April 3, 1901

My dear Miss Coburn:

This is my first opportunity for acknowledging your letter of March 29th. It was full of interest, and I must thank you, here, for your kind expressions for me. I am wholly in accord with what you say. My suggestion in regard to a plan to make Colby a college for women alone, was intended merely to outline what the situation would seem to justify, from the point of view of the "impartial spectator," who had no knowledge of the past, and who should judge merely from the conditions as they exist to-day, in efficiency. And the only bearing of such an ideal suggestion upon an situation would be that it seems to furnish a strong argument against any move to make the College an institution for men alone, on the
Proud that there is no call, in advance, for additional college facilities for men, but that there is a demand for the best and most generous provision for the higher education of women.

I agree with you further that there is no advantage in calling things by misleading names. A step in the direction this point out has been taken in dropping the name College for the section of the institution devoted either to men or to women, and substituting the name Division. We speak of the Women's Division and the Men's Division.

For my own part, I have no sort of idea that the college will close its doors to women. And much as I regret that the question has been thrust upon
As just now, I am very hopeful that much good will come out of the agitation. Of course no one fore saw what was coming. It was like a bolt from the clear heavens. Had I suspected it, I do not suppose I should have taken the step I did, in sending my resignation to the Chairman of the Board. I do not like to seem to leave the ship while a storm of any sort is in progress. But that matter was concluded before the storm arose.

Again let me thank you for the personal kindness of your letter. Please remember me with cordial regard for all at your home.

Sincerely yours,

Nathaniel Butler