Binghamton June 25, 1869.

Hon, Ezra Cornell, Chairman
of The Board of Trustees
of The Cornell University;

Dear Sir: I have received the invitation of the Trustees and Faculty of The Cornell University to attend during the Exercises of the approaching commencement week of the University.

I greatly regret my inability to accept the invitation. I am to hold an adjourned Special Term of the Supreme Court in the County of Chemung commencing on the same day the University Exercises will begin; which term of Court I cannot

, consistently with duty, permit to fall through,

I thank the Trustees and Faculty of the University for their invitation,

Very Respectfully Yours
Ransom Balcom

Alby. June 25. 69

Hon. Ezra Cornell
Dear Sir —

A prior engagement at my own Alma Mater (Union College) deprives me of the pleasure of accepting yr. kind invitation to attend the commencement of the "Cornell University".

I had a strong desire to attend yr. examinations not only as a personal gratification but to testify my respect for the man of wealth whose good sense has set such a grand example to his fellows of a living & therefore a wise administration of his own bounty.

I am gratified to notice that even old England is aware of the rare opportunities yr. institution offers & is furnishing you with students

Yr. Friend & Servt,

R W Peckham

Rochester June 25 1869

Dear Sir

I have rec^d the invitation of the Board of Trustees & Faculty of the Cornell University to attend the approaching Commencement exercises of the University. I have watched the proceedings in respect to organization & starting of the University with much interest & regret that it will be impossible for me to accept your kind invitation & witness the services of your Commencement week. I doubt not they will be exceedingly interesting &c

I am very Respectfully
yours &c
E. Darwin Smith

Hon Ezra Cornell
Chairman of Trustees &c

List of workmen sailing by the Java June 26. direct for New York. (Cunard steamer).

1. Wm Colquhoun. -	mason.
2 Robt Richardson & wife.	- mason.
3. L. J. Hinton & wife.	mason.
4 John Snaith. wife. 2 children.	carpenter.
5 Geo Bury. wife - one child.	carpenter.
6 Thos Burton	carpenter.
7. Noah Kirk. wife. 2 children.	mason.
8. Chas Bartlett. - - - .	plasterer. +
9. Robt Adams. - - . .	mason.
10. Thos Watson. - - - -	bricklayer
11. Geo Pogson. - - - -	bricklayer.
12 Wm Temple. - - - -	carpenter
13. Francis Dobson. wife. 2 children.	carpenter. +
14 Geo Hearn .. - - - .	carpenter.

Buffalo. June 26, 1869.

Dear Sir:

I regret extremely that, contrary to my fervent hope, I find myself unable to attend the First Commencement of the Cornell University. It could not but be a pleasure to have ocular & auricular proof that the noble tree you have planted, and which I doubt not, in God's good providence, is destined to overspread the land and yield food unto the nations, has taken firm root and displays healthful foliage.

With thanks to the Trustees & Faculty of the University for their kind remembrance of me on this occasion, and with profound esteem & respect for yourself, I have the honor to be

Your mo. obed^t Serv^t

G. W. Clinton.

Hon. Ezra Cornell,
Ch'n of the Board of
Trustees.

G. W. Clinton
24 June 69

Monroe County Penitentiary,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,

Rochester, N. Y., June 26th 1869

Hon. Ezra Cornell & President White,

Gentlem, - Having been absent in the country for a week or more, I did not receive your note of invitation to attend the the anniversary exercises at the University until this morning. It would afford me great pleasure to be able to attend, but I am preparing to make journey east to be absent several weeks, and have not time to spare for any purpose but getting ready for my journey, and must therefore deny myself the pleasure of being with you.

With great respect

Yours &c

S. Luckey

Binghamton June 26. 1869.

Hon. Ezra Cornell
Presdt Board of Trustees of the
Cornell University:
Dear Sir:—

Yours extending an invitation to me to be present at the Commencement Exercises of the Cornell University is just rec'd. & I assure you nothing would give me greater pleasure but previous Engagements will absolutely prevent my being present. Please accept my thanks for the invitation & my best wishes for "a success"

Yours very truly
O. W. Chapman.

