

On board Steamer Conway near Mobile
Nov. 3rd 1865. Mobile Bay.

Dearest

We have now been on this Steamer 3 days & nights and are arriving looking for the City of present destination. We will be in, in two hours if nothing happens. We would have come in last night, but had a heavy "Coast gale" & no pilot and so anchored under a lee shore till daylight this morning. As we passed St. Morgan at the mouth of the bay, they fired a gun & we stopped half an hour, but as no one came off, we proceeded on our journey. I am getting quite used to the sea & have not missed a meal (B. & C.) on this trip. It is 225 miles from St. Marks to Mobile they tell us. How long we all slept last night! Reading is rather scarce, conversation dull and we are about a good deal. O how the wind blew last evening. I never saw anything like it before. We were too near shore for great waves, but I could not stand still on the deck without clinging to something. This boat is built like the Eastern Queen & I have a room with the cabin, pretty well aft. O how real my dreams were last night! I thought we were not married but were going to be and were looking for a nice house to live in. How we canvassed all the houses rent &c in Wallwell, for that was where my dream placed us. I concluded to get a nice house there cheap & live there while I started in my profession (Law). But somehow David & Co. got mixed up in my dream & I awoke. Ours asked me if I didn't suppose Ella was watching the papers now? this morning. I guess it won't do much good as we are off the line of newspaper communication. We will however telegraph to Washington from Mobile & that may get into the Boston Journal & Advertiser. It is cold & raw this morning like a real Northern Storm. Ours suffers from these changes more than I

do. for I have flannel drawers & undershirt = I had
some washing done at Charleston & some at Tall.
hope & am pretty well off for clean clothes now.
We have seen a good many birds this morning
which the alond says are Albatropes. I sat at my
window a long time & watched them this morning &
thought of the "Ancient Mariner". Our engine
shakes the boat & my table so much that I fear
you can't read this even if it reaches you before I
do = We have two creole women aboard. and they
bring us Black strong Coffee when we get up
in the morning. Our table is very good on the boat =
but there are 4 other sets after us & it must
be rather poor towards the last! They have a
condenser and condense all the water we
use = It loses its saltiness but does not taste pleas-
antly & looks like Soap-suds, but we don't mind
it much in tea & coffee = Let me tell you here
many kinds of meat we have had served up to
us - Roast Beef - Steak. Chicken Turkey, Crane, Duck
(Lea) Mackerel. Mullet, broiled Beef, Ham in all
forms - Crabs (my first) Kidneys Liver &c &c = For birds
of visiting down & tired of seeing them too!
We passed 29. Spanish rigged ships at the lower harbor
this morning. So Mobile must have some cotton
I think = Night before last was splendid & the alond
& I sat up on deck a long time singing hymns. I
went out about 2, this a.m. and it was very
beautiful under the full moonlight. There are
half doz. Officers & 20. Soldiers on board besides
our party & the Boat's crew = We are waiting here
now at Day River for a Pilot. I wish he
would hurry up - I grow very very more anxious
to be home and beamed =

Lat Mon. Nov 4. = Mobile. - we have had about
 $\frac{1}{2}$ a day out in Mobile, but have visited the
Schools & had a very large meeting of the Colored
people. - we start for N. Orleans today & will arrive
there, by the river route through Lake Pontchartrain
tomorrow morning at 6. - I hope we will have
a pleasanter Sabbath than last. - This is a large city -
uninjured by the War & unsubdued in spirit. -
Better have been burned to the ground if the
Rebels are to rule here as they bid fair to now. -
I will leave this for the mail with much love
your
Rowland

185 11/3/1865 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-145

Source: Bowdoin

On board Steamer
Convoy near Mobile,
Mobile Bay

On board Steamer Convoy near Mobile
Nov 3d 1865, Mobile Bay

Dearest

We have now been on this Steamer 3 days & nights and are anxiously looking for the city of present destination. We will be in, in two hours if nothing happens. We would have come in last night, but had a heavy "coast gale" & no pilot and so anchored under a lee shore till daybreak this morning. As we passed Ft. Morgan at the mouth of this bay, they fired a gun & we stopped half an hour, but as no one came off, we proceeded on our journey. I am getting quite used to the Sea & have not missed a meal (73 cts) on this trip. It is 225 miles from St. Marks to Mobile they tell us. How long we all slept last night! Reading is rather scarce, conversation dull and we lie abed a good deal.

O how the wind blew last evening. I never saw anything like it before. We were too near shore for great waves, but I couldn't stand still on the deck without clinging to something. This boat is built like the Eastern Queen & I have a room with Mr Alvord, pretty well aft.

O how real my dreams were last night! I thought we were not married but were going to be and were looking for a nice house to live in. How we canvassed all the houses rents &c in Hallowell, for that was where my dream placed me. I concluded to get a nice house there cheap & live there while I started in my profession (Law). But somehow David & Otis got mixed up in my dream & I awoke. Otis asked me if I didn't suppose Ella was watching the papers now, this morning.

