

Worcester & I have a good room &
bed - It is well & threatens rain this
morning - This is not a pleasant
place at this season of the year - The
thawing is withered by the snow
& the sand & dust - are worse
than at Hampton. The buildings
all seem old & most of them neglected.
Everything wants repair & thrift - The
Capital evidently was not washed
or changed for some time previous to
the war - It is smeared with dirt
filth & generally filthy in every part.
The Rebels are whipped, but they are getting
up again, with the idea that
Pres Johnson is on their side - His
requester me to write to the Sec.
of War now!! so I must bid my
dear friends good bye for the present -
With many kisses to our sweet
babies & love to Grandma & Grandpa
your loving husband
Rouland

Raleigh N.C. Oct. 13, 1863

My dearest wife

We arrived here the ~~same~~ night
(Wednesday) of the day on which we left Petersburg
Va. but I have been able to get no oppor-
tunity to write till now - We leave here tonight
at 6 P.M. for Wilmington (130 miles) and
hope to arrive there tomorrow forenoon -
We will spend the Sab. there & I mean
to look up an old comrade (Mitchell).
I am sorry we could not reach Char-
lottesville & get on before the Charles before the
Sabbath - Our journey hither from Va.
was quite uneventful, the principal
incident being the crossing of the Roanoke
at Gaston in boats, the RR Bridge not
having been rebuilt at that point -
We did not average over 10 miles

Joe here. We ate an ^{dinner} ("snack") benefit of
a little darby in the cars. We had a long
& pleasant interview with Ex-Gov. Sumner. Pres.
of the N. H. University for 30 years and
one of the most able & prominent men
in the State. He gave us a good idea of
public Sentiments here. Col Whittier &
St. Fred Beecher (Whom I saw wounded at
Gettysburg) met us at the depot. We had
a good Dinner-Lipper at Head Quarters
of the Bureau. It is a big coal house
a mile from town - Once elegant. But
now half destroyed by our Army. Here
are a dozen Officers, One wife & one Teacher.
They seem to have a pleasant family. Yesterday
I visited the State Capitol where the State
Convention - a delegate from each County is
in session & listened to a very able
debate on the Rebel debt contracted by

N. H. during the War. In point of ability
would have done ~~any~~ harm to any Legislative
body in the Country. I took down some re-
marks for future reference. In the Evening,
Attended the Convention on the Subject
of Freedmen & the Bureau. It was one
of ^{the} happiest efforts. but fell dead &
cold upon the large assembly. He
was coldly responded to by two of their
most prominent men. They profess to
be heart & Abolitionists but want to be
"let alone" - Withdraw your troops - your
Bureau, your Schools & Everything Else
and ~~we~~ will be well enough off. I
was thoroughly disgusted at the hypocritical
speech of an Hon. Mr. Reade, Pres of the
Convention. He represented the Slaveholders
to be the purest, most benevolent - holiest
people in the whole world! Many

176 10/13/1865 *From:* Rowland [B.
Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Ella
Howard]

RBH-138

Raleigh N.C.

Source: Bowdoin

Raleigh N.C. Oct. 13, 1865

My dearest Wife

We arrived here the same night (Wednesday) of the day on which we left Petersburg Va, but I have been able to get no opportunity to write till now. We leave here tonight at 6 P.M for Wilmington (130 miles) and hope to arrive there tomorrow forenoon. We will spend the Sab. There & I mean to look up an old townsman (Mitchell). I am sorry we could not reach Charleston & get our letters & see Charles before the Sabbath. Our journey hither from Va was quite monotonous, the principal incident being the crossing of the Roanoke at Gaston in boats, the R.R. Bridge not having been rebuilt at that point. We did not average over 10 miles per hour. We ate our "snacks" (Dinner) bought of a little Ducky in the cars.

We had a long & pleasant interview with Ex Gov. Swain, Pres. Of the N.C. University for 30 years and one of the most able & prominent men in the State. He gave us a good idea of public sentiment here. Col Whittlesey & Lt Fred Beecher (whom I saw wounded at Gettysburg) met us at the Depot. We had a good Dinner - Supper at Head Quarters of the Bureau. It is a big cold house a mile from town - once elegant, but now half destroyed by our Army. Here are a dozen officers, one wife, & one Teacher. They seem to have a pleasant family.

Yesterday I visited the State Capitol where the State Convention - a delegate from each County - is in Session & listened to a very able debate on the Rebel Debt contracted by N.C. during the War. In point of ability - it would have done honor to any Legislative body in the country. I took down some remarks for future reference.

In the Evening, Otis addressed this convention on the Subject of Freedmen & the Bureau. It was one of his happiest efforts, but fell dead & cold upon the large assembly. He was coldly responded to by two of their most prominent men. They profess to be hearty abolitionists, but want to be "let alone" - withdraw your troops - your Bureau, your School, & everything else and we will be well enough off. I was thoroughly disgusted at the hypocritical speech of an Hon Mr. Reade, Pres of the Convention. He represented the Slave Holders to be the purest, most benevolent, holiest people in the whole world!

Harry Stinson & I have a good room & bed. It is cold & threatens rain this morning. This is not a pleasant place at this season of the year. The shrubbery is withered by the drouth & the land & dust are worse than at Farmington. The buildings all seem old & most of them neglected. Everything wants neatness & thrift. The Capitol evidently was not washed or cleansed for some time previous to the war. It is smeared with tobacco juice & extremely filthy in every part.

