

Worcester College  
Feb 10 1868

Esra Cornell Esq.

Dear Sir

I am much gratified at the vein expressed in your letter, and will to say some things to you, which I must request shall be considered Confidential in relation to the "woman" <sup>and, instead of the whole.</sup> subject. I have no fancy for the agitation on the subject, the bad taste always shocks me. But the reasoning on the subject of woman's rights, and their claims, seems to me logical, and in time it must prevail. I consider Worcester College the best institution in the world

of the kind; it is not of  
the right kind. When I  
was laid in Boston I asked  
Dr. Hill Pres't of Harvard  
College "How soon will girls  
enter Harvard College" and  
he replied "The most con-  
servative member of the  
Faculty says 'in 20 years'"

(It is my opinion, that  
if you remove the 'zero' from  
the number of years, you  
will be nearer the truth).

I also asked Prof. Peirce  
the Math. Professor

"If a girl knocks at your  
class room door and asks  
for admission to your class  
what will you do?"

He replied

"I couldn't turn her away  
and I wouldn't"

I should like that an  
Institution starting on  
so broad a foundation  
as the Cornell, should  
take the lead in that  
respect. You perceive, if  
you lead, you must step  
quickly, for the world  
moves.

Next - Your President in  
his speech declares that  
the Institution is to be  
free from sectarian bias.  
Can you keep to that?  
I have never yet seen in  
a College, freedom on re-  
ligious subjects. The College  
of Ann Arbor is, I suppose  
the free-est, but even there  
I suspect, altho' I do not

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knew, they would ask what religious views a Prof. held, before they elected him. Can you elect a professor, without asking that question?

I believe that the cause of true religion is hurt every day, by those narrow lines of distinction, on unimportant points.

Lastly - of the Observatory. I take the liberty of asking you to aim at perfection in the instruments and not at size. Our telescope is  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches object glass - and a very imperfect glass. A perfect glass of half the size would do better work. The air & climate are not good

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enough in our latitude  
for very large instruments.  
There is a limit to the  
increase of telescopes, which  
nature has set up, and  
unless glasses or climates  
improve, it is of no use to  
expect to gain much by  
mere size.

I feel that I should  
apologize to you for so long  
a letter. I have written  
in the hope of doing my  
small bit of good to a great  
undertaking; as I have no  
guilt to be educated and  
no friend wanting a position  
you must give me credit  
for wholly disinterested mo-  
tives. May you be prospered

at every step in the long  
paths on which you have  
entered - Yrs

Marian Mulehete.

Best regards to Mrs Cornele