On board Liane Convog hear Mobile Nov. 3th 1865- Mobile May-Starent We have now her on this Steamer 3 days 2 nights and are anning looking for the Cig- of present destination - We will be in, in the hours if nothing happen. he noved have came in fast night , but had a "heavy "couch gale" & no fieldt and to and hand We paped IN. Mongar at the Mouth of this buy, they fried of un proceded on wa journey. I are getting quite Uned to they hear & have not mighed a meal (13; eli) on this hip - It is 225. miles from the marks & neobile they tell is . Hen larg we all sliph last night? heading is nother Icara, conversation dule and us hering. I here san anything like it before us were too near there for great have, but I concedul This bout is built like the lastern Succes + I have 6 room with the Celbud, pretty nell aft. 6 hav real my dreams nere last night ! I thought us nere for a nice linese to live in Hen us can oped all the houses reals ac in Hallavell, for that was relieve my dream placed me: I concluded to get a mice Where there dush 2 live there while I startere in my profession (Law, But souchen Danie Hole, got mixed up in my duan + & anothe: Our ashed me of ? didn't suppose Ella un matching the paper new; this morning = I quep it wont do much good ar us are of the line of newspaper communication the will hence telephofe & Washington for Medbile & that may get into the Boston Journal & advertises -It & cold + raw this morning like a real monthem Storm; Our haffers from these changes mare them I

do for I have flammed deans & under hist - Thad Jone Mashing done at Charlestor & Love at talla. hopers an pretty well of for clean clother rear -We have seen a good many birds This morning Which the alone sugs are albatioper. I sate at my medar a lay line + natched them this morning & traught of the "and least Marine". Can Engine thekes the bout I my latte so much that fear you can't read this ties if it reaches you before ? to = We have two crede unen abraid. and they bring us black they Coffee when us get rete in the worning - Qui table is very good on this boat but there are & other sets after us 1 it much be rather four towards the last . They have a Condenser and condense all the mater us use: I lover it's folling but does not taste pleas. auty + looks like Loap Juds but ar dout mind it much in tea + coffee = Let me tele you have many kinds of meat us have had Sened whe to Us - Houst Beef - Steak chicken Furkey, brane Duck (Leal Machender Mullet hurber Beef, tham in ale forus brabs (myfink) kidnep firer re re = In the forus brabs (myfink) kidnep firer re re = In the forus brabs (myfink) kidnep firer re re re - In the forus brabs (myfink) kidnep firer re re re - In the forus brabs (myfink) kidnep firer re re re forus brabs (hugfink) kidne fire for the law too. In how to be the for the the law too har too this more for the base the lare terme cotton this more for hobile hurst have terme cotton I thank = night before last was spendice 2 the alvace I dat the a deck a lay time triging lugue. 2 heart art about 2, this a.m. and it was very beautiful under the late monlight There are half Doz. Hier + 2a Location on board berieles our part- I the Boats crew = Us are maiting there um at Dag Kurer Ran for a Refer. I wish the unue living top - I pour very day more aucrim to be howen and barned -

Lat mon. nor. 4. = Mobile - Us have had about 12 a day and in mobile, but have milter the Schooler had a very large meeting of the Colored people . us Mart for M. Orleans today & will arrive there, If the unice rante through Sake Pauchetian towanas morning at 6= I hope us tall las a pleasanter Labbath than last This is a large "?: Uniquied of the har & Mutubeluce in thisks Better have been burned to the grand of the Rebels are to rule here as they bid fair to now: I will have this for the mail with much love · Rin fance

Maple. We Shart for M. Cale on hard & and lotersman and must at be I have that the ating a della all

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

half to lead the city of a legta, transform I som brook , f sappon , & Mr. yo an days & leaders & here grow there to there of the delige I have I that have a set Citation and the citation of t