WALLKILL NATIONAL BANK.
CAPITAL, - $175,000.
WM. M. GRAHAM, President. HARVEY EVERETT, Vice-President. CHAS. H. HORTON, Cashier.

Middletown, Orange Co., N.Y., June 26 *1869.*

Hon. Ezra Cornell

Dear Sir

It would afford me great pleasure to be present at the Commencement Services of the Cornell University would my business permit, but Mr Horton our Cashier is now absent in Calafornia which makes it out of my power to be with you. Thanking you for the invitation and wishing your University great success

I Remain

Yours Truly

W M Graham

Salem N. Y., June 26, 1869.

Messrs. Cornell and White:—

Honored Sirs,

It would be a great pleasure to me to attend the approaching Commencement of Cornell University. But having been this past week detained as a witness in Court, I find other engagements are so imperiously requiring my attention the coming week, that I am obliged to forego the invitation you have kindly sent me.

Very respectfully yours,

Asa Fitch.

Wm J Garner
~~Alfred Wild~~, President.
T. G. Younglove, Agent.
Office of the Cohoes Company
Cohoes, N. Y. June 26 1869

Hon Ezra Cornell President
Cornell University
Ithaca

My dear Sir

Absence from home has prevented an earlier reply to your Notification of under date of the 16th Inst, of the Semi annual meeting of the Trustees of the above named Institution on the 30th Inst, and of its First Annual Commencement on the 1st proximo

It would afford me great pleasure to be present on this occasion and I most probably should have been, had I not previous to the receipt of your notification, consented to become one of an examining committee at a Young Ladies Seminary, at the same time

Hence I must forego the pleasure of being with you on this interesting occasion Regretting my inability to be with you

I remain
Very truly
Your Obt Servt
T. G. Younglove

Buffalo June 20th 1869

Gentlemen

It is with unfeigned regret that I am constrained to deprive myself of the pleasure of attending your Commencement exercises, during the coming week. I thank you, very cordially, for the invitation. Cornell University has my complete sympathy, and heartiest wishes for its growth and welfare. So noble an undertaking cannot fail of success. An Institution where any person can find instruction in any study, is vital in every part. And can, but by annihilation, die.

Again thanking

you for the kind invitation this moment received.

I am Gentlemen
Your Obd't Serv't,

A. A. Nichols.

Hon. Ezra Cornell
Chairman Bd of Trustees

Hon. Andrew D. White
President C. U.

Office of the Grand Master of Masons
in the State of New York.

Salem, June 26, 1869

Hon. Ezra Cornell:

Dear Sir,

Your kind invitation to me to lay the Corner Stone of the main building of the Cornell University, was received, and as I was unable to attend, I provided a Past Grand Master, Clinton F. Paige, to perform the duty as my Proxy.

I am Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors for the construction of the County buildings at this Village, now building; and the Committee had called a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors to meet here on the 30th instant, & it could not be countermanded. It was therefore not proper that I should leave here that day.

I regretted this inability very much. My personal acquaintance with yourself & President White, would have made it a pleasure, & the laying of the Corner Stone of your University an honor that would long be remembered.

Remember me kindly to your family & President White, while I remain

Faithfully Yours,

James Gibson

G. M.

Jas. Gibson
26 June 1869

Oswego June 26" 1869

Hon Ezra Cornell

My dear Sir

I regret that previous engaments will prevent my attending the commencement of Cornell University which takes place next week

I am very Truly yours
Elias Root

Jan. 27, 1869
1/27/69

North-Western Telegraph Co.

Milwaukee, Jany 27th 1869

My dear Sir,

We have arranged to send our friend S Robertson to Eau Clair the early part of next month to make arrangements for extending our telegraph to that place next Summer, He would like to know if there is anything in Connection with your interests that you would have him look after in that neighborhood - The Tomah & St Croix RR is completed to Black River Falls & will be pushed forward to Eau Clair this year we think

Julia is not coughing

so severely as she did two
or three weeks ago -

Little Alice in trying to
learn to skate last week
took cold & has lung fever.
She seems to be better today
The rest all well - /
With much love to all

Yours Truly
O. J. Wood

Hon E Cornell

O. J. Wood
Jan 27. 1869

Troy June 28 1869

Hon Ezra Cornell

Dear Sir

I have been absent from the City which has occasioned the delay in replying to your note of invitation to attend the Com-mencement Exercises of the Cornell University. I regret that Official Engagements, which I can not forego, prevent my attendance. Please accept my thanks for the polite invitation.

