

their ranks are increasing rapidly -
In case you do not think it possible to secure such a bill as I have referred to you need not answer this letter at all, as I realize the value of your moments -

Respectfully -

Elizabeth Bynton Harbut.

~~Mar 28/83~~
Examination Off.
Mar 28/83
Mr. J. B. Harbut.

them, discovered that the
war widows, with their Repub-
lican tendencies, and the
20,000 colored women of the
State of Indiana, would
render that State "hopeless-
ly Republican", there fore
as a party measure it
was defeated by the votes
of Democratic gentlemen,
some of whom were advo-
cates of women suffrage;
one of these gentlemen
said to me "I am a
strong advocate of women
suffrage, but with the fig-
ures before me I found
that women suffrage would
give Indiana, "the pivotal
State" to the Republicans;
at this crisis we could
not do it -" The Repub-
licans of Indiana have

Evansston Illinois.
May 28th 1883.
Governor Hamilton -

Dear Sir -

As many
of the Republican Leaders
of Indiana now realize their
almost suicidal mistake,
in not giving Presidential
Suffrage to women, and
as Illinois still has the
power of so doing, before the
adjournment of the Gene-
ral Assembly, I write to
know ^{you} if you deem it pos-
sible to secure a hearing
for such a Bill?

The Democratic Leaders
of Indiana went into pri-
vate caucus and with
the census report's before

since thoroughly investigated the
situation and found
it to be true -

Presidential Suffrage
for the women of Illinois
might change the next
election. It has been
suggested to me that the
idea has been ^{discussed} suggested
in the South; that the
Southern women shall
be enfranchised upon a
^{property} qualification, just before
the election - is a general
coup de etat - in fact
a Democratic election of
New York has written to
me asking what I would
pledge ^{for} the women of my
State, in case the Demo-
crats should advocate
the enfranchisement of
women? I write in En-

swear that I need no author-
ity to pledge any thing and
that I hoped our wo-
men would be strong enough
and pure enough to re-
fuse to let make any
pledges, but would stand
as a great moral reserve
force, compelling leaders
of all parties to nomi-
nate their ^{purest} ~~wisest~~ men
and adopt their wisest
measures.

As you doubtless know
the Legislatures of the re-
spective States are duly
authorized by the Federal
Constitution to determine
who shall serve as presi-
dential electors - I am
sure you will pardon
the length of this letter
for the sake of the

5211
The great cause of human
& liberty, which is truly
endangered so long as
the mothers of the race
are not made responsible
patriots - if you think there
is the slightest possibility
of securing the passage of
such a bill please notify
of me at once -

If our women are united
and united as never be-
fore, because of the utter
disregard of their right
of petition, and there is
a movement on foot
which will convince the
people that they are in
earnest, more than two
hundred thousand women
of Illinois have petitioned
for the ballot, and