invitation is from Col. Whitaker, an old gentleman the head of the family. He lost three sons in the Confed. Army. Having property here, he moved here soon after the surrender. He looks to be about 70 years of age. I don't know what family he has.

The more I see of Davenport, the higher opinion I have of it, as a place of business & trade. A great many buildings are going up in certain parts of the city. A great deal of produce is brought here, to be shipped down & up the river. I saw more onions here one day, than I ever saw in all my life together. They sell at 50cts. per bushel wholesale. I see very fine vegetables and in great abundance. Their wheat is of the Spring variety, and does not look well. Barley is a great crop here.

Law business is said to be brisk here. But there are a great many of the profession in the place. I think it must be a healthy place; but pretty cold in winter. It is very dry. I have seen no rain since I left home, except a little shower as I passed through Western New York, a week ago.

There is a State fair going on, about 30 miles up the river from here; and I would like to go to it, if I could, without fear of losing a chance to sell. I am thus kept here day after day, when it would cost me very little more to travel than it does to stay here. I suppose of course, you have Lucy with you. With sincere prayers for your health & happiness, & sincere love for you all, your affectionate husband

John F. Dent