And pretty soon, too.

General Grant has arrived at Washington, and I suppose will take some weeks to master the situation. During which time the army will be put into condition to make the spring campaign. I am afraid Grant, that will soon begin to come, will be too much for me to have been a mis-take to bring them away from the western army, whose confidence he had completely to take charge of all the military operations. He will not be un-trammelled, and will be anything be devilled by the politicians. I do not think him a great military genius by any means. While away from Washington, and in intimate influence, he did excellent by well. Now come, the time of trial. He will be tried up as a dis-eliminated by many. There have been be-

Natchez, March 1865

My dear brother,

The war has been so much

delayed, disarranged, and may, which I propose to continue this evening by writing to you. In your last you ask about the insurance on our house. I do not think the policy expires until next year. You have the policy however, and can look at it and ascertain. It will not cost much to renew it, should it be necessary.

We received a very fine celery from Mr. Gates and was without end the deliciousness of the day. Not the satisfaction of knowing that we had it from celery on our table in the President's himself. I need not assure you that we enjoyed it exceedingly, none of us having tasted any
yet before, you see they must be much more so now. I shall be very sorry, but not much disappointed if yet nothing. Perhaps the bill may be amended in the Senate, & c., to have a bill or two; if it should be, I shall do all I can to get the place, but without much hope of succeeding, as I am not much of a beggar, and somehow cannot influence people with instructions for my own advancement. The only reason I have been anticipating for some time appears to have set in at last. We have already had enough to make the council feel, and it is likely they will soon be well nigh impossible. They will certainly be so bad as to prevent military operations for some time, unless we have allying or extraordinary help at the fall.