Knightstown Ind. Jan 19. 05

To Isaac Lincoln, President,
and the Board of Trustees:
Honored Friends,

Pardon me but they have ladies not been placed upon the Board of Visitors?
To think that ever since 1800 you have declared the half of the Kingdom theirs and yet they have not a name among you at Co-Bedda! You do not wish to increase the number upon the Board? Certainly not. What is the use of so many men? I do not know one of those I object to, but I should think the Governor sufficient to represent that office, and that one Judge would do as for the Supreme Bench. If there is no Chief among five, they
might take turns, I would reduce the number and consequent expense and place two or at the most three women in the place of the five unnecessary men. But if the pay (supposed) is not sufficient this reduction would help to make it credible.

I have noticed with a great deal of anxiety for several years past, that there seems to be a tightening of restriction as respects women. It may be observed in many departments. It is I think the natural reaction consequent upon the greater liberty that has been granted them, especially since the Civil war when they were found more necessary and more capable than before thought of. As this capacity has
been more and more revealed, as opportunity has afforded fields for action, a counter current has set in, especially in politics for various reasons, affecting educational interests and even those of religion. It is a concern and grief to me as it sets the sexes at odds in a measure, and whatever does that imperils the dearest and most vital interests of humanity.

If I had been a man I would long ere this have been (looking at precedent) elected to some office in my father's place. But being a woman I am the more needed or others like me.

An associate state superintendent is needed, a woman and she should have an assistant.
I can speak as I do because I have my hands so full I do not wish any office, but until you have women in accordance with the expectations you have permitted them to indulge in, and you could hardly have done otherwise with the law as it was, every once in a while you will find a need for which you have not the engraving at hand. Things will not go easy for you will lack to that extent the benediction of the Great God who in the creation of man planted the family and in the fall provided the only remedy for the ills of the world in him who was born "seed of the woman."

Yours with gratitude and respectfully, 

[Signature]

I should like the State Board of Education to see this.