

[LETTER 2]

Natchez April 4<sup>th</sup> 64

Dear Belle

At last I am about fixed in my new quarters though I must say I have had a hard time doing it. I selected the residence of a Dr. Holcomb[?] now occupied by a Mrs. Gillespie who has just taken possession of it. She is bitterly opposed to my quartering with her but I gave her to understand that she had nothing further to look forward to but the occupation of a part of her establishment My bed room is quite Handsomely furnish and altogether I can't say I have any thing to complain of Gen Tuttle has given me command of all the forces both on this side and the other side of the river. I now have about 5000 men under my orders. Kinney gave a big Dinner to Gen Thomas last night. Of course I was on hand and made a speech which was much applauded. Gen Thomas has promised to urge my appointment as Brigadier I hope it will come one of these days Things don't look so nice as they did when you left. Mrs Lock[?] is staying at the old place and now occupies the dining room. My groceries have in no wise become molested. I found Frank at his post keeping guard over the property. Annies M\_\_\_ & looking superbly. She is the admiration of every one. Poor Annie how glad her heart would be could she have Maj B with her this summer. Tell her that I keep Browner[?] only in trust and that the time will come when she can \_\_\_ him once more. I was amused at Mrs. Gillespie claiming relationship with a negro Col Truly he must be getting up when I can't better rebels as she comes down to that The rebels were reported coming in to town this morning but the rumor proved false All the soldiers have been determined to fight under the black flag. There will be no more

prisoners taken around[?] \_\_\_\_\_ now. I am  
glad of it. I think I would just as soon  
fight that way as any other. I suppose that by this  
time you have made your arrangements for a  
move I send up to John the money I loaned Lester  
His brother paid the note. I hope to be paid in a few  
days and will be enabled to send up several  
hundred dollars. I shall board at Barney  
at \$8 per week which is cheaper than keeping  
House. Every thing in the shape of edables[*sic*] has  
risen enormously in price chickens one dollar  
a piece and other things in proportion  
McConnell[?] is still here. He talks of  
going north in a few days. He certainly has  
gone down about as fast as any man. I know  
of as now days that he is going on Blairs staff  
He asked particularly after you and the  
children My poor darling little ones I do  
hope they are well I often think of them  
and wonder if they are well Kiss them  
for me. You must make yourself comfortable  
this summer Get good rooms and live like  
a lady I shall write to Annie in a day or  
two after I have got settled in my  
new home. I hope Clark will come down  
I think I can get him a situation as Quarter  
Masters clerk at this post. I shall speak  
to Capt Costin about it tomorrow and  
if not that I think I have an other thing  
on hand a little better. Good night my  
own dear child your Binnis heart  
yearns towards you tonight. O that  
I had you here for a few minutes My  
own dear darling I send you a fond loving  
kiss.

Ever fondly your  
Binni