I guess it won't do much good as we are off the line of newspaper communication. We will however telegraph to Washington from Mobile & that may get into the Boston Journal or Advertiser.

It is cold & raw this morning like a real northern storm. Otis suffers from these changes more than I do, for I have flannel drawers & undershirt. I had some washing done at Charleston & some at Tallahassee & am pretty well off for clean clothes now.

We have seen a good many birds this morning which Mr Alvord says are albatrosses. I sat at my window a long time & watched them this morning & thought of the "Ancient Mariner".

Our engine shakes the boat & my table so much that I fear you can't read this even if it reaches you before I do. We have two creole women aboard, and they bring us black strong coffee when we get up in the morning. Our table is very good on this boat, but there are 4 other sets after us & it must be rather poor towards the last! They have a condenser and condense all the water we use. It loses its saltiness but does not taste pleasantly & looks like Soap Suds, but we don't mind it much in tea & coffee. Let me tell you how many kinds of meat we have had served up to us - Roast Beef - Steak - Chicken - Turkey - Crane, Duck (Teal), Mackerell, Mullet, Smoked Beef, Ham in all forms, crabs (my first), kidneys, Liver &c &c. I'm tired of writing them down & tired of seeing them too!

We passed 29 <Lipean> rigged ships at the lower harbor this morning. So Mobile must have some cotton I think. Night before last was splendid & Mr. Alvord & I sat up on deck a long time singing hymns. I went out about 2 this A.M. and it was very beautiful under the still moonlight. There are half Doz. Officers & 20 soldiers on board besides our party & the Boats crew. We are waiting here now at Day River Bar for a Pilot. I wish he would hurry up. I grow every day more anxious to be homeward bound.

Sat morn. Nov 4. Mobile.

We have had about ½ a day only in Mobile, but have visited the Schools & had a very large meeting of the colored people. We start for N. Orleans today & will arrive there by the inside route through Lake Ponchetrain tomorrow morning at 6. I hope we will have a pleasanter Sabbath than last. This is a large city, uninjured by the war & unsubdued in Spirit. Better have been burned to the ground if the Rebels are to rule here as they bid fair to now.

I will leave this for the mail with much love.

Your
Rowland

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.
On Board Steamer Curry
Lake Washington, Puget Sound La., Nov. 5, 1865.

Dearest

We are fast nearing N. O. by the lake route -
It is 10 1/2 P. M. Sat. Evening - The moon is very bright
and the air is cool & we glide along very swift
& must reach our anchorage very early in the
morning - Our trip from Mobile has been very pleas-
ant - We have a N. Y. Herald of the 28th at-
and have been studying that & the Mobile
& N. O. papers pretty well - Our boy has written
a long letter to his home this evening - Mr. Adams
is not very well - I have been writing out the
substance of a conversation between Otis & a Dr. Hott
of Mobile, whom we visited after the meeting
last evening - He is a Rebel of the neatest &
most influential & most important kind - You
ought^t have been among the crowd of women
who lined round the doors to listen while

Cig. - ~~Wash.~~ N. O.
All safe here at Cash
Yours Richard

the conversation was going on - Dr. Holt said
among other things that the President
ought to have proclaimed a general am-
nesty to all the day that he came into office!
He still believes in State rights & Slavery &
speaks of an honest, high spirited people,
which he says those conquered will feel towards
their conquerors as do the Irish, the Poles &
the Venetians - Niggers are an inferior race
& must be kept down or exterminated - He
would prefer the latter - He said to Otis, "What
are you here for, dictating to our people?"
Otis replied, "I am here because I have
just as good a right in the State of Ala.
as you or any other man" etc. - The Dr. seems
to be a highly educated gentleman - His house
was a model of richness & taste - He was
a different man altogether when we saw
him in Washington at the Bureau Office!
They have got his Medical College for

Cornell School - There's the rub! We
hope to reach the City by 6 A.M. tomorrow
& to go to meeting - I will see Mr. Stone
& Tom. Hood, I suppose, & we go on
in one of these three large Mississippi
Steamers Monday - It will take us 8
days to Cairo & then from there to Washington
if we have no accident or unnecessary
delay - I hope I ~~shall~~ have to stop
in W. but would like to assist Otis
in his Report to Congress to be made
in Dec - I wonder how my three
darlings are tonight - Give much
love to Grandpa & Grandma - We got
a dispatch from Charles at Savannah
today - O what a pen!

187 11/5/1865 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-146

On Board Steamer
Convoy
Lake Ponchetrain La,

Source: Bowdoin

[LETTERHEAD]

War Department

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

On Board Steamer Convoy
Lake Ponchetrain La, Nov. 5, 1865.

Dearest,

We are fast nearing N.O. by the Lake route. It is 10 ½ P.M. Sat. Evening. The moon is very bright and the air is cool & we glide along very swiftly & must reach an anchorage very early in the morning. Our trip from Mobile has been very pleasant. We have a N.Y. Herald of the 28th ult and have been studying that & the Mobile & N.O. papers pretty well. Otis has written a long letter to his home this evening. Mr. Alvord is not very well.