Dearert Dearert Dearert Dearert Jake Mashington, Judie hain La, Nov. 5, 1805. We are fast hearing h. O. by the take saile. It is 101/2 P.M. Let. Enering - The moon is very bright and the air is cool the gaile along very higg Must reach an an charage very Ears in the Moning - One trip from Mobile less been ser places. aut. We have a thig Herald of the 28th altand have been strating that the mobile I R. O. papers pretty well. Our has mitten a long letter to his home this seeing the blunch is not very well = I have been withing and the Substance of a currention between Olis 2 a Dr. hote of Mobile, whom we visited after the multing last Encing - He is a Rebel of the neal tiresh nost influentice & neart hinforderet kind. Im aylit, have been among the crawde of rearren Who liver round the closs to lister while

the Conversation new yoing on - De hote fail among other things that the Resident night to have prochained a general levernesty to all the Day that he came with office! He still believes in State right + Starry 2 Speaks of an houest, high spiriters people, Which he says this conjured will feel towards their augueron as do the Frish, the Poles & the Vericians - higgers are an inferior race & must be kept down a Glemmatere - He und prefer the latter - He Said & Olis, What Ou you here for dictuting to our people ? Our replied, I are here because I have just ar yood a right in the State of ala. is you a any other man "2c - The De seems I be a highy Educated gentleman - Itis have ner a model of richness & laste - He was a different man altogether when us saw him in hashingher at the Presen office ! They have got his medical College for

Colned Lebools - Theres the rub! Ins hope to reach the cip by be lesta, tomorrow It go to meeting - I will be the More 2 Town. Hood, I sappose, I'lle yo an , in one of these three for mipififie Theamers hundley - It will take us &. dup & leairo 2 how from there to Woolington if We have no accident a unecepay delip - I hope I shatt have to the in M. best under like to apist des in his Repeat to Congress the made no Dec = I norder hen ny three Darling are tought give much live to frind po Grandina - he got a Dispatch from Charles at Larannak todaj - O what a pen!

To: Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-146

Source: Bowdoin

On Board Steamer Convoy Lake Ponchetrain La,

[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 spriited people, which he says tho' conquered will feel towards their conquerors as do the Irish, the Poles & the Venicians - Niggars 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

Mar Coleans La Nov. 5 " 1813 Si Rishing to Hold an Interier With your I dome this manner the most appropriate for the Occasion, The association Which I am Troudent of - Prahing to render their fart felt thanks to you has theren mas one of the Commettee to represent them - (You Bull Hear beneral rein for gunthe Semants their Somere athank, Athen Bearing . for the marner Bruch you have londucted the Bureau of Theodown Since for have been in Charge of Souch Burraw. Hoping that It may be concluded In Jame manner as Tong as the fole. Well theappress the Policy of the government Relative to The predman. At Remain Twy Beepectfully To Major Ismonal. O. Monard Commun of Foodman Hody Howy Jay almon Some Belif association Organysed June 3th 1813

a Change Maline to theld and Baterien Mitte Une I denother month the most fair when to the Oracio Vie anaton Pharles Jam's Cuelors of Proling andle thous Hart full thanks the well attern In as a of the Committee to express theme from Ball in lance and and the manned Wheel In here land 1 11.3 in million and 878121

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

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

RBH-147

New Orleans 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.

Friv Orleans la. Friv Orleans la. For Mishing to hola an Interest with Gon J. deem this nearmer the Prost appropriate for the occasion the association of Which. Fan, President of Wishing to render. their Heart felt thanks to the chosen Man. of the Commette to represent them you mill please General review from your Hemble Servant the sincert Heartfell Blessing's for the Manner Which you have conducted the Buisines Theedines ames you have been in Charge of the Beaureau Hoping that It May be conductor In the same, Manner as long as the Rebels mill Disaprove of the Policy of the Goverment Ja Temain very , respectfully Gour Humble Dervant Ebenezer Haywood Resident, Lutheren Beneva al To Major General of Cutheren Bened all. Ammission of Reedman Organicad 1st 1891



