



English Settlement  
 Marion Co., Iowa Feb 12<sup>th</sup>  
 1866

My Dear Son

The Iowa General Assembly accepted an invitation from the Produce Exchange of Dubuque, to meet them in Convention on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. To consider the best mode of improving the upper and lower rapids of the Mississippi River. The Assembly adjourned from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. You will think with me that this was a very foolish freak in a Legislative Assembly to dissolve their body and meet as private

Citizens, One half if not two thirds of the Members went home like myself, instead of visiting Dubuque, I had a faint hope of meeting you at English Settlement when I left Des-Moines, In my Journey home I met a Soldier of the 47<sup>th</sup> Illinois who told me he left the 8<sup>th</sup> Iowa V. Volunteer Infantry at Selma Alabama, where they would be kept until Spring at least. The report had got into the New Key that the 8<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry was to be in Iowa by the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. when I reached home I scanned your letter of Jan<sup>y</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> that the Illinois Soldier was correct, so we were all doomed to dissapointment, hope your time will come next, we feel thankfull for the general good health of yourself and comrades in that Southern Clime, Our

Family and Friends are in usual  
Health, I saw your Father and  
Joseph at Church yesterday they  
were well although your Mother  
and Joseph's Wife were ailing  
a little, Mr Jacobs sustains  
himself well among his people  
they appear even more attached  
to him than ever, To morrow  
there is to be a donation party  
at the Church, I hope the good  
people will be liberal Mr Jacobs  
is worthy of it, I intend to return  
to Des-Moines on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst to  
help finish up a large amount of  
Legislation now ready for final  
action, The several standing  
Committees have been hard to  
work for the past five weeks  
maturing Bills for their third  
reading, out of one hundred and  
forty eight members, there is just  
twenty one Copperheads, We have  
already passed several very strong

Resolutions, On the day before  
 me a d journed a resolution was  
 offered instructing our Senators  
 and Representatives in Congress to  
 use their influence to prevent  
 the Southern Members from taking  
 their seats until the right of  
 Suffrage shall be given to the  
 Citizens of said States without  
 regard to color, I fear trouble  
 and bloodshed in ~~Dirig~~ before  
 these rights are guaranteed to  
 the poor of the land, I sent you  
 Gov. Atton's Inaugural it is  
 truly eloquent, and sound to  
 the Core on the right of suffrage  
 I also mailed you several papers  
 and will continue to do so, while  
 the session lasts, The winter has been  
 mild for this climate, To day Mother  
 Earth is covered with snow, but the  
 great orb of day is now too high in the  
 heavens for snow to last long, Sarah and  
 Mother unite in love to you  
 J. M. Miller