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 11<sup>th</sup> 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

## {Page 2:}

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 scardest 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 belive 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

Saler Hearn Ship Oriental Beaufort MC March 11th 1865 Down Wife Ces Chave just arrived Thought I would add a few lines more to let you know that I have arrived safe, and blekyou know that Ddid not have as pleasant a voisge as I anticipated I wrote the accompanying letter white the wind was fair and every prospect of continuing so while I was on it but when within It therty miles of our destination a Gale spring up and we had to put before it to sea and was unable to make this harbor until now, I have weathered out a squere gale without being seadick and Itell you it was grand a sight Onever well Songet, and the grandest sight of all was a monitor in low of a gun Boat yesterday in the Gale every shar washed clear over her and I never shall forget how it looked I was glad I was not in a Monator Quer bessel Stood it without any account except

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