I have been writing out the substance of a conversation between Otis & a Dr. Mott of Mobile, whom we visited after the meeting last evening. He is a Rebel of the wealthiest, most influential & most impudent kind. You ought to have been among the crowd of women who hover round the doors to listen while the conversation was going on. Dr. Mott said among other things that the President ought to have proclaimed a general amnesty to all the Day that he came into office! He still believes in State rights & slavery & speaks of an honest, high spirited people, which he says tho' conquered will feel towards their conquerors as do the Irish, the Poles & the Venicians - Niggers are an inferior race & must be kept down or exterminated. He would prefer the latter. He said to Otis, "What are you here for, dictating to our people?" Otis replied, "I am here because I have just as good a right in the State of Ala. as you or any other man" &c. the Dr. Seems to be a highly educated gentleman. His house was a model of richness & taste. He was a different man altogether when we saw him in Washington at the Bureau Office! They have got his Medical College for Colored Schools. There's the rub!

We hope to reach the City by 6 A.M. tomorrow & to go to meeting. I will see Mr Morse & Tom Hood, I suppose, & we go on in one of these three story Mississippi Steamers Monday. It will take us 8 days to Cairo & two from there to Washington if we have no accident or unnecessary delays. I hope I shan't have to stop in W. but would like to assist Otis in his Report to Congress to be made in Dec.

I wonder how my three Darlings are tonight. Give much love to Grandpa & Grandma. We got a Dispatch from Charles at Savannah today. O what a pen!

City Hotel, N.O. All safe here at last.

Your Rowland



New Orleans La
Nov. 5th 1853

Sir

Wishing to hold an Interview With You
I deem this manner the most appropriate for the occasion,
The Association Which I am President of - Wishing
to render their heartfelt thanks to you & those whom I am as
one of the Committee to represent them - How Well
Please General, none for your Committee & then sincere with
them wishing for the manner which you have conducted
the Bureau of Freedmen since you have been in charge
of said Bureau. Hoping that it may be conducted
in same manner as long as the Rebel. Will disapprove
the Policy of the government Relative to the freedmen.

Yours Very Respectfully
Chas. Edmunds Serrant

To

Major General.

C. Howard

Commissioner of Freedmen

Wash.

Wm. L. Gay

President

Union. Soc. Relief Association

Organized June 3rd 1853

H



Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. B. [Signature]

Very respectfully,
J. B. [Signature]

Enclosed find
[illegible]
[illegible]

Yours faithfully,
J. B. [Signature]

186 11/5/1865 *From:* Henry Clay

To: Major General O. Howard
Governor of Freedmen

RBH-147

New Orleans La

N. O. La.

Source: Bowdoin

New Orleans La
Nov. 5th 1865

Sir

Wishing to hold an interview with you, I deem this manner the most appropriate for the occasion. The association which I am President of - wishing to render their Heartfelt thanks to you has chosen me as one of the Committee to represent them. You will please General secure from your Humble Servant their Sincere Thanks & their Blessing for the manner which you have conducted the Bureau of Freedmen since you have been in charge of Said Bureau. Hoping that it may be conducted In Same Manner as long as the Rebels will disapprove the Policy of the government Relative to the freedmen.

I Remain Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Henry Clay
President
Union <Sons> Relief Association
Organized June 3d 1863

To
Major General O. Howard
Governor of Freedmen
N. O. La.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Sir

New Orleans La.

Nov^r 6th 1865

Wishing to hold an Interest with
You I deem this manner the most
appropriate for the occasion the association
of which. I am President of wishing to
render their Heartfelt thanks to the chosen
Man of the Committee to represent them
You will please General receive from
Your Humble servant the sincere
Heartfelt Blessings for the manner
which you have conducted the Business
of Freedmen since you have been in
charge of the Beaureau Hoping that it
may be conducted in the same
manner as long as the Rebels will
disapprove of the Policy of the Government
Relative to Freedmen.

I Remain very
Respectfully
Your Humble servant

Ebenezer Haywood
President.

Lutheran Benev. Assⁿ

Organized

Jan. 1st 1861

To Major General
C. Howard
Commissioner of Freedmen
of La

83

Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of New York. I am very glad to hear that you are so interested in the subject, and I am sure that your efforts will be successful. I have already taken the necessary steps to bring the matter before the proper authorities, and I am confident that they will be satisfied with the results. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. B. Thompson

J. B. Thompson
Secretary of the State
Albany, N. Y.
Jan 10, 1841

From: Ebenezer Haywood

To: Major General O. Howard
Commission of Freedmen

RBH-148

New Orleans La.

N.O. La

Source: Bowdoin

New Orleans La.