Very Respectfully Yours
C. R. Ingalls

New York June 29. 1869

Hon. Ezra Cornell

Dear Sir,

I regret very much my inability to accept the invitation to attend the Exercises of Commencement at Ithaca.

I have delayed my answer in the hope that I might accept your kind courtesy.

Very Respectfully
and truly
Yours
Prosper M. Wetmore

J. Mullin
29 June 1869

Watertown
29 June 1869

Hon. Ezra Cornell.

On my return from New York on Friday last I found your kind invitation to attend the Commencement Exercises at Cornell University.

Nothing could afford me more real pleasure than to accept your invitation to witness the results of one years labor of the faculty of your institution. But ill health [illegible] on the gratification

I hope to able at ~~Ea~~ an Early day to Visit the community & to behold with my own Eyes the wonderful ~~in~~ advance you have made in so short a time

With great respect
I remain dear Sir
Your obt Servt
J Mullin

"The Cultivator & Country Gentleman."
Office, 395 Broadway,
LUTHER TUCKER & SON. ALBANY, N. Y.

Albany, June 29 1869.

Mr. Hon Ezra Cornell
Ithaca

Dear Sir: Your polite invitations to attend the Commencement Exercises at Ithaca this week, were laid aside in the hope that one or both of us would be able to accept. Other engagements however will prevent, which we much regret, & are

Very Respy & truly Yours
Luther Tucker & Son.

Flatbush, L I
June 29. 1869

Dear Sir

On my return from the Court of Appeals I found your invitation to attend the commencement exercises of the Cornell University this week -

I am obliged to say in reply that I will not be able to avail myself of your courtesy -

Thanking you for the invitation

I remain respectfully
Yours &c
John A. Lott

Hon Ezra Cornell

Brooklyn June 29. 1869

Hon: Messrs Cornell & White

My dear Sirs

I am honored with your invitation to be present at the first annual Commencement of the Cornell University. Were it possible for me to be with you on that interesting occasion I would gladly avail myself of the opportunity, knowing as I do the devotion of the founder and first president of the institution to its success and sympathizing with the grand object for which it has been established. But it is entirely out of my power to leave the business which crowds upon my time and thoughts. Consider me however as present in mind if not in body and participating in the pleasures and hopes which the scenes of the week will inspire. I will fancy you in the groves of Ithaca, with an academy which will be the foundation of a philosophy truly practical and American, as well as the instructor of what is good in the systems of our fathers.

Yours truly
Hen: C. Murphy

The woodcut likeness of Mr Cornell on the circular sent me is admirable for its fidelity.

FIRST ANNUAL

COMMENCEMENT.

MONDAY, JUNE 28—8 P. M.
Scientific and Technological Address.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29—8 P. M.
Address to the Candidates for Degrees.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30—10 A. M.
Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30—3 P. M.
Laying the Corner Stone of the McGraw Building,
With appropriate Ceremonies and Addresses.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30—4 P. M.
Presentation of the Great Bell of the University,
With Presentation and Reception Addresses.

THURSDAY, JULY 1—10 A. M.
COMMENCEMENT.

THURSDAY, JULY 1—8 P. M.
Reception by the President of the University,
Cascadilla Place.

The Cornell University

SCHEDULE OF THE EXERCISES

DURING THE WEEK OF THE FIRST

COMMENCEMENT

1869

I WOULD FOUND AN INSTITUTION WHERE ANY PERSON CAN FIND INSTRUCTION IN ANY STUDY.

ITHACA
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
MDCCCLXIX

Glens Falls June 30. 1869

Hon. Ezra Cornell

Dear Sir

I was from home from the 23rd inst until yesterday - The invitation of the Trustees & Faculty of Cornell University, to attend the Exercises of its approaching Commencement week, which you & Prest White kindly sent me, was not received until my return -

I appreciate the compliment and regret that my absence has prevented an earlier reply and that official engagements will preclude my acceptance of the invitation -

With great respect

E. H. Rosekrans

Box 6834

New York June 30 1869.

