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Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp Stoneman, DC, *{Saturday}* February 13<sup>th</sup> 1864  
Quartermasters Office, Supply Train 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps

Dear Brother Frank,

You must not be surprised at my not writing oftener for I have not had the conveniences I would like. But now I have got my tent warmed up so I thought best to address you a few lines by way of a slant. You may not be aware of the fact that I am at Washington, DC. If not, I now respectfully inform you that I am or near there and I am only two miles out of town. I arrived the 31<sup>st</sup> of January and made my headquarters the first two days at the Metropolitan Hotel on the renowned Pennsylvania Avenue, and from there I quartered myself comfortably at the European Hotel, three doors above Willard *{Hotel}* on the same street. I stopped in town ten days and the last three days I have been here at Camp Stoneman or Giesboro *{Cavalry Depot}*. I visited the Capitol Building and concluded after looking at it inside and out that ~~after see~~ a man that would not fight for that house was no man at all. Well, I guess I saw enough of Washington, or will before I leave, to remember some of it. I went to the President's Reception one night, shook hand with Mr.

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*{President Abraham}* Lincoln and bowed to Mrs. Lincoln, and got into the greatest crowd of extravagantly dressed ladies I ever got among yet. After walking, or rather crowding, from one room to another I found myself back where I started glad to find myself whole for I do believe it was the greatest crowd I ever got in. I then went back to my hotel and from there I do not remember where I did go, whether to bed right away or to a restaurant to eat oysters or on down to 280 13<sup>th</sup> Street; however, I was in my own room at the 12 midnight. I only found two men that I ever was acquainted with outside the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps, and that was the Hon. *{Representative}* J*{ohn}* F*{letcher}* Driggs and son. They reside at the Washington House on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street & Pennsylvania. I have been to all the theaters, at least four, that is, Grover's, Ford's, Oxfords, and Canterbury *{Hall}*. The two last do not amount to much but to sell drinks, but Grover's and Ford's are good. Pennsylvania Avenue on a pleasant day is full, at least the sidewalks and streetcars are, with pretty women. All of those streets where they keep open late nights are well represented and. Perhaps you do not understand what I mean, so I will speak plainer. I mean that there is any amount of ladies of easy virtue to be seen parading their fine clothes and fancy hats. You must not think that I patronized them for I did not, but were

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severely tempted, too. (Stand them on their heads, I mean.) I have been abundantly supplied with cards from about a hundred and 29 of those fancy

creatures. How so many lives I don't see, but they do. Nashville, Tennessee, has the most beauty of the two cities and as many of them. Louisville {KY} and Cincinnati, Ohio, are not behind much and a soldier can easily get rid of his greenbacks and get the ?????? if he does not look sharp. We had a cold time on our way around here and it is not much warmer yet. I believe I never saw colder weather. The Potomac {River} is froze over and is delaying the embarkation of our troops at Alexandria {VA}. Only one division and part of another have got away yet.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, which is in the advance, has landed at Fort Fisher, {Wilmington,} North Carolina, where the others will follow and I follow them with the transportation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. I have now a train of 90 wagons to take with me. I have plenty of business to keep them at work and feed them. When we get to our destination I shall get rid of some of it. I have now all the trains and wagons allowed the whole division and when we get organized I will have a corps train instead of division. The division supply trains will be done away with and made into a corps supply train. While coming through Ohio I stopped over one day at Columbus and part of a day at Newark, Ohio. At the latter place a Sanitary Fair was in session which I attended for curiosity, it being the first I had ever saw, but had read of them in the newspapers.

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So I got my friend Lieutenant R. H. Mullins ?????? a companion and associate for the last eight months and we went to see it. We paid 25 cents to go in. Well, when we got in we were besieged by pretty girls some wanting us to take chances in boxes of cigars and albums, pictures, pyramid cakes and other things too numerous to mention. We took a hundred chances before we left for we had not the heart to refuse their solicitations as long as they would talk to us for we had been so long out of female society. We hardly knew how to act but to do as they requested. Jerusalem! How I did want to take one in my arms. As it has been so long since I had any arms around a woman I have a desire to once more try my hand at embracing. Well, everything was lovely but the goose did not hang up and we got notice that the cars were ready to move and we tore ourselves away. Well, how does our venerable uncle get along getting a young wife? Has he found one yet or is he yet trying to make enemies of the young men of the city by trying to entice some school girl to share his bed? As you have excited my curiosity in that direction, please let me know how things progress.

I am getting along with my three years right smart if you have what that is. I have but little more than seven months yet to serve when I can wear citizen clothes again. How does it seem to realize yourself a citizen. or had you rather be a soldier? If it was not for my wife and little one I think I would stay in the army, but I will not on their account. Well, Frank, I will not write much more, only the winding up part, that is, my respects to all inquiring friends. Remember me to Sant & Lucy, also Father and Sarah. Write often, and all the news of interest while I remain as ever,

Your Affectionate Brother,  
D. D. Keeler  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and A A. QM

Camp Stoneman D.C. February 13<sup>th</sup> 1864  
I.M. Office Supply Train 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. 23<sup>rd</sup> Co  
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yet trying to make enemies of the young men of the City by trying  
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I am getting along with my three years well I must if you know  
what that is or I have but little more than seven months yet to serve  
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yourself a citizen, or had you rather be a soldier. If it was not  
for my Wife and little one I think I would stay in the army  
but I will not on their account. Well Frank I will not  
write much more only the winding up part that is my respects  
to all inquiring friends Remember me to Aunt & Lucy also Esther  
and Sarah. Write often and all the news of interest. While I  
remain as ever your Affct Brother

Wm Peeler

St Paul N. B. M.