoke to a crowded house of
Colored people at 4 P.M.,
an immense audience.

Did you get a letter from
me from Columbia? or did
you see one I wrote Rowland from
that place? Will close with
a good night & prayer for a peaceful
charful spirit for my dear mother from
her affectionate son C. H. Howard

10/23/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-186

Charleston, S. C.

Charleston, S. C.

Oct. 23 1865

My dear Mother

Your letter reached me today. Rowland & Otis are with us, the former in our house, Otis at Gen. Saxton's. They came last Tuesday week ago tomorrow. I went to Columbia with Otis & Major Stinson. Rowland had the misfortune to get the Diarrhea & was not able to go with us either to Edisto Island on Thursday or to Columbia on Friday. He is all well again now, however, and we expect to start for Savannah tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock.

I have been over at Gen. Saxton's this evening. Otis seems cheerful & well. It was a pity to disappoint the negroes about the Sea Islands as they thought they were to have possession three years & then be allowed to buy the land. But the President having pardoned all the Rebels feels bound to restore their property. Gen. Saxton will probably be removed as he is not satisfactory to the President nor the old citizens of South Carolina i.e. the whites. The negroes think him their best friend.

It is late & I am to start pretty early so will have to write hastily. I was very glad indeed to get this the first letter since parting from you at Easton. I was sorry to hear from Rowland that you thought I was not sufficiently polite to Mr. Ames. I saw him every day I remained in Boston & I am sure he did not think me impolite as he saw that I could not easily go out to Easton again. I have written him a letter.

I received a letter from Dellie by same mail as yours. He wrote from Cedar Rapids & seems to like the place much. Thinks it quite probable he may return there & go into business though he will first go on farther.

I was very sorry "Wash's" wife was not found but as they heard about her I have no doubt she will be found bye & bye and I like the idea of leasing the farm to Wash quite well. I shall expect him to do well, saving something for himself & taking good care of the property. I have the necessary data for transferring my Mortgage which I have with me & will attend to it as soon as I get time.

I am a good deal pressed by business just now. Am proposing to go to Florida with Otis & Rowland. Mr. Alvord, also, is stopping here with me. Our home (with Major Saxton & wife) is very pleasant & happy. Major S. & wife both said I must write you to come down. They said this tonight but if Gen. Saxton is ordered away I suspect we will all be broken up. I may remain in the State for the present or I may go to Washington or possibly elsewhere. Providence will indicate.

If my writing is fluid tonight you may lay it partly to the fact that I have signed my name 180 times within the last hour and about 500 times today.

I am very glad Rowland had this opportunity of visiting the South. We rode out to Magnolia Cemetery this P.M. He & Mrs. S. in a carriage with little Eddie Saxton & the Major & I on horseback.

We have a pleasant sitting room on 2nd floor - good cool fire in the grate. Everybody else in bed now as it is past ten o'clock.

We all enjoyed your letter. Sorry Albert is not contented. Hope you will write other letters for Wash to Albert and that Wash will tell him to be satisfied for this Winter & then if he don't like Belfast he can come in the Spring to work for some one in Leeds - in case he can so arrange with Dr. Monroe. But Dr. M. was put to a good deal of expense and Albert ought to stay contentedly for 6 or 8 months. Rowland preached to a Colored Congregation last Sunday morning & Otis spoke to a crowded house of Colored people at 4 P.M. An immense audience.

Did you get a letter from me from Columbia? Or did you see one I wrote Rowland from that place? I will close with a good night & prayer for a peaceful cheerful spirit for my dear Mother from Her Affectionate Son.

C. H. Howard

P.S. Dellie wrote in excellent spirits Have you heard from Easton since you were there?

