gates of Mobile & withdrawing a considerable Army from Sherman's front at Chattanooga.
Sherman has asked for an armistice from the 3rd to the 5th to complete his preparations at
Dalton. He says that Thomas' and Schofield's Army will be within one day's march of Dalton
by tonight, and that McPherson will be on time.

A little after midnight as I was writing
these last lines, the President came into
the office laughing, with Thoby's works in his hand
to show me the new caricature "An Unfor-
tunate Beeing," seemingly utterly unconscious
that he was his short shirt hanging about his long
legs & eating out behind like the tail feathers
of an enormous ostrich was infinitely
funnier than any in the book he was
laughing at. That is now it is. Occupied
all day with matter of vast moment, deeply anx-
ious about the fate of the greatest Army of the world,
with his own face of true hanging on the events of the
passing hour, he yet has such a wealth of
simplicity & knowledge so good fellow ship that he gets
out of bed and persuaded the house to his
shirt to find us that we may share with
him the fruits of one of your Hood’s queer letter
conceits.

May 4th.

Last evening Grant telegraphed that he was across
the Rapids at 1 o’clock. Wished Butler the 20
before. Butler said the evening before “I am ordered
to move at 8 A.M., tomorrow I shall obey the order.”

This evening while I was sitting in the par
room, came in Geo. Clay, Mr. & Ashley. They were
talking about some matters I defer into politics. Clay
said nothing except Lincoln. Ashley did not
join in his adhension, but denounced the Fremont. Cleveland
movement as foolish and minors: he said that
Fremont was in New York personally soliciting signatures
to the Cleveland call. That he sent for him. Ashley
The w'd not go to see him; that Fremont was
an ass &c. That when he was a candidate in
56 at first no one imagined he was going to be
elected. He was nominated because they did not
want to damage a better man by leaving him better.
but that before the canvass ended they feared it.