188 11/6/1865 *From:* Ebenezer Haywood

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

RBH-148

New Orleans 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 committe 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 disaprove 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 coluce Schools in holeany I they run as good as my whites deads that I her Sen - We had a meeting of all the leading rinfluential colored men an Wite men came to see Our = no mile Stop at Tickstay where us afrect to Onie bourne night & ville go en north for there in the cars of the get on these Boats. If not vir will yo to baiso & there lake the tais for nashington hovelling night 2 day - am night are very cold but I have seen no Signs of fort get - Thurand of pon cilored people will saffer temps, When the minter fairly cames an They now live almost altogether out of door = funday I heard the Celebatic De, Valuer preach an & cellent Sermen in the lext - Daples not Chief & have Saffered there things & to Eula mite his gloss - the have a good audience in fine Clunch = The Linth is fast getting with bor old map in all thing the fit is sequely Glass; - with much line firm me & Chin Romland

near Baton Rouge La UN. 7. 1865 - = My dear Mother We are at last homenand bound 2 I must say I am not song. for neshuchie as it certains is a have in the South, it is at present very far from pleasant, But the Palace of a Steamer makes it more to them any other node that us have tried - he left h, Orlang last hering about be O'clock - We arrive there at 1. Lunday norming, coming accorp the Lake from Mobile & Lakeport & then & miles by R.R. to the lif : We Mopped at the lif- Hotel but did not see the Morse till just before We lift, His nife is at the north. He received nos sey cudials & misisted on our Stapping longer. He tags he has lost a good deal by the new but is in a fair rug to regain It again. He is even non a very rich man. Toresin Hendeeran Woodman Called to tee nes: He says he has just puid a 13000 Montgage on Olivers Real Estate 2 is typing to get it mite his popepsin - His Low had your With for his mother = He says he lost you

Steamer W. R. arthur. near Batin Raye La

Bales of Colten by the Mar = We did not see Waren Wood man for wer did not go toteusacola Where he was . He left Tallahapee 10, days hopere us annieu there - The Boat hearbles to that I can't mile very well = Otis had a great meeting of the colored people in N.O. & all the Juspen spoke of it in the highest terms - the seems to make friends where we gaves the Laid ysterday morning, this Shured he his test for the day - When a man mags please the Lad, he make the seev his mensies & he at prece with him": I fear Heavy Strucon will die of Cuescuption huger lang- lite is not so well as when we left Mashington & Chighes levilly nights - Otis 2 I are both very well indeed - I wish you were with In now on this Boat - It is unlike any of over Seamboats 2 of course there is no Lea" The Rooms are large & airy, the Salloons well Junished - the table neater I better appointed than any us have had - There are 50, Deck hands & as many as 25. parters & perhaps 200 popengers = Ws pay are fare & that Auchudes our rubsistance = I tan serven gandling last night fa the fish time

in my life - Their proposing was anfece as they sat at the table with their cards I bank bills = Sid I lete you that this t Charles seen Everett Bridgham at Vamunal. He was a number of the 12" mer, Reg, & lothing My well : Bar to return to the Boat There is a large Bar. a Barbers Shop - & Spacins Ritchen plent of ree - but heres a landing & I much look ashine - no I win't as it is end one of these little places where an flat bottomere Steamer glides with the Much to land papergers I have been no wharfs upon the times but the Loft mud dues instead : In loo miles this Kine merages 120, gr. deep - Ho canech is not mifter than the Kennebec apparently 7 of M. Orleans, Ir does not seen mider than What Kiner of Bath. The nater is muddy today. I the Banks Selden over 6. to 16. feet high then Curres, the mud hall now marched are called the Lever, which keeps the water of the Kantalines. We have been repor the fille Huere most of the Mining where we cauld See the country-We have seen swang splendide mausions a the figur Mantalians = I monder if they will all go down with Slavery =