C. H. H.

111 On Steamer "Canonicus"
In Wassaw Sound
(Georgia Coast) Oct 26th 1865

Dear Mother

I wrote you from
Charleston and since have spent
one day in passage from that
city to Savannah - stopping at
Hilton Head, and here or two
to see Gen. Gillman. It is an
unusual privilege to have both
Otis & Rowland for companions.
We slept in the boat last night
arriving at the dock late in the
night. I was very sorry Rowland
could not have run up to
Beaufort to see the place where
I have spent so much time and
very happily and are so celebra-
ted in the War. But we rode
about Savannah on horseback.
Visited the Schools for Colored Child-
ren - Otis & Dr. Messy of England
addressing one and Rowland

speaking to others while Otis (2)
went to see the Military au-
thorities. Otis also met some
of the white people (citizens) at
the hotel and at one P.M.,
addressed a large audience
of Colored & white at a Church.
All the intermediate time with
Otis (between the public efforts) is
consumed and filled up with
talking sometimes with the Bureau
Officers on business & sometimes
with the Citizens who come to
see him so that he gets very
little time to rest or reflect
and I think it a constant
wonder that he holds out so
well. He is having a good quiet
night at anchor here in the
Sound. We come down Savannah
River starting at 5 P.M.,
turning to the right into Augustine
Creek to Thunderbolt, thence through
Wilmington River to Wassaw Sound
where we anchor till Daylight.

(3) Rowland is writing at the
table with me - probably to Ella or
possibly a journal of today's doings.
Mr. Alvord has just retired. We
have only one other passenger be-
sides those named (our own party)
and that is a one legged confeder-
ate soldier with whom we got
acquainted the other ^{night} in coming
down on the Freight train from
Columbus to Charleston. Otis then
took pity on him & offered him
the ~~free~~ passage to Florida learning
that he was desirous of going.

He seems to be a sensible nice
young man. Lost his leg before
Richmond - His name is Rich-
mond. It is very quiet here and
our boat does not move more
than your own keel upon the
solid ground. Who do you
think met Otis & introduced
himself - a soldier at Savannah?
Everett Bridgman! We did not know
him so much disguised by soldier's
clothes, the growth of his whiskers

and having become quite (4)
fleshy. He looked a little
pale - as I saw him stand-
ing waiting to speak to Otis. I
thought him some Maine soldier
whom perhaps Otis might have
met in the war or whose fam-
ily Otis might possibly know but
did not imagine it was our
Cousin till he came up & spoke
to me and says "Isn't this Charley
Howard". I said "yes" but "who are
you". He then said "Everett Bridgman".
We were just leaving on the boat &
he desired Otis to assist him to
get a furlough - Otis asked
an officer whom we knew & who
remained in Savannah to request
it for him (Otis) from the proper
Military Authorities. - I did not
answer your question about the
jeweller who had your watch. I am
not positively certain but think it
was Swan. He took your name.
I am sorry to leave you alone. Hope
you will get some one for company
and I like the idea of leaving the

place to Wash if his wife⁽³⁵⁾
can be found as I trust the
cow and will when O's gets
back. I shall go no farther
than Florida but the rest go on
to Mobile & New Orleans. I
return to Charleston in a few
days - I have fixed the
mortgage & will send it by
mail to Mrs. Libby to ~~have~~ ^{have}
~~to~~ it properly recorded and to
show to Pratt & Sprague though
it will not be delivered I suppose
because it covers more than
the amount of their two notes.

It clears the land they bought.
I wrote to Dr. Linn - mailing at
Favonuch - addressing him at
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

I may add more to this as
I suppose it will not reach you
very soon. if I mail it in Florida
than if I take it back with me
upon this boat. Howland has now

(6) gone to his State-Room leaving
me alone & I will close with
a good night & God bless you -
Your Affectionate Son
C. B. Howard

Address as before
Headquarters, Asst. Commissioner
Charleston S. C.

P.S. All well at Fernandina
at 8 o'clock Friday night. We
rend this morn't tonight. Go on
to Jacksonville tomorrow & then
thence to Tallahassee next day
by cars - I probably to St. Augustine
& then return by Savannah & Beaufort to
Charleston S. C. Also spoke
to the colored people here this
evening about 5 o'clock. We
had a good time & rest all
day on the boat today arriving
here at about 4 P.M.
Affectionately
C. B. H.