Nov'br 6 /65

Sir

Wishing to hold an Interest with you I deem this Manner the most appropriate for the occasion. The association of which I am President of Wishing to render their Heartfelt thanks to the chosen man of the committee to represent them. You will please General receive from your Humble servant the sincere Heartfelt Blessings for the manner which you have conducted the Business of Freedmen since you have been in charge of the Beaureau. Hoping that it may be conducted in the same manner as long as the Rebels will disapprove of the Policy of the Government Relative to Freedmen.

I Remain verry
Respectfully
Your Humble servant
Ebenezer Haywood
President,
Lutheren Benev. Asson.
Organized Jan 1st 1861

To. Major General O. Howard
Commision of Freedmen
N.O. La

I visited about 12 colored Schools in N. Orleans
& they were as good as any white Schools
that I ever saw - We had a meeting of all
the leading & influential colored men at
the Office of the Bureau & a great many
white men came to see Oles - We will
stop at Hickory where we expect to
arrive tomorrow night & will go on
north from there in the cars. if they
promise any greater speed than we
get on these Boats. If not we will
go to Cairo & there take the cars for
Washington travelling night & day - Our
nights are very cold but I have seen no
signs of frost yet - Thousands of
poor colored people will suffer terribly
when the winter fairly comes on - They
now live almost altogether out of
doors - Sunday I heard the celebrated
Dr. Palmer preach an excellent sermon
on the text - "Doubt not Christ & have
suffered these things & to enter into his
glory" - He had a good audience in a fine
church - The South is fast getting rid
her old ways in all things except as regards
Slavery - With much love from me & Oles. Remained

Steamer W. R. Arthur.
near Baton Rouge La
Nov. 7. 1865 -

My dear Mother

We are at last homeward bound
& I must say I am not sorry, for inactive
as it certainly is to travel in the South, it is at
present very far from pleasant. But the Palace
of a steamer makes it more so than any other
mode that we have tried - We left N. Orleans
last evening about 6 o'clock - We arrived there at
7. Sunday morning, crossing across the
Lake from Mobile to Lakeport & then 6 miles
by R.R. to the City - We stopped at the City Hotel
but did not see Mr. Morse till just before
we left. His wife is at the North. He received
us very cordially & resisted our staying
longer - He says he has lost a good deal by
the war but is in a fair way to regain
it again - He is now now a very rich man -

Cousin Henderson Woodman called to see
us - He says he has just paid a \$15000
Mortgage on Oliver's Real Estate & is trying to
get it into his possession - His son had gone
North for his Mother - He says he lost 700

Bales of Cotton by the way - We did not see
Warren Woodman for we did not go to Pensacola
where he was - He left Tallahassee 10 days before
we arrived there - The Boat trembles so that
I can't write very well - Otis had a great
meeting of the colored people in N.O. & all the
papers spoke of it in the highest terms - He
seems to make friends wherever he goes - He
said yesterday morning, this should be his
text for the day - "When a man naps please
the Lord, he maketh over his enemies & be
at peace with him" - I fear Henry Simons
will die of Consumption before long - He is
not so well as when we left Washington
& coughs terribly nights - Otis & I are both
very well indeed - I wish you were with
us now on this Boat - It is unlike any of
our Steamboats & of course there is no "Sea" -
The Rooms are large & airy, the Saloons well
furnished - the table neat & better appointed
than any we have had - There are 50. deck
hands & as many as 25. waiters & perhaps
200 passengers - We pay our fare & that
includes our subsistence - I saw some men
gambling last night for the first time

in my life - Their property was unsafe
as they sat at the table with their cards
& bank bills - Did I tell you that Otis &
Charles saw Everett Bridgman at Pamunah?
He was a member of the 12th Mr. Regt. & looking
very well - But to return to the Boat - There is
a large Bar, a Barber Shop - a spacious Kitchen
plenty of ice - but here's a landing & I must
look ashore - no I won't; as it is one of those
little places where our flat bottomed Steamer
glides into the mud to land passengers
I have seen no wharfs upon the River
but the soft mud does instead - For 600 miles
this River averages 120. ft. deep - Its current
is not swifter than the Kennebec apparently
& at N. Orleans, it does not seem wider than
that River at Bath - The water is muddy looking
& the Banks seldom over 6. to 10. feet high - then
comes the mud wall now named over called
the Levee, which keeps the water off the plantations -
We have been upon the first - Have most
of the morning when we could see the country -
We have seen many splendid mansions
on the Sugar Plantations - I wonder if they
will all go down with Slavery -

189 11/7/1865 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-149

Steamer W.R. Arthur
near Baton Rouge La

Source: Bowdoin

Steamer W.R. Arthur
near Baton Rouge La
Nov. 7. 1865

My dear Mother

We are at last homeward bound & I must say I am not sorry, for instructive as it certainly is to travel in the South, it is at present very far from pleasant. But the Palace of a Steamer makes it more so than any other mode that we have tried. We left N. Orleans last evening about 6 o'clock. We arrived there at 7 Sunday morning, coming across the Lake from Mobile to Lakeport & then 6 miles by R.R. to the City.

