

Ithaca New York

May. 15<sup>th</sup> 1873

To The Coming man + woman

On the occasion of laying the corner stone of the Sage College for women, of Cornell University, I desire to say that the principle danger, and I may almost the only danger I see in the future to be encountered by the friends of education, and by all lovers of true liberty is that which may arise from sectarian strife.

From these halls, sectarianism must be forever excluded, all students must be left free to worship God, as their conscience shall dictate, and all persons of any creed, or all creeds must find free, and easy access, and a hearty and equal welcome, to the educational facilities possessed by the Cornell University,

Coeducation of the sexes, and entire freedom from sectarian or political preferences, is the only proper and safe way, for providing, an education that shall meet the wants of the future, and carry out the founders idea of an Institution where "any person can find instruction in any study" I herewith commit this great trust to your care.

Erza Cornell