Ezra Cornell Esq
Ithaca

Dear Sir

My late nephew F S Rising who was lost on the Ohio river last December, left a Cabinet of Minerals which are, in charge of doctor Dyer at the Bible House here,

His sisters, wish to dispose of the same. Should You wish to add to your collection, any time Professor Hall is in the city would like him to see it, would like you to Possess it, that all lovers of the art may be benefitted, and as to its value You can decide that.

Respectfully Yours
J Q Adams

Cornell University Library

FROM THE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

THROUGH THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS

§ 506 Rev. Stat. prohibits the withdrawal of this book for home use.

4005

[illegible]

Cornell University

Ithaca June 30. 1869.

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University took place this morning at 10. o'clock. The only business of importance was the acceptance of the resignation of Governor Morgan and the selection of Ex Lieut. Gov. Woodford to fill the vacancy.

The rain having stopped by the afternoon the programme of laying the Corner Stone of the McGraw Building and the presentation of the great bell was carried out. At 3 P.M. the Masonic procession consisting of the Grand Lodge of F & A. Masons of the State of New York, with the Knights Templars from this and other cities acting as escort and other Masons started ~~£~~ up the hill for the University. ~~It formed quite an imposing demonstration and at~~ At Cascadilla Place ~~was~~ they were joined by the Board of Trustees the distinguished and invited guests. the Members of the University and the Citizens. ~~and~~ forming quite ~~[illegible]~~ an imposing demonstration.

The Stores generally in town during the ceremonies were closed and in the evening some were illuminated. On ~~arrival~~ approaching ~~to~~ the University the chimes ~~[illegible]~~ rang out a ~~[illegible]~~ gladsome welcome to all.

An immense concourse of people had hastened here occupying every spot around the hillsides, filling the University windows, covering the roof & all other places from which a view could be had of the platform & speakers. The Masons surrounded the building in a square. The Knights Templars with their attractive uniforms, & gay plumes, & banners occupied the platform, giving a gala appearance to the background, whose frontispiece was the cordon; — tier above tier of animated & gaily dressed ladies, with distinguished escorts in carriages & on tip-toe, in the windows & on the slopes, — a beautiful & inspiring picture long to be remembered by all fortunate enough to be present. —

2) The Supt. of Public Instruction Hon. Abram B. Weaver presided and opened the exercises with a few appropriate Remarks as follows:
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Cornell University prosperous beyond all precedent during the first year of its existence, and fortunate beyond all other institutions in the number and liberality of the donations that have been conferred upon it, has found another Benefactor in an old early tried friend and Trustee of the institution. Another honored name is to be added to the line of those whose memories are identified with the history of Cornell University. Accordingly we are here to day to lay the corner stone of the McGraw Building. The exercises will begin with the Masonic ceremonies under the direction of Grand Lodge of the State of New York. After these ceremonies shall have been concluded you will be addressed by persons selected for that purpose.

The Masonic Ceremonies then began. Most worshipful
Clinton F. Paige ~~Esq.~~ acting Grand Master.
D. C. Ogden, Deputy " Grand Master.
J. H. Wilcox Senior " Grand Warden
James Burns Junior " do do
Rev Thos. E. Strong D.D. " Grand Chaplain
Lemuel Stoddard. " Treasurer
Jerome Squires " Secretary.
pro tem

After the pouring of the Corn, Wine and Oil upon the Stone and placing it in proper position, Most worshipful Grand Master Paige delivered an address pertinent to the occasion and the work of the craft. The whole was triumphant quite impressive. The box contained the usual varieties ~~[illegible]~~ Copies of charter, addresses, newspapers & N.Y. Papers &c &c.

Hon Stewart L. Woodford was then introduced as an old friend and newly made Trustee of the University: and spoke as follows:

Woodford's

address.

Mr Woodford was applauded heartily when retiring.

Hon John Stanton Gould made the next address as follows:

Goulds

address.

~~address~~ These Ceremonies over, the presentation of the great Tenth Bell to the University chimes, ~~[illegible]~~ then took place. Hon Erastus Brooks presiding.