We stopped at the City Hotel but did not see Mr Morse till just before we left. His wife is at the north. He received us very cordially & insisted on our staying longer. He says he has lost a good deal by the war but is in a fair way to regain it again. He is even now a very rich man.

Cousin Fenderson Woodman called to see us. He says he has just paid a \$13000 mortgage on Olivers [Oliver Otis Woodman] Real Estate & is trying to get it into his possession. His son had gone north for his mother. He says he lost 700 Bales of cotton by the war. We did not see Warren Woodman for we did not go to Pensacola where he was. He left Tallahassee 10 days before we arrived there. [Fenderson, Oliver Otis and Warren Woodman were brothers.]

The Boat trembles so that I can't write very well.

Otis had a great meeting of the colored people in N.O. & all the papers spoke of it in the highest terms. He seems to make friends wherever he goes. He said yesterday morning, this should be his text for the day - "When a mans ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him".

I fear Harry Stinson will die of consumption before long. He is not so well as when we left Washington & coughs terribly nights. Otis & I are both very well indeed. I wish you were with us now on this Boat. It is unlike any of our Steamboats & of course there is no "Sea". The Rooms are large & airy, the Salloons well furnished, the table neater & better appointed than any we have had. There are 50 deck hands & as many as 25 waiters & perhaps 200 passengers. We pay our fare & that includes our subsistence. I saw some men gambling last night for the first time in my life. Their profanity was awful as they sat at the table with their cards & bank bills.

Did I tell you that Otis & Charles saw Everett Bridgham at <Savannah>. He was a member of the 12th Me. Reg. & looking very well.

But to return to the Boat. There is a large Bar, a Barbers Shop, a spacious Kitchen, plenty of ice - but here's a landing & I must look ashore - no I won't, as it is only one of those little places where our flat bottomed Steamer glides into the mud to land passengers. I have seen no wharfs upon the River but the soft mud does instead. For 600 miles this River averages 120 ft. deep. Its current is not swifter than the Kennebec apparently & at N. Orleans, it does not seem wider than that River at Bath. The water is muddy looking, & the Banks seldom over 6 to 10 feet high, then curves the mud wall now swarded over called the Levee, which keeps the water off the Plantations.

We have been upon the Pilot-House most of the morning where we could see the country. We have seen many splendid mansions on the Sugar Plantations. I wonder if they will all go down with Slavery.

I visited about 12 colored schools in N. Orleans & they were as good as any white schools that I ever saw. We had a meeting of all the leading & influential colored men at the Office of the Bureau & a great many white men came to see Otis.

We will stop at Vicksburg where we expect to arrive tomorrow night & will go on north from there in the cars, if

they promise any greater speed than we get on these Boats. If not we will go to Cairo & there take the cars for Washington travelling night & day. Our nights are very cold but I have seen no signs of frost yet. Thousand of poor colored people will suffer terribly when the winter fairly comes on. They now live almost altogether out of doors.

Sunday I heard the celebrated Dr. Palmer preach an excellent sermon on the text - "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things & to enter into his glory". He had a good audience in a fine church. The South is fast getting into her old ways in all things except as regards Slavery.

With much love from me & Otis.
Rowland

Next to the Colonel came a delegation of the
Original White Union men of N.O. - Their nos
are small, their habit of the scepticisms
intense. Their disappointment with regard
to the President's course, bitter. They say, we cannot
live here unless these Rebels are rebuffed &
we are protected by military force - All the
newspapers spoke well of Ois & his speech.
He said day before yesterday. This shall be
my text for the day. "When a man says please
to the Lord he maketh even his enemies to
be at peace with him" He seems to perceive
the truth of it continually. He has more of fear
from Washington than elsewhere. The Morse, pro-
prietary of our hotel & Francis Lathrop wife's Bro.
came in when we got home considerably
intoxicated. He was very cordial & insisted
on our staying longer. They say he has periodical
times of hard drinking. I am very sorry
for it will increase on him & he will squan-
der life & property. He is worth half a million.
says he pays 11000 per year taxes on his
Portland house - I thought he would give our
whole party their Hotel Bill. He only did it to
Ois - Our cousin Lemuel Woodman
came to see us. He is getting Oliver's
estate into his hands & getting ready
to cheat somebody else, I suppose.

Steamer W. R. Arthur near Natchez
National "Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company,"
AMERICAN EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING,

Dearest -

No. 87 CEDAR STREET,

I have scolded Mr. New York, Nov. 2, 1865.

