

Well Mr. Massey I saw John
Munkland to day.

Petersburg June 5th

M^r. Bernard

Know how to appreciate letters received when from home I will not delay answering your letter, delivered by M^r. Edwards on yesterday. I judge from your writing that "Standing Guard" had given you the "blues". For I never saw you so cast down. You wrote in just the style of a man who had been "kicked," but I knew no such misfortune had befallen you. Who could discard a town when he has gone to defend his country! I could only think you had been meditating too deeply on the evil consequences

that might accrue to you and
your country in the impending
conflict. As to you I don't think
the Lincolnites will have a chance
to shoot at you, so if you don't die
of yellow fever you may expect to
return home safe. Joking aside,
if - or rather when you return home
you will find that we ladies
will appreciate you much
more highly - Must stop, being in-
terrupted by the boys. You see
we can "make a raise" even
in war times. - - -
Those of you who come back, and
I hope that may be all, will be
more of men I think than you would
have been in ten years of the
usual life of young men. And
while you are learning life's lessons
in the battle field, we, or rather



some of us are learning to
fill the situation as man's
"help-mate" more fully than we
would ever have learnt it unless
after many years of trouble. We find
out the true merits of you our
~~our~~ "lords and masters." We
will make better friends, better wives
and better sisters when all of this
is passed, and our Southern Confed-
eracy fully established. You think
it would be supposing the President
and Cabinet of the U. S. to be the
wisest fools who ever lived, to
think they did not intend to
subdue and hold in subjugation
the people of the South, if possible,
I think differently. It is now that
the head of authority is undoubtedly
a blockhead. But some of the
Cabinet are smart men. And



they will prove it when they
decided it will not be
profitable to have to subdue so
"blood thirsty" (as they term us) a people
as the Southerners. The Congressmen
will shew them that each state
is not a gold mine at the com-
mand of the president. I guess you
hear enough on that subject from
the soldiers.

Moccie says it is a mistake
she has no intention of marrying
now, that she wishes to wait until
some of the Petersburg boys come back
and catch one of them. She
sends regards. Mattie sends love.
Says present her regards to her friends.
Though I said the ladies had im-
proved. I think they need the gentle-
men here to keep them from spending
all of their spare time in gossiping.
Some of the ladies, my honored
self among the number, have been



most unmercifully rated in
reference to the Southern soldiers
passing through our City. I con-
fess some of the ladies have
been impudent, but some have
as I know done one tenth as
bad as they are said to have
done. I understand that of
all the ladies I have credit
for being the leader in the
highly improper things that have
been done. Those that follow my
lead are Miss Jennie Rowlett
and Miss Bevie Foster neither
of which ladies have I ever spo-
ken to at the Depots, or any oc-
casion when soldiers are about.
I even hear that I am in the habit
of kissing the soldiers. There was



a most beautifully arranged
tail circulated around some
time since. There was some foun-
dation for it, but so beautifully
embellished that it was equal
to any of Mr. Southworth's romantic
love tail. The facts as I heard
them were, as follows, Miss Pattie
Cowles was at the Depot to see
the South Carolina Soldiers, and
gave her regret to one of them and
afterwards sent him her card
asking his in return, which when
she received she kissed and clasped
to her heart. After he had taken
breakfast he came up to her. He took
her hand in his and asked her
to go in to the parlor with him alone,
which she did and remained
there an hour and a half, came
out and went down town

with him in a hack. The gentleman (!) who told this says he was witness to all except what passed in the parlor. How he could have witnessed any thing of the sort I don't know, but of course I would not pretend to doubt his word. As I remember the events, I sent my bouquet by a married gentleman when he was standing over two hundred yards from me. The gentleman who delivered it did not at my request tell him from whom it came. He afterwards sent me his card and ^{sent word} ~~said~~ he would be pleased to have mine which at the solicitations of several friends I sent. When the gentleman, whose name is Pringle, came up from breakfast he came up to where I was standing with a lady friend



and one of our ministers and
began conversation with all
three of us, and staid with us
in the same spot until they
were called into line preparatory
to going to the other depot. The rest
of the stories told are of the same
nature. I heard yesterday that the Misses
Bransford & myself met some of the slaves
soldiers on the street and afterwards
wrote them a letter which they answered
The soldiers were those I wrote you
of my last. The letter we wrote was
a note requesting them to accept
a basket of provisions we had
fixed for them and carried to
the depot. This letter was a note
stating how much they enjoyed
the basket when they reached their
quarters at the Richmond Fair
grounds and had ^{else} nothing to
eat. It may surprise you that I
wrote these to you probably uninter-
esting details. But I did not know

That the Gentleman, who interests
himself so much in my affairs,
might be able to keep from writing
to some of his friends in Norfolk
or even get there himself, and
as my character for prudence
is not very good, I thought it
would be best to let you, whom
I know to be a friend of mine
have all the points so as to
be able to defend me if the
reports should reach your
quarters. The ladies home guard
was so completely corrupted
from what I thought to have
it, that I have quietly ~~dropped~~
dropped it. It seems that
the gentleman have talked
about it in an outrageous man



ner, for one told his wife that
if the young ladies knew how
the gentlemen talked about them
they would be ashamed of
the "ladies home guard".
I have not seen your friend Dr
Boyd for some time. He is still
in the city though. No man
in citizen's dress dares to visit
ladies now. The "Cockade Cadets"
turned out this evening in
full uniform for the first
time. It look ridiculous to see
John Boisseau and several others
about his standing in short jacket.
I think it would be advisable for me to
close for you will never get through. My
requests to be remembered to you, I fear
Mrs Henry will not be able to go to join
you soon. Mrs Williel & John Ken will be
here as soon as possible. Present my
regards to all my friends. We think
of you all very often.
My true & sincere regards to our friends.
In much love your friend P. B. Cowles.