The Rebels are whipped, but they are getting uppity & proud again, with the idea that Pres Johnson is on their side.

Otis has requested me to write to the Sec. of War now (!) & so I must bid my Darling good bye for the present. With many kisses to our sweet babes & love to Grandma & Grandpa,

your loving husband
Rowland

Charleston S.C. Oct. 20/83-
My dear Mother

Otis began a letter to you at Wilmington but I do not know as he finished it. He spent last Sabbath there. We attended the Baptist S.S. & meeting - Mr. B. H. Mitchell is Supt. of the former - We went to dinner with him - He seems like everybody else here to have been made much poorer by the war, but not to have been utterly ruined as many were - He has 9 children - three grown up daughters - all resemble their mother and are not pretty - I went & found him at his store on Sat. & he treats us very politely - Otis addressed the whites on Sat. & the Blacks on Sat. Evening - We spent only 7 hours in Richmond - one night in Petersburg & two days in Raleigh - I learned a good deal at the latter place - meeting with Otis many of the leading men of N.C. - This is our 3^d day here - Charles met us at the depot &

was very much surprised to see
me as he had no intimation
of my coming. He seems perfectly
well & very busy. He lives with
Maj. Saxton & wife in a deserted house
near the sea in plain sight of Ft.
Sumpter - Johnsons Island &c. =

Oliver went down to an Island -
(Edisto) yesterday to confer with
the colored people & try to convince
them to give it up to the former
owners. = Today he & Charles &
Capt Stinson have gone to Columbia
to see Gov. Perry & others. They will return
tomorrow & we will spend the Sabbath
here & then journey further South
by steamer to Savannah Ga - Augusta
Atlanta, Montgomery & Mobile - if
Oliver can be away so long. =

Charles had a letter from Ellie
the 10th of Oct and I will finish
up the business about the Whippoorwill
when I come home. Tell Wash the
old Master are getting their people
again & treat them just like slaves.
I hope he will stay North. =

Your affectionate Son
Richard

178 10/20/1865 *From:* Rowland [B.
Howard]
RBH-139 Charleston S.C.

To: My dear Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]

Source: Bowdoin

Charleston S.C. Oct. 20/65

My dear Mother

Otis began a letter to you at Wilmington but I do not know as he finished it. We spent last Sabbath there. We attended the Baptist S.S. & meeting. M. B. F. Mitchell is Supt. of the former. We went to dinner with him. He seems like everybody else here to have been made much poorer by the War, but not to have been utterly ruined as many were. He has 9 children - three grown up daughters, all resemble their mother and are not pretty. I went & found him at his store on Sat. & he treated us very politely.

Otis addressed the whites on Sat. & the Blacks on Sab. Evening. We spent only 7 hours in Richmond, one night in Petersburg & two days in Raleigh. I learned a good deal at the latter place - meeting with Otis many of the leading men of N.C. This is our 3d day here.

Charles met us at the Depot & was very much surprised to see me as he had no intimation of my coming. He seems perfectly well & very busy. He lives with Maj. Saxton & wife in a deserted house near the Sea in plain sight of Ft. Sumpter, Johnson's Island, &c.

Otis went down to an Island (Edisto) yesterday to confer with the colored people & try to reconcile them to give it up to the former owners. Today he & Charles & Capt Stinson have gone to Columbia to see Gov. Perry & others. They will return tomorrow & we will spend the Sabbath here & then journey further South by Steamer to Savannah Ga., Augusta, Atlanta, Montgomery & Mobile if Otis can be away so long.

Charles had a letter from Dellie the 10th of Oct and I will finish up the business about the <whipperwill> when I come home.

Tell Wash the old Masters are getting their people again & treat them just like Slaves. I hope he will stay north.

Your affectionate Son
Rowland

1
 Oct 20, 1865
 I have now been here
 this is the third day - & no news
 from home - It seems the mail
 came belated by one line of
 Steamers from N.Y. starting only
 once a week so your letters must
 have arrived at N.Y. just after
 the Steamer sailed, but as we will
 not leave here till Monday, I
 live in hope - I have been quite
 unwell with my old trouble since
 I came & did not sit up much
 yesterday but am much bet-
 ter today - I was disappointed
 not to go down the harbor
 with Ous & Charles to Edisto
 Island yesterday where they went
 to execute an important but
 most disagreeable trust. viz.
 to restore to some 12 sq. Rebel
 owners recently pardoned the
 land on which 6000 negroes
 are now getting a good living
 and supporting Schools & Meetings.

Some of the Rebel owners went
down with them & as Mr
Albion describes the scene
I am glad I was not
there. The negroes only knew
that Gen Howard, their great
friend & benefactor was com-
ing & they crowded to the shore
in hundreds receiving him
with gladness, honoring him
with a Cavalcade &c. When
they were all gathered in
a large Church he broke to
them the sad tidings: they did
not weep, but seemed over-
whelmed! Sherman had
promised them this land
& they had occupied & cul-
tivated it depending on
the good faith of the Govern't.
Now they must go & work
under their old Masters or

179 10/20/1865 *From:* Rowland [B.
Howard]
RBH-140 Charleston S.C.

