

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 11th 1865 #2.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Steamship Oriental, Beaufort Harbor, North Carolina
{Saturday} March 11th 1865

Dear Sister,

I hope you will excuse me for not writing oftener and not think that I have forgotten you and not caring to hear from you, for the delay in my writing. I write to Susan so often and knowing that you hear through her from me so often that I have kept putting it off from time to time until now. Well, it is better late than never and so I do not expect any censure at this late hour. I just arrived here this evening from Washington *{DC}* after a seven day voyage. I have been tossing about the Atlantic Ocean during the last four days in a hard storm and gale of wind kicking up some big seas which we weathered out well without any accident and without being seasick. I saw a Monitor in

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out at sea and in the gale and I tell you it was a sight to see the little thing go under every sea and sweep her decks fore and aft. Well, I have lived pretty well since I left Tennessee. I have eat all the oysters I want which I assure you was no small amount. I got them fresh right out the shell. I would buy them by the bushel and get a knife and open and eat at my leisure. I tell you what that I have feasted on them and why should I not when I am where they grow and the cheapest thing to live on here. Well, as it is getting late and as I was up nearly all night last night on lookout for my mules for fear of any accident and I need rest when I can get it. My kindest regards to all retaining a good share for yourself. Write soon, good night. I am ever

Your Affectionate Brother,
D. D. Keeler



Steam Ship Oriental Beaufort Harbor N.C.
March 11th 1865

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J. J. Wheeler