

Tredonia, N. Y. Mar. 2^d '69.

Mr Ezra Cornell.

Dear Sir.

Your kind letter is received, and I venture to say a word in reply, that you may not think I would wish to urge the admission of girls to the University "before you are prepared to make a success of it." Having as one of the teachers in the new Normal School at Tredonia, seen some of the difficulties experienced in organizing even a Normal School, with the work comparatively so simple, and with other schools of the same character in successful operation, and in most respects worthy of imitation, I am prepared to at least imagine some of the perplexities in organizing a university on a plan so new, so extensive, and with such varied complications.

Nothing, then, is farther from my wish than to ask that a new embarrassment be added immediately. I am well satisfied with the assurance that in time, and, I trust, before many years, young ladies may receive a university, instead of a boarding school education. The advantages offered by our numerous schools, are very excellent, but they do not meet the wants of a large class of scholars. For instance, take my own case. Vassar is beyond my means; the course of study in the other girls' boarding schools is about the same as I have already enjoyed the advantage of, in a good academy; at Oberlin it is the same, unless one desired a classical course, while my wish was chiefly for scientific studies. I see no alternative but to study by myself as best I can, and try to be satisfied.

It seems to be forgotten by many that while young men of limited means can go to college, boarding themselves, living

economically, and partly paying their way as they go, a girl must, in entering a boarding school, pay a round sum with no opportunity for economy. Many of the girls who most desire a thorough education have slender means: many are fatherless, like myself; and if they try to earn money enough to pay boarding school bills, at the rate of salary women receive for their work, it will require many years.

Therefore I hope, Mr Cornell, that you will not forget how many of them look longingly toward Michigan and Cornell Universities.

Thanking you for your kind letter - thanking you for your noble university, of which the country expects to be very proud, - and thanking you not least in behalf of my sex, others of whom will, I trust, at some time share its benefits, I remain

Very respectfully yours,

Lucy M. Washburn.