To: My dear wife [Ella
Howard]

Source: Bowdoin

Charleston S.C. Oct 20, 1865

My dear wife

We have now been here, this is the third day, & no news from home. It seems the mails come exclusively by one line of Steamers from N.Y. starting only once a week so your letters must have arrived at N.Y. just after a Steamer Sailed, but as we will not leave here till Monday, I live in hope. I have been quite unwell with my old trouble since I came & did not sit up much yesterday but am much better today.

I was disappointed not to go down the harbor with Otis & Charles to Edisto Island yesterday where they went to execute an important but most disagreeable trust - viz. to restore to some ½ Doz Rebel owners recently pardoned the land on which 6000 Negroes are now getting a good living and supporting Schools & Meetings. Some of the Rebel owners went down with them & as Mr Alvord describes the Scene I am glad I was not there. The Negroes only knew that Gen Howard, their great friend & benefactor was coming & they crowded to the Shore in hundreds receiving him with gladness, honoring him with a cavalcade &c. When they were all gathered in a large church he broke to them the sad tidings. They did not weep, but seemed overwhelmed! Sherman had promised them this land & they had occupied & cultivated it depending on the good faith of the Govm't. Now they must go to work under their old masters or [Note 1] have. Many have earned money enough to buy lots if they could be allowed. O dear, O dear! It has almost killed Otis & us all to do it, but he must do it or resign, & then who would care for any of the interests of this despised Race!

I drew up an obligation for the Masters to sign. 1st that they would employ all the negroes. 2dly That they would submit all differences to a board of Referees. 3dly that they would interpose no obstacles to Schools for colored children. But alas they will do as they choose. Men who can commit treason are capable of other crimes.

I wish you could have been present at an interview between Otis & some of the principal citizens of S.C. Gov Aiken, a professed Union man, & formally the largest slave owner in the State being among them, and the chief speaker. They tried to ride Otis right down at first till he told Gov. A. "I can do nothing about it then. You can't have your land." Then his tone changed wonderfully & he began to plead for the virtue, honesty & christianity of himself & friends. They have recovered more impertinence during the last month than they lost by defeat, I do believe. O it is a wicked, hypocritical, selfish, arrogant lot! And [Note 2] to think that Johnson will let them back into wealth, influence & power so soon, & welcome them to Washington & to places in the Government which they despise in heart, fills me with surprise & sorrow. Gov. Aiken & Mr. Whalley whom we talked with are both candidates for Congress. Charles says he has yet to meet the first native So. Carolinian who does not openly speak of the Sovereign State of South Carolina. Otis & Charles have gone to Columbia today to see the Old Gov. (Perry) & the new one (Orr). I was to go but was not well enough. They arrive at 7 tonight & leave at 2 tomorrow morning.

Gen Saxton will be removed if he does not resign within a week, in consequence of the hatred borne him by the people here. What Charles will do then, I cannot tell. He would have his place, but for the looks of the thing.

Charleston is as still & quiet as Bath, & even more so. A Brass Band played finely Hail Columbia, the Prisoners Hope & other airs on the Battery a little way from here & I walked out there about sunset last evening. Only the colored people & a few soldiers were about, where formally the wealth & fashion used to crowd. I can see the battered remains of Ft. Sumpter from this house, Yes this window & the forts from wh. the Rebels first bombarded it, in the gay & festive Season of Secession.

I can see too the dim & distant point of land from whence Gen. Gilmore [Quincy Adams Gilmore] used to hurl his death dealing shells into this City. The fall of the first one was the signal for a stampede by thousands who have not yet returned & who will not till the hated Yankee Garrisons are withdrawn as they are soon to be. Every other house bears marks of a shell & in almost every Square one or more buildings were burned in consequence. How many times they would have hung me here for what I so freely utter anywhere!

O you should see the Colored School in the State Normal School House! The latter is a splendid building erected before the war for the education of white teachers. In each of its rooms, of which there as many as 10, there is a school of different sexes & grades. The principal is a colored man named Cardoza, a native of Charleston but educated at the University of Glasgow Scotland.

Nearly all his teachers are colored, more or less, but I noticed three white ladies from the north. After visiting the various apartments, the whole school were collected in the upper hall. There were about 700 small & great as they stood up there 9/10 of them were many shades lighter than pure Ethiopian, but some were perfectly white & some equally black. They sang (O how enthusiastically!) "I have a Father in the promised Land", "I'm glad I'm in this Army" & some other songs & Otis talked to them a while & so did I.

As I sat there & thought of the change, tears of wonder & gratitude filled my eyes. I heard as good reading as in our Normal School, as good spelling, as good recitation in Geography & some excellent ones in mental arithmetic. It shows at least what may be done for the Race! Mr Alvord thinks I ought to remain South. His argument is - it opens a larger field of usefulness - brings me in contact with more minds both here & in N.E. than otherwise would be the case. How think you could stand the slights &c of your Southern Sisters? He intimates, I can take any situation here that may seem to me most appropriate & promising of good.

Evening. I feel almost well tonight, but am anxious for Otis who seems prostrated by care & work. He sat up till 2 a.m. this morning & will be up all night tonight & has a sore throat. I have been out walking by the Sea. Just at the corner of the Battery, there is a sort of fort. In it the Rebels had their largest gun. It burst when first fired & almost destroyed the fine three storied marble house in its rear. The climate tonight is June-like, the oranges are just beginning to grow yellow. There are two trees in this garden. The figs are all gone, but there are trees in the garden, but no apples, pears or grapes about here. The shrubbery & flowers are still beautiful in some gardens. I haven't done much but read today & write some. I hope to go down to Ft Sumpter tomorrow. Gen Saxton asked me to preach to the negroes Sunday but I don't know how!

