

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 11th 1865 #3.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Page 1:}

Later

Steamship Oriental, Beaufort, North Carolina

{Saturday} March 11th 1865

Dear Wife,

As I have just arrived I thought I would add a few lines more to let you know that I have arrived safe and let you know that I did not have as pleasant a voyage as I anticipated. I wrote the accompanying letter while the wind was fair and every prospect of continuing so while I was on it, but where within 30 thirty miles of our destination a gale sprung up and we had to put before it to sea and was unable to make this harbor until now. I have weathered out a severe gale without being seasick and I tell you it was grand a sight I never will forget and the grandest sight of all was a Monitor in tow of a gun boat yesterday in the gale. Every sea washed clear over her and I never shall forget how it looked. I was glad I was not in a Monitor. Our vessel stood it without any accident except

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the loss of six mules which we buried at sea. I have had excellent health all the time and it seems that I can eat everything I can get hold of. I had the sickest lot of men you ever saw and some of the ~~seardest~~ most frightened, too, and now they are glad to be in still water. Well, I never want to go to sea with a cargo of mules again for I pitied the poor brutes rolling about in the bottom of the ship. I will write more when I land and find out what I am to do and where I shall go. I write now so as to mail this at the earliest possible chance, so be of good cheer and believe me that I am a lucky man and will see you at the end of my time in the army. I am ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

Later

Steam Ship Oriental Beaufort NC
March 11th 1865

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I am as ever your Affectionate Husband
J. S. Kuler