March 8, 1868.

President William R. Harper, Chicago.

Dear Mr. President:-

I have yours of the first. I returned home yesterday morning from Springfield. I found that the bill was as dead as a doornail. The committee on education had not the slightest intention of reporting it. The discussion which occurred did not effect the matter one way or the other except, I think, to convince the committee that something had to be done. They had no idea of the state of things in Illinois. They did not, however, dare to report back our bill favorably. The Catholics were dead set against it, and when that is said, enough is said. The bill had been misrepresented at the start as being a blow at the smaller institutions; that created a prejudice also. It was thought to be by many a scheme concocted in the interests of these two universities here in Chicago.

I am not without hope, however, that a great deal may still be accomplished. We sat up until late in the night with Senator Berry and drafted a new bill, which provides for a commission with power to fix a standard and compels degree-conferring institutions to come up to the standard. The bill was to have been introduced yesterday. It will, I believe, pass the Senate and I am not without hope it will pass the House. We had quite a delegation from Chicago but nothing could have saved the original bill. We issued a statement of fact embodying an address to the legislature, the action of the colleges endorsing the
Dear Mr. President.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding to you the following letter that I received from the President of the Associated Students of Lincoln College:

[Letter content]

I trust that this letter will prove satisfactory to you.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

[Date]

[Address]
bill and the opinion of the prominent physicians, lawyers, and dentists of the state in its favor. I will have some copies of this sent down to you, for it will be of interest.

Yours very truly,

P.S.

Henry Ward Roen.

I think it is wise to have members of the faculty with their representations at Washington urging the passage of the new bill creating the education commission. I have made a speech supporting the measure. Neither the faculty nor I, nor M. W., have written a paper under the name of the University on it. They think we are in a conspiracy against the will of the State.

The views are outlined in the editorial in Friday's Chronicle.

It is especially important that letters be written to Professor Stanford Truebridge, Chairman of the House Committee on Education.

But it will do harm for you to write. They think there is an empty reply or no chance of everything.
Pitt  msg. The adroft of the xomaine pharfrinee. Teachers may generate
at the rate in the race. I will give some copies of the new gop
for your task to give at interest.

Yours Very Truly,

[Handwritten text in Arabic]