Aboard a good deal about spoiling his paper in the
above manner! This is Ois's birthday & we have
now been on this Boat since 40 hours, passing
our time very pleasantly, especially as our faces
are now turned homeward. My last letter to
you was mailed the day (Sunday Nov. 3) that we
arrived in N.O. - That morning after a pleasant
interview with Gen. Sheridan, who is shorter & fatter
& heavier than Ois, we went to hear Dr. Paton
preach. It was a fine large well finished & furnished
Church. a full & good looking congregation and a
Capital Christian Sermon delivered without notes
of any kind. While waiting for Ois Mary & I
walked down to the levee & caught our first
glimpse of the Father of Waters. It did not seem
much wider than the Kennebec at Bath &
it was difficult to realize that so many
thousands of miles of Rivers & streams had here
there outlet to the Ocean. But a Pilot tells us
that the River averages 120 ft. in depth for

600. miles from the mouth. I tried to see
where your ship used to lay, but think I
didn't get down far enough, as these enormous
steamers crowd the Banks. (There were no real
wharfs) where we were. After meeting a ~~friend~~
Henry asked me to go with him and see his old
prison house. After some walking, we came to
the great Parish Prison where he was confined for
four months. It is now used for ordinary criminals,
but when he told the turnkey his errand we were ad-
mitted. We went to the granite pass court where they
sawed their bone ornaments in the pass courts, &
then up to the small room where 16. of them slept
at night upon a hard floor. You can imagine with
what interest he regarded the place. He even managed
by climbing they could just see the top of one spire.
In the evening there was an immense meeting
of colored people at the Orleans Theatre. Mr. Alford
was taken very sick & I remained with him
in our room. Otis & Harry came in about 10. &
told us of the enthusiasm. By the way at a
great meeting in Mobile Otis called on me to
sing "Hear ye my God to thee" & when I sang it - I
was horrified by the rapturous applause of our
colored brethren! Mr. Alford was better Monday

and we took an ambulance and
visited some 12, or 14, ^{other} Schools. & found them
equal in all respects to the graded Schools of
the North - except that they had not gone so far. The
School Rooms are neat & well furnished and the
teachers, many of them being Southern ladies - seem
devoted to their work. On our return to the Bureau
Office, we found a large delegation of the colored
Benevolent Societies (96. in no.) waiting upon Otis.
We had a very interesting interview with them
& one which I can never forget. They appeared to
be much above the general intelligence of the
common people at the North. Among them were doctors,
many ministers. Bankers (one worth 300,000) Teachers
& others. Some were as white as I am. & still in
the eye of Society & the Law, they are "niggers". You
couldn't help tears, I know, when you should hear
them speak freely of their wrongs & their hopes for
themselves & their children. They desire the whites
around them. have secret associations, methods
of communicating intelligence &c. - Unless they
are recognized & given their rights, they will form
a very dangerous Clap net Society. They are
subdued, docile, servile now, but every day
adds to their independence & manliness.

We expect to arrive at Vicksburg by tomorrow morning & will leave the Boat there & go over to Jackson. and if we can get north by R.R. may not return to the River. This is a slow the pleasant way of journeying. I never saw gambling till night before last & never want to see it again. There is a good deal of card playing & I presume, gambling in the other end of the Cabin today. The ladies have a piano but do not play it much, but play cards instead. Mr. Almont is writing & this is reading Walter Scott's "Betrothed" at the other side of this shabby table. I will mail this, with 14 pages to Charles & H. to mother at Vicksburg, when we go ashore. I am sure he is delighted with this great Boat. It is nice to "scamper" on & the engines &c are very wonderful to the little ones. I did not sleep well last night nor eat breakfast this morning & feel like a dinner. We have had too good living & too little exercise on Board, that is the great trouble. Here they come to take this for a dinner table & I must bid you good bye with all my heart. Your Remains

Did I tell you Our & Charles saw another of our precious cousins in Savannah, Everett Bridgman a member of the 12th ^{regt.} ^{U.S. Army}. Well we got aboard our steamer about 3 o'clock but didn't get underway till six & then sailed to Algiers and reached New York, N.Y. 1865.

Our first evening on board was very pleasant & entertaining. We have good large airy rooms. A Cabin, or Saloon that must be 80 feet long, well carpeted & lighted. We have good & excellently served meals. These are included in our fare. Then the Boat is a vessel in itself. Besides our Cabin, with the ladies at the other end, with its 130 passengers, there is another deck ^{below} where there are many colored people & soldiers. And another above us where the "great folks" of the colored have rooms & where the officers of the Boat have quarters. Then above all is the Pilot House, called "Texas". There are at least 30 deck hands & they are driven about like so many cattle. Then we have a large Kitchen. 20 waiters. A Barber Shop. A Bar. An Office &c. The Boat is not built in a substantial manner. All the partitions are thin & every part of her shakes with the labor of our most noisy engine. That will partially account for the looks

of this writing! - We take 75-cents of wood on
at a single time and we take coal by lashing
a "flat" (Gondola) along side. This "flat" has
floated all the way from Pittsburg Pa. & a No. of
them are tied up to the river bank till a Steamer
comes along & buys a load - We have on board a
band of five negro minstrels - a guitar, banjo,
two violins & a bass viol. - They have given us good
concerts both evening - On the first, the gentlemen
with ladies had a dance - By the way, I feel
quite humiliated here by not having a lady, my
wife I mean - A notice over their cabin reads as
follows "No gentlemen without ladies admitted!"
This is the first place that you could endure
in all our traveling, I think & this with plenty
of money, reading, music & society would suit
you exactly - One lady has 4 little children - I
sent for the baby - about Otis' age - & had a good
play with him yesterday - Oranges have
opened all their hearts to us! They left us at
Natchez this morning - Yesterday morning, we
had for a long way fine views of the celebrated
Sugar Plantations with their noble mansions
& great clusters of negro cabins. Some of the
houses appeared in the distance through a glass