The Bell weighs 4889 pounds, was cast by E. A. & G. R. Meneely and bears the following inscriptions: "The gift of Mary, wife of Andrew D White, first President of Cornell University" also the ~~words~~ following Scriptural quotation "To tell of thy loving kindness early in the morning and of thy truth in the night season" and "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace good will toward men"

On the reverse side ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ are the expressive lines of James Russell Lowell the poet. "

I call as fly the irrevocable hou
Futile as air or strong as fate t
Your lives of sand or granite;
Even as men choose, they eithe

On behalf of Mrs Mary A. White, the Hon Chas. B. Sedgwick made the Presentation Address. as follows:
~~The Reception address in the behalf of the Trustees~~

(Sedgwick's address)

The Reception Address in behalf of the Trustees was delivered by the Hon George F. Andrews.
He spoke as follows:

Mr President
Ladies and Gentlemen. Well did the fair donor of the bell select a knight champion who has presented to you this day this bell of which he says it has been tuned in unison with its sister bells, and well it should be so tuned because as the speaker has told us, fired by the emulation of her husband's devotion to the cause of literature and education, in that same spirit of unison and harmony which pervades that happy household. She presents to you a bell tuned in unison and harmony with all about it and asks you to accept it at her hands.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of ~~this University~~; on behalf of the Faculty ~~of the University~~; on behalf of the Students ~~of this~~ of this University; I accept that bell. With hearts full of thankfulness, with hearts full of admiration, with hearts full of love ~~as~~ for the sex of the donor warrants us in using that word. We accept the donor's gift and pledge ourselves that it shall be used as she would have it used.

The orator has told us that in ancient times it was supposed that the ~~[illegible]~~ office of the bell was to dispel evil spirits. Now gentlemen of the University let us see to it that evil spirits shall always be dispelled by this bell. If during the hours of the night temptation assail you, if you find yourself on the verge of that which it would not be right to plunge into; let the recollection awakened by the sound of that bell dispel the foul fiends which would thus tempt you and recall you again to the path of duty. If in the early morning the ~~foul~~ ~~foul~~ fiend of sleeplessness should seek to wind his chains about you to detain you beyond the proper hour for the commencement of your duties; let the sound of that bell as it rings out, drive away that fiend and awaken you to the discharge of your duties with vigor improved and revived. Now gentlemen the great difficulty which men have to contend with in their studies is to realize the importance of that to which they are applying themselves.

There will be times when doubts shall arise in your mind as to the wisdom of ~~the~~ the course of study laid down for you. But remember that there is no atom of knowledge so nonessential that the time may not come when despised though it be, it may prove the essential to you in the administration and discharge of your subsequent duties. It has recently come to my knowledge that there was once in the city of Boston a student of the law who in his office was approached by a common farmer who desired some information with reference to the title of land, which involved questions with which the student had not as yet familiarized himself. He said to the farmer Call tomorrow and I will be prepared to answer your question. ~~but~~ Tomorrow came but the intervening hours had proved all too short to familiarize himself with the great questions which were involved in this inquiry of the farmer. He again put him off. The farmer lost confidence in the student and went elsewhere. He saw his face no more. After this student plodded on-on-on, for weary weeks until he made himself master of the subject. then he had no use for his information. But the bells rang out their hours ~~[illegible]~~. for many days, weeks and years until in the course of time, that student found himself a member of the Senate of the U. S.

The celebrated Hayne of South Carolina had delivered his great speech. Senator after Senator had taken notes of that speech intending to reply, but when they came to look the whole ground over ~~when they~~ at the vast array of legal talent which the speech of their competitor presented, they shrank from the task; but with one accord they selected that law student to meet this giant in debate. He himself was not present during the delivery of his speech: ~~th~~ they gave him their notes: He hesitated: they insisted ~~that~~ he was the only one competent for the task. At last he consented, & the next day was to reply: He entered the senate chamber: he there saw arrayed the most noble of the land. There were gathered the foreign ministers. ~~there~~ the statesmen of the country, there the fair ones of the city: he shrank back appalled at the sight: his heart sank within him: for a moment he lost his consciousness: his head swam: and he began to fear the fate of his brother who had died in an argument before a court; but with a powerful exercise of his will he recalled himself: again he felt the ground under his feet and in his own words "Everything that he had ever heard. everything that he had ever seen, in thought flashed across his mind and there was nothing left for him but to select his thunder bolts and to hurl them at his adversary.

