

Maryville, East Tennessee
Oct. 19th 1869

Mr. Cornell will permit one who has been teacher among the Freedmen in different states, to thus tax his valuable time with a note of thanks that he does not exclude colored persons from the benefits of his University. Seeing the universal horror with which such a suggestion is received in our schools at the south, and yet seeing that "Cornell" has become a subject of interest among the intelligent of these places far beyond my expectations, even, we can but regard this step in your institution as greater than a political victory and an important aid in re-construction, notwithstanding

the fact that a few northern colleges have thus done. That such an institution as yours has taken this step in recognition of the brotherhood of man seems to be of special consequence just now - it is so like the broad shining of the sun whose rays fall upon all with equal cheerfulness - better - it is a feature in resemblance to Him who dispenses His infinite gifts without respect of persons. It is with pleasure, that on returning to East Tennessee, where this Maryville college has struggled so hard, I am able to say that the beautiful University which graces my home has taken this step. "Is that so?" said one of the professors here to me the other day - "I'll tell my boys

that." Another of the professors told me to day that one of its students who was pursuing a theological course - left the college recently - because a colored student was admitted (and there are but three -) A son of Mr. Stokes - (the candidate for governor,) came here recently to enter the college, but finding that two colored students attended, he left in disgust - or rather would not enter - because of the dark fact. Some other white students have been deterred from entering for the same reason. In conclusion may I express the fervent desire that the out-going of Mr. Cornell's heart - and of the faculty - may be for that supremacy of all crowing - expressed by Israel's leader - in the words. Let the beauty of the Lord our

God be upon us."

I am - dear Sir - very truly yours -
Malina Higgins -