10/26/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-187

On Steamboat
"Canonicus"
In Wassaw Sound
(Georgia Coast)

On Steamboat "Canonicus"
In Wassaw Sound (Georgia Coast)
Oct 26th 1865

Dear Mother

I wrote you from Charleston and since have spent one day in passage from that city to Savannah, stopping at Hilton Head an hour or two to see Gen. Gillmore. It is an unusual privilege to have both Otis & Rowland for companions. We slept in the boat last night arriving at the dock late in the night. I was very sorry Rowland could not have run up to Beaufort to see the place where I have spent so much time and very happily and one so celebrated in the War. But we rode about so much on horseback. Visited the Schools for Colored Children - Otis & Dr. Missey of England addressing one and Rowland speaking to others while Otis went to see the military authorities. Otis also met some of the white people (citizens) at the hotel and at one P.M. addressed a large audience of Colored & white at a Church.

All the intermediate time with Otis (between the public efforts) is consumed and filled up with talking sometimes with the Bureau officers on business & sometimes with the Citizens who come to see him so that he gets very little time to rest or reflect and I think it a constant wonder that he holds out so well. He is having a good quiet night at anchor here on the Sound.

We came down Savannah River starting at 5 P.M., turned to the right into Augustine Creek to Thunderbolt thence through Wilmington River to Wassaw Sound where we anchor till Daylight.

Rowland is writing at the table with me - probably to Ella or possibly a journal of today's doings. Mr. Alvord has just retired. We have only one other passenger besides those named (our own party) and that is a one legged Confederate Soldier with whom we got acquainted the other night in coming down on the Freight train from Columbia to Charleston. Otis then took pity on him & offered him the passage to Florida learning that he was desirous of going. He seems to be a sensible nice young man. Lost his leg before Richmond. His name is Richmond.

It is very quiet here and our boat does not move more than your own house upon the solid ground.

Who do you think met Otis & introduced himself - a soldier at Savannah? Everett Bridgham! [Everett Bridgham is Charles' first cousin, the son of Dr. Thomas Bridgham and Aurelia Howard.] We did not know him so much disguised by soldier's clothes, the growth of his whiskers and having become quite fleshy. He looked a little forlorn, as I saw him standing waiting to speak to Otis. I thought him some Maine Soldier whom perhaps Otis might have met in the War or whose family Otis might possibly know but did not imagine it was our own Cousin till he came up & spoke to me and says "Isn't this Charley Howard" - I said "yes" but "who are you." He then said "Everett Bridgham!" We were just leaving on the boat & he desired Otis to assist him to get a furlough. Otis asked an officer whom we know & who remained in Savannah to request it for him (Otis) from the proper Military Authorities.

I did not answer your question about the Jeweler who had your Watch. I am not positively certain but think it was Swan. He took your name. I am sorry to have you alone. Hope you will get some one for company and I like the idea of leasing the place to Wash if his wife can be found as I trust she can and will when Otis gets back. I shall go no farther than Florida but the rest go on to Mobile & New Orleans. I return to Charleston in a few days.

I have fixed the mortgage & will send it by mail to Mr. Libby to have it properly recorded and to show to Pratt & Sprague though it will not be delivered I suppose because it covers more than the amount of their two notes. It clears the land they bought.

I wrote to Dellie, mailing at Savannah, addressing him at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

I may add more to this as I suppose it will not reach you any sooner if I mail it in Florida than if I take it back with me upon this boat. Rowland has now gone to his State-Room leaving me alone & I will close with a good night & God bless you.

Your Affectionate Son
C. H. Howard

Address as before
Headquarters Asst. Commissioner
Charleston S.C.

P.S. All well at Fernandina at 8 o'clock Friday night. We send this North tonight. Go on to Jacksonville tomorrow & Otis thence to Tallahassee next day by cars. I probably to St. Augustine & then return by Savannah & Beaufort to Charleston S.C.

Otis spoke to the Colored People here this evening about 5 o'clock. We had a good time to rest all day on the boat today arriving here at about 5 P.M.

Affectionately
C. H. H.

and chiefly pine forest -
We were happily disappointed, how-
ever to find Tallahassee built
upon a hill a hill, - over-
looking the surrounding country
for miles in some directions.

It was really refreshing to us
as we something varied and
approaching the natural beauty
and majesty of our own
New England homes.