It seems rather lonely without Otis & Charles, & O how I want to hear from you & my sweet babes. Tell Dadie I am keeping my stories to tell him when I come home

Sat. Morn. I will have to mail this without hearing from home. I am quite well this morning & hope this will find my dear ones the same.

Rowland

[Note 1. The letter from this point to the marker for Note 2 was taken from the last two pages of a 6 page undated letter remnant filed as RBH-318.]

[Note 2. The letter from this point to the last paragraph was taken from the first 4 pages of a 6 page undated letter remnant filed as RBH-313. Someone had added that it was written from Charleston, S.C. after 4/1865.

and in colored glass there were inscriptions like these. "My dear, I had your first & last kiss" - "My first love". I told Charles he could never place that inscription over his wife! There was a wooden canopy over the grave & various strange & curious relics & devices all around. It was dark when we (Mrs. Saxon, Edie & a driver, with Charles & Maj. S. on horseback) arrived home: a heavy down rain came on in the night and tho: we were up at 6. Our Capt declined to start in such weather much to our disgust & my relief. I believe the plan now is to go in a U.S. Gun boat detached on purpose about 10. P.M.: They say they roll beautifully, and as neither my head or stomach are yet settled and the sea is still uneasy from the storm that has just cleared away, I anticipate anything but a pleasant night. But it will be good to feel in a safe place with plenty of men & boats. By coming back I got my birth-day letter from you - I wonder if these two 13th & 17th were all you wrote: It seems to me a journey to Hamminglin would be rather a hard one for me to take

alone. I wrote to Mr. Mahan about getting in the rest of the Garden Louse & Mr. Pepper about the horse. This October climate is great - I see Aconites - roses blooming in the Garden like June. the whole window open by my side. Mr. Saxon is sort of "common" I think & of no means pretty & not very agreeable. says "Lecesh" with a stung sound & talks in a flattish Yankeeish way - she is very kind tho: & evidently a great admirer of Charles as are most of her sex - How would you like to live here cut by all decent people having the reputation of proposing all the meanest & lowest traits of your countrymen - That will be the fate of all Northern ladies who come here for many years to come - Charles got with some called (Lecesh) Sabbath evening & said he needed me very much. The negroes are all the true friends the Northerners have here. We are going to ride about the City a little this P.M. - and here's the horse - so good bye, Darling. Your loving husband

I hope
Anna will
feed the
chickens -
per will
have them
got by day

180 10/24/1865 *From:* Rowland [B.
Howard]
RBH-141 Charleston

To: Dearest [Ella Howard]

Source: Bowdoin

Charleston Oct 24, 1865

Dearest

You see by the above that I am still here, weather bound this time. We started out in the Steamer "Canonicus" for Savannah yesterday, broke our rudder chain & had to put back after going about 10 miles. I enjoyed the sail down the harbor & Charles told me about the forts & batteries. We passed very near Sumpter - so near that the ruin seemed so desolate that I did not care to go ashore. When we got "outside" the bar the wind blew a gale and I was sick as ever I was, lying in the bottom of the Cabin & vomiting to my own disgust and the amusement of some others.

We got back about 12 & after Dinner we rode out to magnolia cemetery - the Greenwood of Charleston. It has been neglected since the war, but is still a beautiful spot, which has been adorned by great expenditures, generally in good taste. One lot enclosing the grave of a sailors wife is certainly unique & bears evidence of the most singular devotion. He has adorned it with all sorts of shells. One large marble statue & one small one and in colored glass there were inscriptions like these - "My Dear, I had your first & last kiss" - "My first love". I told Charles he could never place that inscription over his wife! There was a wooden canopy over the grave & various strange & curious relics & devices all around.

It was dark when we (Mrs. Saxton, Edie & a Driver, with Charles & Maj S. on horseback) arrived home. A tremendous rain came on in the night and tho' we were up at 6 our Capt declined to start in such weath much to Otis disgust & my relief. I believe the plan now is to go in a U.S. Gun-boat detailed on purpose about 10 P.M. They say they roll beautifully, and as neither my head or stomach are yet settled and the Sea is still uneasy from the Storm that has just cleared away, I anticipate anything but a pleasant night. But it will be good to feel in a safe place with plenty of men & boats.

By coming back I got my birth-day letter from you [b. 17 Oct 1834]. I wonder if these two 13th & 17th were all you wrote. It seems to me a journey to Farmington would be rather a hard one for you to take alone. I wrote to Mr Mahen about getting in the rest of the Garden <> & Mr Pepper about the horse. This October climate is great - I'll admit - roses blossoming in the Garden - like June - the whole window open by my side. Mrs Saxton is sort of "common" I think & by no means pretty & not very agreeable - says "Secesh" with a slangy sound & talks in a flattish Yankeeish way. She is very kind tho' & evidently a great admirer of Charles as are most of her sex. How would you like to live here cut by all decent people having the reputation of possessing all the meanest & <lowest> traits of your country women. That will be the fate of all northern ladies who come here for many years to come.