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

Wext to the Colored Curve a delegation of the Original white terrior men of R.O. - Their noi are small, their habits of the Supprimits intense their dis appointment with regard . to the Presidents course bitter - They say, we cannot live here unlep, there Kebels are robuball a we are protected by military face - all the Unospopers spoke well of Our + his thuch. He said day before yester day. this shall be my text for the day. "When a mans mays plean the Luce he maketh Ben his sumies 4. he at perce with him " He seems A thenine the buth of it can timmaly. An has more & free pour Mashington than Elsewhere. Ma More, proprieter of un avtil & hanc's Lather ops nife's 120. Antoxicated - He ver sey contial insisted ne our staging longer - They say he has periodien times of hard-drinking- I am say song for it will vierense on him & he will Syram der life spropers- He is unch half a million. Sup he pap 1100% per year laxes on his Partland House - I thought he uner grie and whole part- then Noter Bill. He my did it to Olis - Our Cresin Henderan Moodman Came to see us, He is getting Oliver's Estate into his hands & gettingready

Hational "Freedmans' Sabings and Trust Company," AMERICAN EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING, Dearest - No. 87 CEDAR STREET, There Scoeded Mr. NEW YORK, Nov. E. 1865. What a good deal about spicing his poper in the above manner! This is Olis birthday 2 we have Um been on this Book skine 40, hours, paping our time say pleasant, Especially as our faces are now themed howevard - My last letter to you was mailed the day Lunday how 3) that he arrived in R.O. : that morning after a pleasant miterien with Gev Sheriden, who is Shorter & fatter 2 heartier than Otis , we went to hear De, Faluren preach. It was a five large well finished afarinshed Church. a full & good looking angregation and a Capital Christian Lernan delivered without notes of any kind - While mailing for Can Hang + & Walked down to the Lerce & caught our first glimpse of the Father of Water - I did not seem much miler than the Remeter at Bath 2 it was difficult to realize that to many Unsands of miles of Rivers ofthe arus had here there outles & the Ocean: But & Milet letter us lead the Kirer averages 120 ft, in depth for

Hanner W. R. arthur Kear Matches

boo miles from the month of the to see Where you this used to lay, but think 2 didn't get down for anyth as these enormous Steamers Cundere the Bauch. There here no real What's pleve us were lefter meeting & Dimes Heavy asked we to go with him and see his dec prien house lefter same walking, us came to the great tarish Friam where he was comprised for four Months = It is now used for alling cuininale. but the total the turkey his Enand for uese admitted. We went to the granite have court where they I coured their bone burawhet in the pare ments, 2 then up to the small noom where 16, of them slept A night upon a hard flow you can suragine with What milerest he regarded the place. He that mehin by climbing they cured just see the top of one spire = In the hering there was an numero meeting of colored people at the aleans theatre. Mh aboud has laten sery sich & I remained with frim in our 200m - Oter Harry came in about 10, 2 total us of the Euchusiasmi ac = By the May at a great wire hing in Mobile Olis Called on me to and heaven my God to thee & please I samp it -2 thas honified by the rapturous applause of m Colned hetheren . Mh alroad was better Munday

And we took an fembrelance and Meited serve 12, a 14, A Schools. & Gound them Equal in all respects to the graded Schools of the North - Acept that they had not gone so for - The Fluvol Rooms are news 2 well contrined and the ladies .- many of them being Louthern lachies - seen devoted to their work - On an return to the Bureau Office. We found a large delegation of the colored Beveroleut Societies (90, in no:) haiting upon Blis -We had a very interesting with mith them I oue which I can vere forget. They appeared to be much above the general witelligence of the Common people at the Herth - among them were solon. many Ministers Bankers Jone With 300,000) Jeachers I others = Low new on white as I am. I thill in the Eye of Locies & the Law, they are "niggars" - you Conedit help tears, I know, when you shared hear them thesh feely of their mongs & their hopes for themselves & their children = They deceive the whites around them. have secret spociations, methods of communicating intelligence de - Unlef the are recognized a given their rights, they will form a very dangerow Clap in Sociel = They are Jubdued, docile, Levile han. but hey day tidel to their melependence & Manlinefs 5