Tallahassee is a Country-like
place - of no more business
seemingly than Farmington Me.,
but it is only 20 m. ^{by Rail Road} from
St. Marks on the other coast
by which Otis intends to go
in November to Mobile. We
saw some officers of ^{Gen. Meade's} 7th
& Warren Woodman has been
at Tallahassee - now at Ft.
Barrancos where probably Otis
will call to see him, touching
there on his way to Mobile.

We found Gen. Foster & Newton at

On board Steamboat
"Canonicus" - St. John's River Fla.
Tuesday morning - Oct 31 1865

My dear Mother

I have just
started from Jacksonville to
go to St. Augustine 30 miles
further down the coast - to
spend one night there and
then return to Pensacola and
thence to Charleston. I ar-
rived back from Tallahassee
last night at about 9 o'clock.
It is 165 m. from Jack-
sonville across to the State
Capital. Otis, Kendall,
Mr. Alvord, Maj. Stinson and
I arrived at J. Saturday af-
ternoon. Met various citizens
and officers here - among the
latter Chaplain Moore the
State Capt. of Shoals for the Pen-
sacola and Otis addressed the
3d U.S. Colored Regt. with all
the citizens upon the ^{Otis} balcony
standing upon a carpenter's
bench. It was sun-set be-
fore he began and he talked

more than an hour by moon-
light - eliciting considerable
applause and undoubtedly
communicating much in-
struction both to the blacks
and native whites.

An erroneous impression among
the negroes, that the lands
were to be divided among them
has to be met and counter-
acted all through this coun-
try and it is almost a quite
a superhuman task to teach
them to go quietly & steadily to
work for wages. They are very
reluctant to engage in any
way to their former Masters
and yet this is the most
desirable course for them
at present. We got off
in the Extra R.R. train for
Tallahassee at about 8 P.M.
Sixty (60) miles to Lake City
brought us to the terminus
of the first Rail Road and
we had an hour or two's de-
lay before we could go on our
considerable perplexity as the
two Rail Roads do not agree

well - and they both are very
poor, destitute of hands and more
destitute of suitable Rolling
stock. We helped turn
the engine round upon the
turning table with our own
hands and it is an awkward
turning table too - like most
of the Southern machinery.

However we were half way
from Lake City to Tallahassee
by day-light. I got some Break-
fast at a Negro - Irish Shanty
at whose arrangements Row-
land was much amused.

His appetite would not
overcome the various sur-
rounding disagreeables as
well as that of us old sold-
iers. Jacksonville is a miserable
sort of a town stuck into a
sand bank and a low bank
at that. Some of the houses
(which by the way are very rare
and few in number) upon the
banks of the St. John's look
pleasant enough. But most
of the country through which
the R. R. passes is low flat

(5)

Pollockhouse - The latter
used to command our
2nd Division in the 4th
Army Corps, you will
remember. Foster commands
the Military Dpt. i.e. this
State. His wife is at St.
Augustine whether I am now
bound to make a brief in-
vestigation of Freedmen's matters
and then start again tomorrow
morning Northward. This
steamerboat is at my dis-
posal. As you see I am quite
independent. I only wish
I had some of my friends
to share some of these privi-
leges of travel. I myself
am pretty much absorbed
with business - This morning
however I breakfasted with
a College mate Capt. Frank
Webster of Bangor (brother
of George W. who was my class-
mate). Capt. W. was married
this summer & his wife
here. She was a teacher in
this Department. He tells
me George (now Major Webster)

2

2

My love to Rosa
when you see her.
Write her so to
Kent & tell a story
where this note -
I suppose you will not
go to Augusta.

W. H. W.

a succession of lakes opening into each other. There
are plenty of Alligators in this River but I have
not seen any yet. There has been a terrible
storm on the Gulf Coast & many vessels lost -
the same which delayed us at Charleston - 60
wrecked vessels had been found near Key West.
And we have some New York Ocean Steamer
loaded with beavers, and other furs have
been lost - We will hope they were only dis-
abled & will get - appear. These storms, are
terrible indeed - I did not realize how many human
lives were thus lost until lately though Paul
& other New Testament writers dwell much upon the
dangers & trials of sea voyaging - We will have a very
quiet short run of three or four hours to St. Augustine.
I will not wait there now but may add to this - W. H. H.