Charles got with some ladies (Secesh) Sabbath evening & said he needed me very much. The negroes are all the true friends the northerners have here. We are going to ride about the City a little this P.M. And here's the horse - so good bye, Darling

Your loving husband

8. Evening Tues. 24.

Here still! The Gunboat couldn't be got ready & we are to start again in the "Canonicus" tomorrow at 8 a.m. So I have been just a week in Charleston. I'm afraid we won't have time to stop at Beaufort now. Did I tell you about Charles boy Jim. He took Wash's place but proves quite a different character. Charles sent him to jail & excited the pity of us all Sunday night, but this afternoon he went to see him & Jim confessed that he stole & spent the 60\$. What to do with him is the question. He will leave him in jail till we get back. He will sell back some clothing for 20\$ but I guess the rest is sunk & Charles feels pretty poor.

Charles friend Capt Ketchum is here & a fine fellow he is. I dread the <> tomorrow a little but it won't hinder my sleeping.

If you don't go to Farmington, drop a line to W.F. Guy & he will send you the <" at home".>

I'm so glad Otis [son Oliver Otis Howard b. 14 Feb 1865] grows to be a good boy. Dadie [son David Parker Howard b. 10 Aug 1861] must be very kind to him & love him very much because he is so little. Tell Dadie about Papas ride in the Steamboat. I try to bring the moss but haven't much room - haven't seen any bright leaves this side the Potomac.

With all my heart
Your
Rowland

I hope Anna will feed the chickens. We will want them fat by & by.

Stunning Comminous,
Worms Sound 20. miles
Out of Savannah Ga
Oct-26, 1863

P.M.

Dearest

Here we are at 8 o'clock,
anchored in 6 fathoms of water -
We are in smooth water that
glistens in the moonlight most
beautifully - How I do wish you
were here! You left Savannah
at 5 P.M. and our Capt does
not dare go "outside" till daylight.
There is but one beside our
party (Charles Hairy Oter the blond
& myself) He is a legless (one leg)
Rebel officer whom Oter invited
to take their boat to Jacksonville
Fla. We were all day getting
to Savannah from Charleston yester-
day - stopping some five hours
at that most desolate of
all places Hilton Head, where
we had an interview with
Gen Gilmore. We could not
go to Beaufort much to my dis-
appointment & more to Charles
as he heard that a certain Leach

had returned to "Smith plantation".
I would like to have seen Charles's
Regiment, the young lady, and the
much talked of young lady, but
Ours must go on with out of the
way for anything but business!
We arrived at 10. P.M. and I
left in my room on the Boat
notwithstanding a good deal of
talk about exposure, ~~fine~~ ~~are~~ upon
the river. I got up with the
sun & found the River as wide
as the Kennebec at Augusta -
running muddy red - a yellowish
red such as is seen in all
Southern streams. Large ware-
houses were next the ~~Wharf~~
and the town had to be reached
by flights of stairs of stone or
brick. I walked up on the
first landing for Ours Richard's
who were half an hour later.
I then we walked up to the
Relaxation House to a good break-
fast - where I had two glasses of
~~red~~ milk, in place of the
homid water, & worse tea &
coffee that they they bring us

181 10/26/1865 *From:* Rowland [B.
Howard]

To: Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-142

Source: Bowdoin

Steamer Canonicus
Warsaw Sound 20
miles out of Savannah
Ga

Steamer Canonicus
Warsaw Sound 20 miles out of Savannah Ga
Oct. 26. 1865

Dearest

Here we are at 8 o'clock P.M. anchored in 6 fathoms of water. We are in smooth water that glistens in the moonlight most beautifully. How I do wish you were here! We left Savannah at 5 P.M. and our Capt does not dare go "outside" till daylight. There is but one beside our party (Chas, Harry, Otis, Mr. Alvord & myself). He is a legless (one leg) Rebel officer whom Otis invited to take this boat to Jacksonville Fla. We were all day getting to Savannah from Charleston yesterday, stopping some five hours at that most desolate of all places Hilton Head, where we had an interview with Gen Gilmore. We could not go to Beaufort much to my disappointment & more to Charles' as he heard that a certain Lady had returned to "Smith plantation". I would like to have seen Charles' Regiment, the young lady, and the much talked of young lady, but Otis won't go an inch out of the way for anything but business!

We arrived at 10. P.M. and I slept in my room on the Boat notwithstanding a good deal of talk about exposure, fever &c. upon the river. I got up with the Sun & found the River as wide as the Kennebec at Augusta, running muddy red - a yellowish red such as is seen in all Southern Streams. Large warehouses were next the wharf, and the town had to be reached by flights of stairs of stone or brick. I waited up on the first landing for Otis & Charles who were half an hour later, & then we walked up to the Pulaski House to a good Breakfast, where I had two glasses of iced milk, in place of the horrid water, & worse Tea & coffee that they bring us [see Note 1] here. I then got shaved and brushed & went over to the Bureau Office, where Otis & Charles preceded me. We found Dr. Massie of England at the Hotel & he accompanied me later in the day, visiting the Colored Schools. You remember that I heard him speak in Boston & Portland.

Savannah is a beautiful city & shows few marks of the war. Business is lively & there is no desolate district as at Richmond & Charleston. At 1 P.M. Otis addressed the Colored people. From 11 ½ to that time he held a <> for the rich old masters, in the parlor of the Pulaski House. You ought to see them flock around him & hang upon his words, deciding as they do at times interests amounting to thousands of dollars. Charles & I rode about town - I upon a very large & awkward steed formally the property of the Rebel Gen Hood.