& to be the most elegant private residences
that I have ever seen - They are unlike the
modern houses on the Hudson River, but
many of them have lofty pillars & colonades
and seem more classic - If I could separate
Slavery from them, the whole scene would be
beautiful indeed - Otis was with us for a long time
overlooking the country from the "Texas" - He talks
over his campaigns, gives his ideas of all the
Officers engaged in the war - O, by the way, we
saw Boggs at N.O. - He was at the Hotel Table
when we spoke with him & afterwards came into
our room - He is in an appropriate office, his family
in Baltimore - has 4 children - is not changed, says
he enjoyed the war - but had but 8 cents when
Dick Taylor surrendered at Shreveport & he came
to N.O. with his family - He wears his old army
overcoat - is just as smart & proud spirited as
ever - He was Brig. Gen. in the Army - I didn't see Tom
Hook at all, I was so busy, and worse than that
I didn't get your note - I tried & walked miles
in Mobile but, it didn't grow on the trees in
the city - & my mistake was in leaving Tallahassee
without it - I am very sorry - Henry seems a
little better - will be here soon on the River.

190 11/8/1865 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-150

Steamer W.R. Arthur
near Natchez

Source: Bowdoin

[LETTERHEAD]

National "Freedmans' Savings and Trust Company,"
AMERICAN EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING
No. 87 CEDAR STREET,
New York

Steamer W.R. Arthur near Natchez
Nov 8, 1865

Dearest

I have scolded Mr. Alvord a good deal about spoiling his paper in the above manner! This is Otis birthday & we have now been on this Boat & River 40 hours, passing our time very pleasantly, especially as our faces are now turned homeward. My last letter to you was mailed the day (Sunday Nov. 5) that we arrived in N.O. That morning after a pleasant interview with Gen Sheridan, who is shorter & fatter & heartier than Otis, we went to hear Dr. Palmer preach. It was a fine large well finished & furnished Church - a full & good-looking congregation and a capital Christian Sermon delivered without notes of any kind.

While waiting for Otis, Harry & I walked down to the Levee & caught our first glimpse of the Father of Waters. It did not seem much wider than the Kennebec at Bath & it was difficult to realize that so many thousands of miles of Rivers & Streams had here their outlet to the Ocean. But a Pilot tells us that the River averages 120 ft. in depth for 600 miles from the mouth. I tried to see where your ship used to lay, but think I didn't get down far enough, as these enormous steamers crowded the Bank, (There were no real wharfs) where we were.

After meeting & Dinner Harry asked me to go with him and see his old prison house. After some walking, we came to the Great Parish Prison where he was confined for four months. It is now used for ordinary criminals, but when he told the turnkey his errand we were admitted. We went to the granite face court where they scoured their bone ornaments on the pavements, & then up to the small room where 16 of them slept at night upon a hard floor. You can imagine with what interest he regarded the place. He told me how by climbing they could just see the top of one spire.

In the evening there was an immense meeting of colored people at the Orleans Theatre. Mr Alvord was taken very sick & I remained with him in our room. Otis & Harry came in about 10 & told us of the enthusiasm &c.

By the way at a great meeting in Mobile, Otis called on me to sing "Nearer my God to thee" & when I sang it, I was horrified by the rapturous applause of our colored brethren!

Mr Alvord was better Monday and we took an ambulance and visited some 12, or 14 colored Schools, & found them equal in all respects to the graded schools of the North, except that they had not gone so far. The School Rooms are neat & well contrived and the teachers, many of them being Southern ladies, seem devoted to their work.

On our return to the Bureau office, we found a large delegation of the colored Benevolent Societies (90 in no.) waiting upon Otis. We had a very interesting interview with them & one which I can never forget. They appeared to be much above the general intelligence of the common people at the North. Among them were Doctors, many ministers, bankers (one worth 300,000) Teachers & others. Some were as white as I am, & still in the eye of society & the Law, they are "niggars". You couldn't help tears, I know, when you should hear them speak freely of their wrongs & their hopes for themselves & their children. They deceive the whites around them, have secret associations, methods of communicating intelligence &c. Unless they are recognized & given their rights, they will form a very dangerous class in Society. They are subdued, docile, servile now, but every day adds to their independence & manliness.