(6)

was also married this morn-
ing - So you see my friends
are outstripping me in the
matrimonial race.

I brought letters to mail from
Rowland & Otis to their wives.
I am glad to have had the
privilege of accompanying
this & Rowland is for on
their way - From New Orleans
they will return rapidly to
Washington, (by land probably).

I sent a letter North from
Fernandina for you - We were
there one night & the coldness
the colored people and visited
the Asylum.

That is only a little haven
but built upon a beautiful
harbor - a Bay opening out
of the ocean and both safe
and commodious. But the
R. R. from Fernandina here was
taken up (that is the iron) during
the war and so there is no
business there now. Jackson-
ville is 25 miles up the
St. John's River - a broad,
quiet stream being seemingly

10/31/1865

From: C. H. H.

To: Mother

CHH-188

On board Steamboat
"Canonicus" - St.
John's River Fla.

On board Steamboat "Canonicus"
St. John's River Fla.
Tuesday Morning - Oct 31 1865

My dear Mother

I have just started from Jacksonville to go to St. Augustine 30 miles farther down the Coast - to spend one night there and then return to Savannah and thence to Charleston. I arrived back from Tallahassee last night at about 9 o'clock. It is 165 ms. from Jacksonville across to the State Capitol. Otis, Rowland, Mr. Alvord, Maj. Stinson and I arrived at 1 Saturday afternoon. Met various citizens and officers here. Among the latter Chaplain Moore the State Supt. of schools for the Bureau and Otis addressed the 3d U.S. Colored Regt. with all the citizens upon the Common, Otis standing upon a Carpenter's bench. It was Sun-set before he began and he talked more than an hour by moonlight - eliciting considerable applause and undoubtedly communicating much instruction both to the blacks and native whites.

An erroneous impression among the negroes that the lands were to be divided among them has to be met and counteracted all through this country and it is almost or quite a superhuman task to teach them to go quietly & steadily to work for wages! They are very reluctant to engage in any way to their former masters and yet this is the most desirable course for them at present. We got off on the extra R.R. train for Tallahassee at about 8 P.M. Sixty (60) miles to Lake City brought us to the terminus of the first Rail Road and we had an hour or two's delay before we could go on and considerable perplexity as the two Rail Roads do not agree well, and they both are very poor, destitute of hands and more destitute of suitable Rolling stock. We helped turn the engine round upon the Turning Table with our own hands and it is an awkward Turning Table too - like most of the Southern machinery.

However we were half way from Lake City to Tallahassee by day-light. Got some Breakfast at a Negro-Irish shanty at whose arrangements Rowland was much amused. His appetite would not overcome the various surrounding disagreeables as well as that of us old soldiers. Jacksonville is a miserable sort of a town stuck into a Sand bank and a low bank at that. Some of the houses (which by the way are very rare and few in number) upon the banks of the St. John's look pleasant enough. But most of the country through which the R. R. passes is low flat and chiefly pine forest.

We were happily disappointed however to find Tallahassee built upon a hill or hills overlooking the surrounding Country for miles in some directions. It was really refreshing to us to see something varied and approaching the natural beauty and majesty of our own New England homes.

Tallahassee is a Country-like place, of no more business seemingly than Farmington, Me, but it is only 20 ms. By Rail Road from St. Marks on the other coast by which Otis intends to go in Steamboat to Mobile. We saw some officers of 2nd Maine Corps & Warren Woodman has been at Tallahassee - now at Ft Barancas where probably Otis will call to see him, touching there on his way to Mobile.

We found Gens. Foster & Newton at Tallahassee. The latter used to command our 2nd Division in the 4th Army Corps you will remember. Foster commands the Military Dept. i.e. this State. His wife is at St. Augustine whither I am now bound to make a brief investigation of Freedmen's matters and then start again tomorrow morning Northward. This Steamboat is at my disposal. So you see I am quite independent. I only wish I had some of my friends to share some of the privileges of travel. I myself am pretty much absorbed with business. This morning however I breakfasted with a College mate Capt. Frank Webster of Bangor (brother of George W. who was my classmate). Capt W. was married this Summer & has his wife here. She was a teacher in this Department. He tells me George (now Major Webster) was also married this Summer. So you see my friends are outstripping me in the matrimonial race.