Us theat to arrive at Wickebury & townon Moning & will leave the Boat there ago ner to Jacksen - and if us can get until K.R. my nor return to the River - This is a flow the pleasant may of journiging = 2 verer ran gambling till night before lash I verer nunt to see it again - There is a good deal of land playing , I presume, gambling in the other End of the Cabin with The laction have a piano but do not play it march, but play cards instand - the almet is miling ? Our is reading Multer Scotts "Betrothed" at the other side of this thinky after I will muil this, with 14 pages to Charlos + 4, & mother at Vickoburg, when We go ashore = Dadie uneer he delighted with this great Boot - Wis nice & "Securper" on 2 the Engines se are very underfue & the little ones - I did not theep well last myber no let Breakfast this morning & feel lips like Dinner . We have had too good living & too lettle service an Board, that is the great houble - Are they Came to lake this for a Duner Lable In I must bil you good by with all my heart

Die & lete jon Our slehne les tem another of our precifiational "Freedmans' Sabings and Crust Company," a member of the AMERICAN EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING, got abrane our Steamer about 35. St CEDAR STREET, " get under get With Six & then around to New YORK, and Wadded wood till. 9 = Our first swing a bould nos sey pleasant + Entertaing = Mr have good large ling rooms - a cubin, or Salvon that much he so, feet lay, well carpeted & liphlie - by have good I recleanthy Lerred meals = These are included in our face then the Beat is a uned in itself= Besides our teabin with the latties at the other End, with it's 130 papengers, that is another doch where there are many colored prople & Loldiers - And another above ty where the great folles of the Colored have rooms & where the officers of the Boat leave quarters - Then above all is the Vilor Kause, culled Texas = There are at least 30, dech hances 2 they are driven about like so many cattle, then we have a large Ritchen. 20, parters - Barbers Shop - a Bar, Un Office 20 : The Brat is not built a a hubslan. lind runner- all the partitions are this strong fact of ber theher with the laber of our most nois Engine. That will partially acets for the looks

I this minting ! - her take 73- couls of hord on at shingle time and her take could by lashing a "feat" (gondola) along side. This "flat" has floated all the may from titte burg Pa. 2 a no: 4 hen are lied up to the view bank till a Summer cures alongs fugs a load = I's have a board a bund of fire negro minstiels. a quitai, haujo, two molius 2 + base tid - They time 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 nor having a laly, my mpe I mean : a notice over their Cabin reach as follows an gentlemen whent buches admitted. This is the first place that you could Endance in all an haveling, I time I this with filing of money, realling, music & Locies much suit mu hactly - One luly hus 4, hilthe childhen=? sent for the tealy- about this agent had a good flag with him jester day = langes have opened all their hearts to to . They left us at Natchez this morning = gesterday morning us had for a long may five views of the celebrated Jugar Wantations with their noble Melusain horses & scent cluster of negro Cabries. Love of the Unice appeared in the distance this " a glap

A be the most Elegant private residences that I have seen seen - They are unlike the wordern houses on the Huteron Verice. But many of them have lofty filland & Colanades and seen more clapic . If I could deparate Sarry from them, the whole Scene unede he beautiful indeed : Otis nos with us for a ling time Berlorking the County from the Leras "- Hetelles Der his Campaigns, ques lis sileas of allette Officers sugared in the man, : O, by the may us Jan Boygs at M.O. . He was at the Hotel table When he apohe with him & after nancy came note our room. He is in an hprep there, his family in Baltimare - has & Children - is not changed, Sap he sujoyed the war but had but I cents when Sich Jugler Lorrendered at threeefeart 2 he came to N.O. with his family. He wears his de lang Overcoat - is just be front & proud spirited as her - He was Big. Gen. in Reh any = I didut see for Hook at all, I was so busy. and wase than that I didn't get you mip. I hier I nalked miles in probile but, it duit gun on the trees in the Cig- I my mistake may in leaving Tallahafree without it. I am very sory= Heavy seems a little better twill be los keen on the River:

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