After the meeting, I had a little ride with Otis in his carriage, while he rode & called on a wealthy widow & restored her lands. The schools we visited today are supported & carried on entirely by the colored people themselves. One is in the Old Slave Mart, with its barred windows & the other in a medical college. In the latter are 350 pupils whom Dr Massie & I addressed, I representing as well as I could "The General". For Dinner I took an Oyster Stew (5 cts) at a Restaurant. We start at Daylight in the morning for Jacksonville. How pleasantly the surf sounds on the distant beach! How sad this poor Rebel. Tears came in his eyes a number times while he told me about the war today. They are the saddest people I ever saw & my heart bleeds for them often, when I hear of their individual sufferings - all friends dead & gone - all property swept away. Poor Harry, how he coughs. Chas is writing opposite, the rest are in bed & thither will I now follow them.

With love.

Fernandina Fla Evening of Oct 27th.

We are at anchor at the wharf of this little place, which is about as large apparently as East Wilton, no more good houses than there. We must stay here till the tide favors us & will not go on to Jacksonville till 7 tomorrow. We arrived about 4. I being just a little Sea Sick all the way from Warsaw Sound where we spent the night. There are 6 churches, & not a School House here! The colored people came out at 5 & Otis addressed them & I made a prayer as usual. The principal Residence was that of the Rebel General Finnegan. It is now used as an asylum for colored orphan children under charge of a Mr <Kennie> & a Miss

Merrich of Syracuse N.Y. Mr K. is sick of a fever. There are 4 young lady teachers just arrived, Poor things! How the sleeping apartments smelled! Otis stayed to Sea but I preferred to come on Board. The mosquitoes are coming on good I tell you and as I have some writing to do for Otis I must close.

Fernandina is on an Island & had a number of Hotels & was quite a resort for invalids before the war, but aside from the climate there is nothing attractive & I would much rather die at home. A mail goes northward tonight & will take this.

Your loving husband

[Note 1: The letter from here to the closing at Fernandina was found in the fragment RBH-314.]

here or I were there!

Sabbath morning This is the most
wonderful morning that I
have seen - but don't dread the win-
ter too much darling - We will do
all we can to make the house warm
& comfortable & our clothing ditto &
ourselves contented, trustful & happy.
I have seen no place, the appear-
ance of which was so pleasant
to the eye and no people among
whom I would choose to live
rather than Farmington - And yet
if my character & reputation
and the leadings of Gods Spirit
& Providence will give us a home
where we can be free from tem-
porary embarrassments than there
and at the same time have a
prospect of wider usefulness, I
love myself in readiness to leave.
But, I must confess, I see
no such place while in the
Ministry - I could leave it

Today I go South and into busi-
ness with my name only & make
\$2000 a year at least, but I
shall expect the curse of God to
be upon me & mine. Gen. Fiske
was offered \$10,000 a year just to
reside on a large plantation & take
charge of the labor & I have heard
frequently of 2 or 3000 being of-
fered to ordinary men for the
same purpose. The object is to
get a man who can manage
the freedmen & in whom they have
confidence - but not me, if I preach
not the Gospel! And I never have
it so - There, the Breakfast bell!

With love to all - kisses to
my darlings

Your Rowland

I do hope that you & our darling babies are well tonight. - We must be quite cold in Bath now & the colder in our poor old house at home. - I wonder what has become of the plants! Your mother Lottie tell her about May Butter if you please. He is very well & seemed very glad to see me. - Aunt Deborah will hear thro' her. - I hope we will be in Washington by a week from next Sabbath, and then Reverend Bunde! We seen no place equal to Hampton to live in yet! -! Poor Plas! has he got to give up his "comforts"! Give him a help from Papa. - Tell Dadie we saw a lot of great white birds today bigger than ^{ducks} called Curlews, and that I saw a little beauty of a deer yesterday. - We have seen some Magnolia groves & sugar cane fields - have been visiting some of the cane today. - The oranges all look ^{very} green on the trees and

Are written down for my sister, Charles goes back to Charleston
 next Augustine
 I will write
 this, I
 am writing
 Portland

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

Washington, Oct. 30, 1865.

Ours has written his wife
 a short letter to send back by
 Charles & I must also write a
 little to mine - We arrived here
 today (Sunday) about 2 P.M. - We
 started on a Special Train
 from Jacksonville (165 miles)
 last evening at 7, in the hope
 of having a quiet Sabbath here
 free of all the V.R.s you ever
 conceived of this was the dream
 & worst! We had only a box freight
 car - Charles & I had a hard lay
 down on some brush & Ours
 on an old mattress but I sat
 up on a board seat & thumped
 & thumped away all night but
 I am thro: & it & thankful, I
 hope! It took us two hours to get

grounds & splendid gardens - you must see the
richness & quantity of the roses of all shades - the
Acanthus 15 to 20 feet high - the Grape Japanese
& other flowers. Maj. Cutler has just been in to
see me - he is stopping at this hotel - thinks
his Reg. will start for home by Dec. 1st. We
hope to see Cousin Warren Woodman at Baranacas
as we pass to Mobile - We spend the day here to-
morrow, meeting the State Convention & others &
then go to St. Marks (20 miles) and take a
steamer for Mobile - Wonder if you can see yet?
Abner & Corneil have got around the State of Ala.
We will not go up into the State of Ala.
as Gen. Swayne is to meet us at Mobile -
he is Commissioner for the State -

