

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 4th 1865.tif"  
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

*{Page 1:}*

On Board Steamship Oriental  
Arsenal Wharf, Washington, DC  
*{Saturday}* March 4<sup>th</sup> 1865

Dear Wife,

I hastily write these few lines to let you know that I will soon be off from this city and on my way to join the the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps with my train. I have this minute finished loading and am all ready to start for my part and only await the motion of the captain of the ship. I am well as usual and I hope this will find you all the same.

Today has been a great day in Washington. President Lincoln was re-inaugurated today. I was too busy to see it done and to see the display and procession, but I do not care if I did not for I have seen processions before,

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at least I have seen troops march by the flank and wagon trains without end, which I am sure is a larger procession than has marched up Pennsylvania Avenue. The city is full of people to see the inauguration and all of the hotels are crowded, streets also. I have been here in this city one month and four days and I am glad that I am going away from it.

I do not know what hour I shall sail, perhaps not until tomorrow morning. However, when you get this I probably will be out on the Atlantic Ocean. I have very comfortable accommodations on this vessel, the Oriental. I have the after cabin and a state room, and I get my board for \$2.50 a day. I hope I will not have to pay that long. I expect to be about three or four days going to North Carolina. I am unable to say where I shall land, but will inform you

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as soon as I can after I do land. I do not know what mail arrangements are made for carrying the mail and if you should not hear from me so often as you have lately you will know the reason; it will be because the mail cannot go regular. I have now under my charge on this ship fourteen large sacks of mail for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps to take down to them.

You must not worry about me for I am in a good craft and a large one, too. She draws 15 feet of water light and over 20 loaded, so you can judge for her size. The largest lake vessels only draw 9 or 10 feet loaded Excuse Hasle and a four light. My love to all. Direct as before and remember that I am as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,  
D. D. Keeler

On Board Steam Ship Oriental  
General Messrs Washington DC  
March 4th 1865

Dear Wife I hastily write these few lines to let you know that I will soon be off from this City and on my way to join the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regt with my trunks. I have this minute finished loading and am all ready to start for my part and only await the motion of the Captain of the Ship. I am well as usual and I hope this will find you all the same.

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