Then there came in play that information acquired in years before that he knew not

the use of before. but what Providence had
lead
~~made~~ him to know. and when the tocsin
sounded he was prepared and immortalized
himself by that single effort. The same man
when once inquired of by a friend of mine
What shall a young man do to remedy
a defective education? thus answered:
Says he. Swallow a dictionary. eject
~~then~~ the hard words. then whenever you
find a man who knows more about
these. place yourself alongside and suck
suck him. Now gentlemen Students
it is to you I would repeat these remarks.
You will never, no never cease to be ~~a~~
students. Ask the oldest of your pro-
fessors. he will tell you he is still a
student. Ask the ripe scholar ma-
Ask the ripe scholar
turing in years. and in intellect at the
head of this institution, and he will tell
you that he is still a student. Ask
the venerable benefactor who has seen
much and learned much of the world
and he will tell you to day that he is
only a student. So young gentlemen let
it be with you. You but learn in this
University the rudiments of ~~an~~ education
I care not how long you stay, I care
not how faithfully you study. when you
leave the walls of this institution you will
leave it still as a student. Through life
you will pursue your student course: it
is by studies outside of these walls: it is
by perfecting your course of study in the
World: it is by sucking men as you go

through the world that you will attain that general knowledge which will stand you in stead through all circumstances.

One winter's night in New York, when the winds were high and the snows were deep, at the Astor House there entered a weary traveller. Leaving his cloak he was shown into a parlor where was gathered together the Captains of those glorious sailing packets of that day. Men strong in mind; Men strong in arm. Men in everything that goes to completely round out the harmonious man, There they sat fighting their battles over again, telling of their hair breadth escapes by sea. This venerable man engaged in conversation with them. They were fascinated. He discoursed of the wonders of the great deep; of the laws that govern the winds and the storms. He staid for an hour; he left them; they rushed to the office; Who is this wonderful man who has enthralled us by the vast fund of his information? That man was Henry Clay of Kentucky.

Again I recently heard of another instance of a passenger ordered by his physician to take a sea voyage from the port of Charleston on a vessel bound for New York. During the voyage he conversed freely with the Captain. Upon reaching the city the Captain went to the office and told them that he had had the most remarkable passenger whom he had ever met; a man who knew more of the generalities of my profession. and [illegible] deemed physically a proficient, than I had ever dreamed of myself. He could not have sailed my ship because he was unacquainted with the details and technicalities of the rigging or the run of the duties, but of the laws governing the heavenly bodies; of the fundamental principles which underlie navigation and which enable the navigator to guide his way across the sea, his familiarity was extraordinary. Tell me who was this remarkable man? That man—was the reply, was John C. Calhoun.

So, you see, gentlemen, in every walk of life continue to study after they have left school. Those men whom no narrow walls can confine are the men who shine out in the firmament of intellect as stars which shall never be extinguished.

Now it only remains for me to conjure up the rich tones of this bell which ~~at~~ ~~ages~~ I trust will ring out and awaken ~~reverberate~~ the echoes in this rich valley & ~~[illegible]~~ its sonorous sounds ~~will reverberate~~ over the bosom of this placid lake for ages.

It only remains for me to say that the call of that bell will be to duty. ~~to~~ — to duty. Remember what the old English writer has told us "That duty never calls man more than one way at once." We see men sometimes, divided, distracted by doubts as to duty. A man may have various duties. ~~He is~~, never has more than one duty at once. There is one duty that claims his first and highest attention;