the most miserable of breakfast
at a place called "Mactison"
this morning - I could ^{not} eat at
all for which Abner & Corneil
berated me. but we all laughed
& always shall at the combination
of poverty & filth (Irish & negro) dis-
played on that table - I met
Capt. Thompson of Farmington
at Jacksonville - He is a partner
there of Capt. Dr. Vaughan of the
same pleasant village - They are
in haste - We had a large meeting
in the open air at sunset
last evening with a large Reg.
of Colored troops & a Band of
music - Jacksonville is about
the size of Brunswick. The
whole town miserably situated
in a sandbank - This is
not a beautiful place - Charles
& I had an admiring walk
after dinner - There are spacious

182 10/30/1865 *From:* Rowland [B.
Howard]
RBH-143 Tallahassee Fla

To: Dearest [Ella Howard]

Source: Bowdoin

[Letterhead]
War Department
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

Tallahassee Fla
Oct. 30, 1865

Dearest

Otis has written his wife a short letter to send back by Charles & I must also write a little to mine. We arrived here today (Sunday) about 2 P.M. We started on a special train from Jacksonville (165 miles) last Evening at 7 in the hope of having a quiet Sabbath here but of all the R.R.s you ever conceived of this was the slowest & worst! We had only a box freight car. Charles & Mr Alvord lay down on some brush & Otis on an old mattress but I sat up on a board seat & thumped & thumped away all night, but I am thro' it & thankful, I hope!

It took us two hours to get the most miserable of Breakfasts at a place called "Madison" this morning. I could not eat at all for which Chas & Otis severely berated me, but we all laughed & always shall at the combination of poverty & filth (Irish & Negro) displayed on that table.

I met Capt. Thompson of Farmington at Jacksonville. He is a partner there of Capt. Dr. Vaughan of the same pleasant village. They are in trade.

We had a large meeting in the open air at Sunset last evening, with a large Reg. of Colored troops & a Band of Music. Jacksonville is about the size of Brunswick, the whole town miserably imbedded in a Land-bank. This is truly a beautiful place. Charles & I had an admiring walk after Dinner. There are spacious grounds & splendid gardens. You should see the richness & quantity of the roses of all shades - the oleander 15 to 20 feet high - the crape jasmine & other flowers.

Maj. Cutler has just been in to see me. He is stopping at this Hotel. Thinks his Reg. will start for home by Dec. 1st. We hope to see cousin Warren Woodman at Barancas as we pass to Mobile. We spend the day here tomorrow, meeting the State Convention & others & then go to St. Marks (20 miles) and take a Steamer for Mobile. Wonder if your cousins Abner & Lemeul have got around there yet! We will not go up into the State of Ala. as Gen Swayne is to meet us at Mobile. He is Commissioner for the State.

I do hope that you & our darling babes are well tonight. It must be quite cold in Bath now & still colder in our poor old house at home. I wonder what has become of the plants?

If you write Lottie tell her about Maj. Cutler if you please. He is very well & seemed very glad to see me. "Aunt Belchie" will hear thro' her.

I hope we will be in Washington by a week from next Sabbath, and then Homeward Bound! I've seen no place equal to Farmington to live in yet! Poor Otis! Has he got to give up his "comforts"! Give him a kiss from Papa. Tell Dadie we saw a lot of great white birds today bigger than doves, called Curlens, and that I saw a little beauty of a Deer yesterday. We have seen some magnolia groves & sugar cane fields, have been nibbling some of the cane today. The oranges all look very green on the trees and are rather sour for my taste.

Charles goes back to Charleston thro' St. Augustine tomorrow & will take this.

Your loving Rowland

gives you of inferiority. If the U.S. will
guarantee them 3 years of freedom - I
will risk them - They will be able to
take care of themselves. The Band of the
7th Regulars played on the Piazza of the
State House last evening beautifully. They
are Germans and seem about as much
cultivated as the old West Point Band.
It was exhilarating to hear mingled
with more classic music. Star Spangled
Banner. Kingdom Coming. Lump, Lump, Lump
Closing up with Yankee Doodle. The Secesh
gather round & seemed to enjoy the music.
Our troops were defeated twice in trying
to get to that place during the war. Once
at Olustee under Gen. Sherman, & once
at Vempert river under Gen. Newton. So
the Rebels were pretty proud about here.
Last Wednesday night we had a good
prayer meeting on the "Canaries" but it
will hardly be feasible here. We expected
my cutter with us today but for some reason
he staid behind. Her surgeon is aboard and
speaks in the highest terms of him. I wonder
how my dear little family are tonight? There
is a Rebel, Miller & three little children
come aboard of Old permission
(see page one)

They look rather unclean but otherwise interesting. We have
fishing off the stern
a little & one man
has shot a crane
after noon.

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

"Spanish Hole" Washington, October 31st, 1865.

