Ithaca, Feb 26, 1869

Miss Lucy M. Washburn

Dear Miss -

Your favor of the 23 -
is at hand, making an appeal
in behalf of yourself for admittance
to the Cornell University.

You seem to have anticipated
the reasons why you could not
be admitted next fall. "The want
of suitable accommodations" this
you think could be alleviated
by your boarding with your uncle.

If the question of some girls
should board was the only one
we could master that, but when
and to whom shall they write
and attend to other educational
duties in the question. When
now you boys here, and your
room so crowded that we an
found to all sorts of expedients to make room for them, we are compelled to use our library rooms for meditation, and make various shifts, that would be much appreciated if we had young women in our classes.

We also have several hundred young men, pressing for admission who we cannot yet receive for want of room.

Then again we have the experiment of the labor question on hand and desire to settle that before we add to our perplexities. The labor question for young women is as important as it is for young men, but it exists in the suitability of employment. And therefore the solving of one scarcely effects the other, and it appears prudent at least to settle one thing.
at a time.

If your care is one that only
involved educational facilities,
you can secure what you wish
at Vassar College, and leave
us to experiment on the boys.
If girls come here as State
students, with the certificate of
the Superintendents, that they were the
best scholar in the public school
or Academy, for their Assembly
district, we should have no
alternative but to admit them.
The law (1365) makes no
distinction as to sex; it gives
the scholarship certificate
to the best scholar.

I hope to live to see a thousand
young women being educated in
this University, with as many or
more of their brothers, and all
working smoothly and in harmony
for their best good, but I don't
want the young women formed upon us before we are prepared to make a success of it—

Yours Respectfully

Emna Cornell