and all others must be subordinate to it. This bell will call you to duty of various kinds. You will become familiar with its tones as it marks the passing hours. And when in after years, when you have hurled your ~~intellectual~~ thunderbolts at some adversary; when you have filled some of the chief places in this nation; when again you draw near to your intellectual birthplace; how sweet in your ears shall strike the well remembered ~~tones~~; what recollections it will arouse; and the saddest among them will be that your tutors, your professors will be sleeping the sleep that knows no waking in this world. Then young men see to it. You have a great trust committed to you. it is for you all this work ~~that has~~ is done; for you that the venerable Cornell has spent sleepless nights and anxious days. It is for your welfare that your beloved President has sacrificed all the comforts of life that he might benefit you. See to it, then that you realize ~~all~~ the great responsibility of your position. We are Trustees not of this property only; not of the charter only, but Trustees for you young gentlemen. We hold in our hands to some extent your intellectual destiny. It has cost us anxious thought to ~~[illegible]~~ provide for your officers, your faculty, your courses of study, the rules that shall control you, the edifices that shall shelter you. Finally all this is harmonious all that is peaceful; all that is noble all that is pure; all that is exalted of our aspiration is that you may respond to these influences, and that you may grow up worthy citizens of a great Republic, that the name of Cornell may be borne over all this earth by you as worthy Knights and worthy sons of this your intellectual mother. (Applause)

~~His Reception address in behalf of the Faculty~~ Professor Homer B. Sprague made the Reception address in behalf of the Faculty as follows;

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen I feel as if the preceding speakers who have addressed you so eloquently and appropriately had subjected me to that process of sacking. They have used all the best thoughts which I intended to express, and for that reason if for no other I shall be brief. ~~1002 [illegible]~~
(169) years ago, 10 ministers met at the village of New Haven in the State of Connecticut each one bringing a handfull of books, saying I give these books to found a college in Connecticut.

For a year and a half, that was the only Library of Yale College. They had no building, no apparatus, no collections, only one professor and for the first six months, — only one student. Yale College has grown up to a great institution, its influence is felt throughout the length and breadth of the land. Everywhere in every civilized land of the world her ~~the~~ sons ~~of Yale College~~ rise up today to call their alma mater ~~it~~ blessed. Nine months ago Cornell University flung open~~ed~~ its doors with a large, ~~excellent~~ costly and well selected Library, with two large, substantial buildings with fine apparatus and collections, with 20 Professors and on the very first day of the first term with more Students than Yale College had during the first twenty five years. The institution leaped into life surpassing ~~like~~ the fabled birth of Minerva as she sprang full armed from the head of Jupiter. And yet it was only an infant Hercules. For the basis on which it is founded (perhaps its Founder builded wiser and better than he knew) ~~[illegible]~~ is broader, I believe, than that of any other educational institution in the world. "I would found an Institution in which any student can find instruction in any study" (Applause)

We have only made a beginning. It ~~This~~ is charged ~~by some~~ upon us that we have made too much of the practical studies; that we have neglected the Humanities; that we run too much to Utilitarianism. It may be so, but it is erring ~~[illegible]~~ on the right side, if it is erring ~~[illegible]~~ at all. It was high time that an institution should be founded eminently practical in its character designed to reach the poor man, the laboring man. ~~and~~ to lift him higher in the scale of being

Our old colleges had done immense good, good that cannot be overestimated but they were founded chiefly for professional students and not for the hard working son of toil. To make two blades of grass grow where one grew before: to intensify productive industry. ~~to m~~ and make it more fruitful is a great and glorious work. If we have erred in that direction it may well be pardoned. Certainly we have not erred in endeavoring to make it practically useful to the laboring man. We have seen during the past few months that the Institution has been in operation some of the fruits of this beneficence, of this wisdom. Some of the highest prizes a majority of the prizes awarded in the University have been given into the hands, which the hour before were wielding the axe, using the shovel or driving the plow (Applause)

God be praised that he put it into the hand and into the heart of that noble man to found such an Institution. God be thanked that in the fullness of time a scholar born to a large fortune and larger soul was found to organize this Institution as its first President (Applause)

But practical utility, I take it, is ~~[illegible]~~ ~~only~~ one ~~of the~~ not all ~~of~~ the chief object of this Institution. Nor is it true that it neglects the Humanities. With the single exception, if it be an exception, of the study of the ancient Classics.

That study by the way is carried on just as thoroughly here, as in any of the other Institutions of learning in the land.

