

The Secretary then read the following letter, signed "Georgia Elliott," which was received with applause:

*Kind Superintendents and Teachers:*

I ask the dear privilege of calling your attention to the young deaf and dumb ladies, who in all these years have seemed to be forgotten, while great attention is given to the higher education of the deaf and dumb gentlemen. Look at the excellent National Deaf Mute College, and its door which is always flung wide open to welcome the gentlemen, but not the ladies. I am deaf, but not dumb, and my great desire is to obtain a still higher education, as many others of the young girls of the United States do. I have been attending school regularly at the noble institution of Illinois for the past few years, which has given me such fine advantages. From the primary grades I have been pushing steadily forward until now, having nearly completed the course, I am not content with my achievements, for I have but tasted of the fount—beyond lies the ocean of knowledge. Girls and boys are educated together in all common schools, in several colleges, and in all the institutions; why should they not be educated in the national colleges? Girls have in all schools as high a rank as boys; indeed, they generally rank higher in their studies than boys do. Thus, it is evident that they would improve their advantages at the college as well as the boys.

Girls need a higher education as much as boys. Their influence upon society as women, as mothers, as sisters, is very great, and a thorough education will better fit them for all their duties. They exert the greatest influence on the active men that do the business of the world, and can use their strength for good or ill, as they like. As the civilization of any country advances, the scholars begin to inquire what the causes are that make it advance, and one of the greatest helps to improvement of every kind, has been learned and good women. They have the first years of all lives in their care, and can mold and direct them as they will. Among hearing persons, great attention is given to the higher education of women. Look at the many excellent academies, seminaries, and colleges: Wellesley, Nassar, Smith, Mt. Holyoke, and a host of others. Look, too, at the opportunities given them by Harvard, Columbia, Amherst, Michigan, and other colleges, for the pursuit of advanced studies. Is it not a reproach to our educators of the deaf and dumb, that in all these years they have provided no college for the deaf young women?

The majority of teachers in our institution are women, many of them deaf and dumb. How much better fitted they would be for such positions if they could go through a collegiate course. The girls of to-day are to be the women of to-morrow; and the country does well that looks after the education of its girls.

What would the additional expense be to the United States Government when compared with the great benefits to the pupils? Could a few thousand dollars be spent to any better advantage?

GEORGIA ELLIOTT.