Next to the colored came a delegation of the original white union men of N.O. Their no's are small, their hatred of the Secessionists intense, their disappointment with regard to the Presidents course, bitter. They say, we

cannot live here unless these Rebels are rebuked & we are protected by military force.

All the newspapers spoke well of Otis & his speech. He said day before yesterday, this shall be my text for the day, "When a mans ways please the Lord he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." He seems to experience the truth of it continually. He has more to fear from Washington than elsewhere.

Mr Morse, proprietor of our Hotel & Francis' Lathrop wife's Bro, came in when we got home considerably intoxicated. He was very cordial & insisted on our staying longer. They say he has periodical times of hard-drinking. I am very sorry for it will increase on him & he will squander life & property. He is worth half a million - says he pays 1100\$ per year taxes on his Portland House. I thought he would give our whole party, their Hotel Bill. He only did it to Otis.

Our cousin Fenderson Woodman came to see us. He is getting Oliver's [Oliver Otis Woodman] estate into his hands & getting ready to cheat somebody else, I suppose.

Did I tell you Otis & Charles saw another of our precious cousins in Savannah, Everett Bridgham a member of the 12th Me. Reg?

Well we got aboard our Steamer about 5 o'clock but didn't get underweigh till six & then crossed to Algiers and loaded wood till 9. Our first evening on board was very pleasant & entertaining. We have good large airy rooms - a cabin, or Saloon that must be 80 feet long, well carpeted & lighted. We have good & excellently served meals. These are included in our fare. Then the Boat is a world in itself.

Besides our Cabin, with the ladies at the other end, with its 130 passengers, there is another deck below where there are many colored people & soldiers, and another above us where the "great folks" of the colored have rooms & where the officers of the Boat have quarters. Then above all is the Pilot House, called "Texas". There are at least 50 deck hands & they are driven about like so many cattle. Then we have a large Kitchen, 20 waiters, a Barbers Shop, a Bar, an office &c. the Boat is not built in a substantial manner. All the partitions are thin & every part of her shakes with the labor of our most noisy engine. That will partially acct. for the looks of this writing!

We take 75 cords of wood on at a single time and we take coal by lashing a "flat" (gondola) along side. This "flat" has floated all the way from Pittsburg Pa. & a no. of them are tied up to the rivers bank till a Steamer comes along & buys a load.

We have on board a band of five Negro minstrels, a guitar, banjo, two violins & a bass viol. They have given us good concerts both evenings. On the first, the gentlemen with ladies had a dance.

By the way, I feel quite humiliated here by not having a lady, my wife, I mean. A notice over their cabin reads as follows "No gentleman without ladies admitted!" This is the first place that you could endure in all our traveling, I think & this with plenty of money, reading, music & society would suit you exactly. One lady has 4 little children. I sent for the baby, about Otis' age & had a good play with him yesterday.

Oranges have opened all their hearts to us! They left us at Natchez this morning. Yesterday morning, we had for a long way fine views of the celebrated Sugar Plantations with their noble mansion houses & neat clusters of Negro cabins. Some of the houses appeared in the distance thro a glass to be the most elegant private residences that I have ever seen. They are unlike the modern houses on the Hudson River, but many of them have lofty pillars & colonades and seem more classic. If I could separate Slavery from them, the whole scene would be beautiful indeed.

Otis was with us for a long time overlooking the country from the "Texas". He talks over his campaigns, gives his ideas of all the officers engaged in the war.

O, by the way, we saw Boggs at N.O. He was at the Hotel table when we spoke with him & afterwards came into our room. He is in an express office, his family in Baltimore, has 4 children, is not changed, says he enjoyed the war, but had but 5 cents when Dick Taylor surrendered at Shreveport & he came to N.O with his family. He wears his old army overcoat, is just as smart & proud spirited as ever. He was Brig. Gen. in Reb. Army.

I didn't see Tom Hook at all. I was so busy, and worse than that I didn't get your moss. I tried & walked miles in Mobile but, it don't grow on the trees in the City, & my mistake was in leaving Tallahassee without it. I am very sorry.

Harry seems a little better since he has been on the River.

We expect to arrive at Vicksburg by tomorrow morning & will leave the Boat there & go over to Jackson, and if we can get north by R.R. may not return to the River. This is a slow tho pleasant way of journeying. I never saw gambling till night before last & never want to see it again. There is a good deal of card playing & I presume, gambling in the other end of the Cabin today. The ladies have a piano but do not play it much, but play cards instead. Mr Alvord is writing & Otis is reading Walter Scotts "Betrothed" at the other side of this shaky table. I will mail this, with 14 pages to Charles & 4 to mother at Vicksburg, when we go ashore.

Dadie would be delighted with this great Boat. It is nice to "scamper" on & the engines &c are very wonderful to the little ones.

I did not sleep well last night nor eat Breakfast this morning & feel less like Dinner. We have had too good living & too little exercise on Board, that is the great trouble. Here they come to take this for a Dinner Table so I must bid you goodbye with all my heart.

Your Rowland