I brought letters to mail from Rowland & Otis to their wives. I am glad to have had the privilege of accompanying Otis & Rowland so far on their way. From New Orleans they will return rapidly to

Washington (by land probably).

I sent a letter North from Fernandina for you. We were there one night & Otis addressed the Colored people and visited the Orphan (colored) Asylum. That is only a little hamlet but built upon a beautiful harbor - a Bay opening out of the Ocean and both safe and Commodious. But the R.R. from Fernandina here was taken up (that is the iron) during the war and so there is no business there now.

Jacksonville is 25 miles up the St. John's River, a broad, quiet stream being seemingly a succession of lakes opening into each other. There are plenty of Alligators in this River but I have not seen any yet.

There has been a terrible storm on this & the Gulf Coast & many vessels lost - the same which delayed us at Charleston. 60 wrecked vessels had been found near Key West and we fear some New York Ocean Steamers loaded with teachers and other friends have been lost. We will hope they were only disabled & will yet appear. These storms are terrible indeed. I did not realize how many human lives were thus lost until lately though Paul & other New Testament writers dwell much upon the dangers & trials of sea voyaging.

We will have a very quiet short run of three or four hours to St. Augustine. I will not write more now but may add to this.

C. H. H.

P.S. My love to Rosa when you see her. Will she go to Kents Hill or elsewhere this Winter. I suppose you will not go to Augusta.

C. H. H.

but I am not sea-sick now - a days & the
only objection to the "Swallow" is that it presents
an awkward as good time as we could get
it were perfect smooth. I hope to be in San
Francisco tomorrow noon, however & the
next day to San Francisco & Saturday to Charles-
ton. There are no passengers except one so

I have the whole boat to myself - I read some
what I have written Ella a letter this
morning. You have heard perhaps of the South
North Sea had last Monday & Tuesday - some 60
vessels were wrecked on the Gulf Coast. We started
out of Charleston Monday & am inside - Charlestown
parted we put back & did not try it again until
yesterday. A kind of heavy fog & the vessel was all
over this morning. I am with you in the daily paper

I am very soon

C. W. H. Wood

On Economics
Off Florida Coast
Bound for Savannah.
Nov. 1st 1865

Dear Mother

I reached St. Augus-
tine just before him - set and
found it a very interesting old
town. The streets are very narrow.
Formerly no carriages were allowed
and the streets were kept level &
smooth by a kind of cement.
The houses are made of a kind
petrified compound of shell & clay
which they quarry from An-
stasia Island - (lying near - opposite
the city & forming the harbor). This
hard rock-like compound is called
"Coquina" spelled properly Coquina I
believe. There has been always
a station for U. S. troops, & these
old barracks are there. There
is also a large Fort built

grounds of Mrs. Anderson who is an elderly
lady who came down here 20 years ago. Her
husband has died since. We finished the dogs
& the there as we walked about - Lamons were
growing upon the trees & the pine one are very
large one to look with one. I gathered some
fragrant flowers also. Nature has truly
acted magnificently with this region. These
Hector trees were a novelty for me - I
withd to stay longer but I got all the informa-
tion possible about Bureau affairs. I did not
feel that I ought to delay any longer - Ev. Letter
needs my attention so much in S. O. Cross.
We left at 5-12 o'clock this morning. There is
considerable swell today owing to recent N. E. winds,

also of bocina - The ancient
city gates, or rather the posts
or pillars of the gate are to be
seen yet. St. Sams (whom
I had known a while at West Point
kindly took me to ride in his
carriage with two fine horses.
It got to late to get a good view
of the Convent, Cathedral & other
buildings & to examine the tropical
fruit trees & shrubbery - but I
saw them by the brilliant moon-
light. I saw some of the people
in the evening, calling with a
Presbyterian Clergyman - at mis-
sion from the North whom I
had got acquainted with upon
the boat. He is to be settled
there - His people being chiefly
Union & many of them origi-
nally from the North.
We went all about the

