

A v

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 7, 1882.

Dear Captain Pratt:

It gives me great pleasure to obtain and send you a copy of the Report of the Bureau of Ethnology for the first year. It is full of interest and the succeeding volumes will be none the less so.

I feel personally very grateful to you for your kindness to my brother. I am not inclined to think that my geese are swans, but I do believe he is capable of being ^{as} useful to you in his present capacity as any one else. Whatever may be his deficiencies in one direction, they are, I think, more than counterbalanced by his efficiency in others. His peculiar jack-of-all-trades-life has given him a hold of many subjects, all of which are

especially pertinent to his work at the barracks. He is a good machinist, an excellent horticulturist and accustomed to directing men in mechanical matters, thoroughly kind, courteous and considerate, and of remarkable ingenuity and adaptability. I hope, therefore, that he will so commend himself to you by his works, as to make his position a permanent one.

Our Mr Cushing has just arrived here with six Juni Indians, whose language he speaks perfectly. I do not know whether they talk of going to Carlisle or not.

Sincerely Yours,
Spencer Baird

Capt. R. H. Pratt:
Carlisle, Penna.

P.S. My mother is singularly reticent and taciturn and cannot make as many promises or professions as I. Some would do, but he will I am sure discharge his duties to the best of his ability.