Ithaca, New York
May 15th, 1873

To The Coming Men & Woman

On the occasion of laying the corner stone of the Sage College for women of Cornell University, I desire to say that the principal 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 Victorian life. From these halls, Victorianism 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 to a beauty and equal welcome to the educational facilities possessed by the Cornell University. Coeducation of the sexes, and entire freedom from Victorian 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 founding idea of an Institution where any person can find instruction in any study. I herewith commit this great trust to your care.

 Ezra Cornell