11/1/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-190

On Canonicus Off
Florida Coast
Bound for Savannah

On Canonicus Off Florida Coast
Bound for Savannah
Nov. 1st 1865

Dear Mother

I reached St. Augustine just before Sun-set and found it a very interesting old town. The Streets are very narrow. Formerly no carriages were allowed and the streets were kept hard & smooth by a kind of Cement. The houses are made of a kind petrified compound of Shell & clay which they quarry from Anastasia Island - (lying near - opposite the city & forming the harbor). This hard rock-like compound is called "Cokeena" spelt properly Cocina I believe. This has been always a Station for U.S. troops & their old barracks are there. There is also a large Fort built also of Cocina. The ancient city gates or rather the posts or pillars of the gate are to be seen yet. Lt. Sanno (whom I had known a Cadet at West Point) kindly took me to ride in his carriage with two fine horses. It got too late to get a good view of the Convent, Cathedral & other buildings & to examine the tropical fruit trees & shrubbery but I saw them by the brilliant moonlight. I saw some of the people in the evening, calling with a Presbyterian Clergyman missionary from the North whom I had got acquainted with upon the boat. He is to be settled there. His people being chiefly Union & many of them originally from the North.

We went all about the grounds of Mrs. Anderson who is an elderly lady who came down here 20 years ago. Her husband has died since. We plucked the oranges & ate them as we walked about. Lemons were growing upon the trees & she gave me one very large one to take with me. I gathered some fragrant flowers also. Nature has truly dealt munificently with this region. Olive & Citron trees were a novelty for me. I wished to stay longer but as I had got all the information possible about Bureau affairs I did not feel that I ought to delay any longer.

Gen. Saxton needs my services so much in S. C. now. We left at 5 ½ o'clock this morning. There is considerable sea-swell today owing to recent N. E. winds but I am not sea-sick now-a-days & the only objection to the "swell" is that it prevents our making as good time as we would if it were perfectly smooth. I hope to be in Savannah tomorrow noon, however & go the next day to Beaufort & Saturday to Charleston. There are no passengers except me so I have the whole boat to myself. I read somewhat & have written Ella a letter this morning. You have heard perhaps of the terrible storm we had last Monday & Tuesday. Some 60 vessels were wrecked on the Gulf Coast. We started out of Charleston Monday & our rudder chain having parted we put back & did not try it again until Weds.

A kind Heavenly Father deals mercifully by us all. May his blessing continue with you is the daily prayer of Your Loving Son.

C.H. Howard

Darlington S. C.
Nov. 16 1865

My dear Mother

I am again
away upon an inspection tour.

I wish you in my return from
Florida. I was in Charleston
but a few days when I went by
Steamer to Georgetown S. C. and
back the next day - I enjoyed
that trip pretty well as we had
a good boat and Gen. Devens
(of old 11th Corps acquaintance) who
now commands the Mil. District
embracing Charleston & Georgetown was
also along and his presence not
only made it pleasant socially
but facilitated my business.

I visited a Rice plantation
with him. It was not, however,
so much of a novelty to me as
to him for I had often been

upon them as you remember
while with Sherman's Army just
before we took Savannah.

I left Charleston yesterday
morning - coming a hundred
miles by Rail Road to Florence
where I took an ambulance to
this place ten miles arriving
here at 10 P.M.

I knew Gen. Richardson who
commands this entire District.
(He also is of the old 11th Corps.)
And I easily got acquainted
with many officers of the 24th
Main. ~~Col.~~ Nye (now Brevet Brig.
Gen.) is from Savannah & is here
in the house with Gen. R. His
wife & two little girls are also
here. He is a pleasant though
not highly cultured lady. I
think he was some sort of an
overseer in the factories. He
is a member of Mr. Bal-

Korn's Church. It is an easy,
home-made sort of a man.

