Elmira, N.Y. February 17th 1868.

Deborah House

Hon: Ezra Cornell.

Dear Sir,

Allow me from here to drop you a few lines. I hope that you still remember me. This summer I took the liberty to make known by a brief article in one of the leading papers of Copenhagen, Denmark, the great and almost unparalleled magnanimity and liberality you had shown in the establishing of the Cornell University and that your children were, according to Prof. White's statement to me, just as much interested in the erection of this (Institute) of learning as yourself. From a letter recently received from my wife I learn that this example of liberality which you have been pleased to set before our selfish world has been the subject of an article in Denmark, in which you very correctly are called "the benefactor of mankind", and in which the words of the
sacred volume are used: "Verily, verily, so great a faith is not found, no, not even in Israel."

Having all good reason to believe that this cannot but please you to hear, I have considered it incumbent upon me as a duty to inform you of it.

If Prof. Andrew White is in Athens, which I suppose he is to be pleased to pay him my most respectful compliments. His many-sided attainments combined with logical deductions and determination of character will, I feel perfectly sure, and so do all, elevate your Institute of learning to such a standard as to gain the esteem and confidence of the public and to meet the approbation of its liberal and sound-minded founders.

After a few weeks I think, before going to New York, to remain, to spend a few days in Athens, the natal place of old Ulysses, and show them not fail to present my humble self to you.

May the days, be they many, allotted to you to remain in this earthly paradise, be to you a period of unmingled felicity!

Desire, Dear Sir, to accept the homage of my respect, and to believe me,
Yours sincerely,