On board Steamer "Conroy" 10,
miles off St Marks Fla.
We left Tallahassee at 8 a.m. today
and came down to St Marks river 2 1/2 miles
in a slow freight train. There we found
nothing but a wharf & warehouses full of
cotton. A Bath Barge "Dingo" Capt. Blair
was loading there & I went & spoke with
him. Then we took a row boat with 4
negro soldiers and came down to this
place, the mouth of the River, 8 miles. The
sun was rather hot but we were served
bravely & we were left about two hours. The
Steamer "McCallum" that we expected to be
here has not arrived & we are aboard the "Conroy"
a nice little Steamer that has had the misfortune

time to get aground here over two
weeks since. They are now lightening her
and have a tug & hope to get off at
high tide about 12 1/2 o'clock tonight. If
we do we will go on in this boat and not
wait for the McCollom. now at Pensacola coal-
ing. It is a beautiful & still moonlight & the
water glitters like silver. Olin & a Gen Forsyth
are walking the deck. Harry & Mr Almon
have gone to their rooms. It is said to be about
4 or 5 hours sail to Mobile. Let's see, the letter
I sent by Charles left us at Tallahassee Mon.
day morning. We visited 6 little colored
schools (self-supporting) before dinner. At 8, we
had our usual meeting of the colored people.
and at 7 1/2, Olin addressed the Convention
at the State House. Gen. Warren is a true &
noble man, we think, but the Convention
is made up of mean looking fellows.

They are determined (I think) to get into the
Union if possible. and then go back to
their old habits of slaveholding. Olin gave them
some good & plain talk. I wish everybody could
see their "Contracts" with their negroes, made
since their freedom & filed at Col. Osborne.
Many of them are here faced fronts open
to the colored people. They mean to re-enslave
or exterminate them. But there are good
or decent men, like Gen. Warren who will
try to do right. They (the Floridians) are
a whiskey drinking, tobacco-chewing, swearing
lying set. The better class of colored men
in Tallahassee are superior in morals
& manners to the mass of whites that gather
around the Hotel there. I wish you could
talk with the colored ministers, teachers &
intelligent men as I have. You would
lose that feeling that the plantation slave

184 10/31/1865 *From:* [Rowland B Howard] *To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-144

Source: Bowdoin

"Spanish Hole"
On board Steamer
"Convoy" 10 miles off
St. Marks Fla.

[LETTERHEAD]

War Department, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

"Spanish Hole" October 31st, 1865.

On board Steamer "Convoy" 10 miles off St. Marks Fla.

Dearest

We left Tallahassee at 8 A.M today and came down to St Marks river 25 miles on a slow freight train. There we found nothing but a wharf & warehouses full of cotton. A Bath Barque "Dirigo" Capt. Blair was loading there & I went & spoke with him. Then we took a row boat with 4 negro soldiers and came down to this place, the mouth of the River, 8 miles. The Sun was rather hot but our men rowed bravely & we were less than two hours. The Steamer "McCallom" that we expected to be here has not arrived & we are aboard the "Convoy" a nice little Steamer that has had the misfortune to get aground here over two weeks since. They are now lightening her and have a tug & hope to get off at high tide about 12 ½ o'clock tonight. If we do we will go on in this boat and not wait for the McCallom, now at Pensacola coaling.

It is a beautiful & still moonlight & the water glistens like silver. Otis & a Gen Forsyth are walking the deck. Harry & Mr Alvord have gone to their rooms. It is said to be about 48 hours sail to Mobile. Let's see, the letter I sent by Charles left us at Tallahassee Monday morning.

We visited a little colored School (self-supporting) before Dinner. At 5, we had our usual meeting of the colored people, and at 7 ½, Otis addressed the Convention at the State House. Gov Warren is a true & noble man, we think, but the convention is made up of mean looking fellows. They are determined (I think) to get into the Union if possible, and then go back to their old habits of Slave holding. Otis gave them some good & plain talk. I wish everybody could see their "contracts" with their negroes, made since their freedom & filed at Col. Osbournes. Many of them are bare faced frauds upon the colored people. They mean to reenslave or exterminate them. But there are good or decent men, like Gov. Warren who will try to do right. They (the Floridians) are a whiskey drinking, tobacco-chewing, swearing, lying set. The better class of colored men in Tallahassee are superior in morals & manners to the mass of whites that gather around the Hotel there.

I wish you could talk with the colored ministers, teachers & intelligent men as I have. You would lose that feeling that the plantation slave gives you of inferiority. If the U.S. will guarantee them 3 years of freedom, I will risk them. They will be able to take care of themselves.

The Band of the 7th Regulars played on the Piazza of the State House last evening beautifully. They are Germans and seem about as well cultivated as the old West Point Band. It was exhilarating to hear mingled with more classic music, Star Spangled Banner, Kingdom Coming, "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp" closing up with Yankee Doodle. The Secesh gather round & seemed to enjoy the music. Our troops were defeated twice in trying to get to that place during the war. Once at Olustee under Gen Seymour, & once at Newport river under Gen. Newton. So the Rebels were pretty proud about here.

Last Wednesday night we had a good prayer meeting on the "Canonicus" but it will hardly be feasible here. We expected Maj. Cutler with us today, but for some reason he staid behind. His Surgeon is aboard, and speaks in the highest terms of him.

I wonder how my dear little family are tonight? Here is a Rebel's widow & three little children come aboard by Otis permission. They look rather unclean but otherwise interesting. We have fished off the stern a little & one man has shot a crane this afternoon.

[Rowland]