I go to Cheraw tomorrow (if
Providence permits) 30 miles
above here - The R. R. train runs
every other day - I will return
Saturday & expect to spend Sunday
here - though I wish I could
be in Charleston which is for
the present the representative of
home to me, in fact it is
quite a comfortable home, we
have; Maj. Saxton, wife & child &
Capt Kephum with me. I do
hope we will not be broken up
this winter though if Gen. Sax-
ton is removed by wish of the
President (as there has been some
indication would be the case) I
shall probably be disturbed - If
Gen. Saxton goes away I shall
very probably resign unless I
can go upon this staff. But

(4)

we are doing such a great work down here I feel reluctant to leave it and will not without a plain indication of Providence.

I meant to have sent that Mortgage to Mrs. Libby Todd do so as soon as I return to C. - It is all transferred. I wonder whether Rostond has yet returned to Maine.

I am somewhat anxious about you, dear Mother, & separated from your Children - It shall not always continue and may the Lord our Heavenly Father protect and comfort you until we can again be reunited. Cannot you write me a little oftener?

Why not drop me a few lines if not more than half a dozen

once a week.

I got a letter from Delhi a few days ago. He was well except a soar finger which he said was getting well. I am glad he has found a place to settle & I trust he may do well & pray he may be a useful & respected member of society as I expect he will.

I got a letter from Ellen a few days since from Bath. — Gen. Richardson takes me in to his own house & bed, so I am not on extra expense just now but expenses are pretty high in Charleston. How does "Wash" get on. Hope he will write to Albert to be contented awhile with Dr. Monroë. Albert would not like the Country nor steady work very well.

With much love Your Son

C. H. Howard

11/16/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-191

Darlington S.C.

Darlington S.C.

Nov. 16 1865

My dear Mother

I am again away upon an inspection tour. I wrote you on my return from Florida. I was in Charleston but a few days when I went by Steamer to Georgetown S.C. and back the next day. I enjoyed that trip pretty well as we had a good boat and Gen. Devens (of old 11th Corps acquaintance) who now commands the Mil. District embracing Charleston & Georgetown was also along and his presence not only made it pleasant socially but facilitated my business.

I visited a Rice plantation with him. It was not however, so much of a novelty to me as to him for I had often been upon them as you remember while with Sherman's Army just before we took Savannah.

I left Charleston yesterday morning - coming a hundred miles by Rail Road to Florence where I took an ambulance to this place ten miles arriving here at 10 P.M.

I knew Gen. Richardson who commands this entire District. (He also is of the old 11th Corps.) And I easily got acquainted with many officers of the 29th Maine. Col. Nye (now Brevet Brig. Gen.) is from Lewiston & is here in the house with Gen. R. His wife & two little girls are also here. She is a pleasant though not highly cultured lady. I think he was some sort of an overseer in the Factories. He is a member of Mr. Balkorn's church. Is an easy, home-made sort of a man.

I go to Cheraw tomorrow (if Providence permits) 30 miles above here. The R.R. train runs every other day. I will return Saturday & expect to spend Sunday here - though I wish I could be in Charleston which is for the present the representative of home to me. In fact it is quite a comfortable home, we have; Maj. Saxton, wife & child & Capt Ketchum with me. I do hope we will not be broken up this Winter though if Gen. Saxton is removed by wish of the President (as there has been some indication would be the case) I should probably be disturbed. If Gen. Saxton goes away I shall very probably resign unless I can go upon Otis' staff. But we are doing such a great work down here I feel reluctant to leave it and will not without a plain indication of Providence.

I meant to have sent that mortgage to Mr. Libby & will do so as soon as I return to C. It is all transferred. I wonder whether Rowland has yet returned to Maine.

I am somewhat anxious about you, dear Mother, so separated from your children. It shall not always continue and may the Lord our Heavenly Father protect and comfort you until we can again be reunited. Cannot you write me a little oftener? Why not drop me a few lines if not more than half a dozen once a week.

I got a letter from Dellie a few days ago. He was well except a soar finger which he said was getting well. I am glad he had found a place to settle & I trust he may do well & pray he may be a useful & respected member of society as I expect he will.

I got a letter from Ella a few days since from Bath. Gen. Richardson takes me into his own home & bed, so I am not on extra expense just now but expenses are pretty high in Charleston. How does "Wash" get on. Hope he will write to Albert to be contented a while with Dr. Monroe. Albert would not like the Country nor steady work very well.

With much love Your Son
C. H. Howard