To the charge that we have given too much attention to the utilities, our answer is "Res nova et novitas regni ~~[illegible]~~ metalia cogunt moliri":

The order of development is first natural then spiritual. We have only made a beginning; we have "sown in weakness": we trust "it shall be raised in power", and the knowledge, too, that has been imparted, although it may seem to be chiefly of a practical business tendency is it not a part of the great body of truth. "Truth", says a wise philosopher, "is the body of God and light is his shadow". As our sunshine is but a ray from the "unapproached light" in which He "dwelt from eternity"; and all music is but

"The faint and far reverberation
Of that grand tune to which the planets roll";

So

I am sure that the truth which we have planted here in weakness will yet be found to be connected with all truth. So the object of this education in this University is not merely to cultivate utilitarian principles, not merely to develope the industries of the country, but to train to the higher and better life, to make the farmer go more jocund to the plow, to make the mechanic wield his hammer with a firmer grasp; to make every son of toil more able to perform his duty.

This I take it is the spirit in which this bell is presented today. Had it been merely for the purpose of utility a Chinese gong would have answered as well. No it must be something which must cultivate the heart and the mind as well as call to duty. It must be something which reminds you of the higher loftier and better feelings and principles of life.

We would recognise too, as these bells recognise the religious element of our nature. Every day prayer has ascended to Almighty God in [illegible] chapel, and these bells are inscribed one with the sacred name of God and one with the dear name of Christ.

~~[illegible]~~

What Cornell University will be in the future, time only can tell but we may augur much from the past. God grant that these ladies who have so honored us and honored themselves, the fortunate daughter of a more fortunate father, the ~~happy~~ wife of a happier husband ~~that~~, may ~~have a~~ long ~~life~~ live to see the fruits of their good deeds and read the story of gratitude in the eyes of thousands of the students of this University. May their whole lives be as full of harmony, of joy, of sweetness as the chimes from yonder tower.

To the honored wife of our first President this Faculty present their hearty thanks. This gift shall inspire them, it will strengthen and encourage them. Perhaps the chief service which these bells shall render will be in the imitation

examples of the

of this day ~~in the future~~. Many a Cornell, many a McGraw shall arise to benefit this institution, Many an Institution we trust shall be founded on a similar basis ~~this~~. until every State in this great nation shall have the ~~same~~ like means of education for all its children. It is our duty to work in the future as in the past. earnestly & unceasingly for the consummation which seems to lie before us. Sure I am that this University marks the dawn of a better and a brighter day for the ~~country~~ laboring man. and for all men. ~~in this~~.

~~IV~~ 1½

Aid the dawning, tongue and pen!
Aid it, hopes of honest men,
Aid it paper, aid it type,
Aid it, for the hour is ripe
And our earnest must not slacken into play:
Men of thought and men of action, clear the way!

After the tendering of the cordial thanks of the University Authorities to the Masonic Fraternity by ~~Pr~~ President White the Masonic Ceremonies of the day were closed.

In the evening Library Hall was filled with a large and enthusiastic audience to listen to the able address of Theodore Tilton before the Irving & Philalathean Literary Associations of the University. The loud & frequent applause which greeted him at different stages of the lecture showed that the great mass of students & people were in hearty sympathy with the progressive ideas advanced by him. The theme of his discourse was, "the Art of Using the Mind." He maintained that both physical culture & moral training were absolutely necessary in order to ~~effect~~ produce a sound & comprehensive mind. Speaking of the necessity of "brain" in everything undertaken at the present day, he excepted the position of "Cabinet Officers", which did not seem to require intellectual abilities. Referring to the "woman question," he hoped that soon the doors of Cornell would be thrown open to the "fairer" sex. He closed with an earnest appeal to the students, to realize in their own individual cases the highest type of manhood, physical, mental & moral.

CHENEY AMES,
H.A.BROWN.

Commission House of C. Ames & Co.

Oswego, N.Y. ________________ 186__

Hon Andrew D. White

Dear Sir I am in receipt of your valued invitation to attend Commencement and other Exercises of the annual Commencement of the Cornell University on Several days of the Coming we— I am so much interested & pleased with the substantial beginning of your valued & noble enterprize that I now intend to lay aside all hindrances that I may have as before the pleasure of congratulateing you upon ~~your~~ further progress in your noble undertaking— We Mrs Ames & my self intend to be with you at least 2 days

Very Respectfully Yours
Cheney Ames