

[Baird, Spencer F.] p v

Smithsonian Institution

Washington July 1. 1882

Dear Captain Pratt:

The Secretary of the Interior some time ago asked me how my brother, Thomas, would like to have charge of one of the Indian Schools, to be organized in the West. He said that the position required peculiar qualifications, such as few persons, but yourself, possessed. I stated in reply that I did not think my brother would be able to direct so large an enterprise, but believed that he could, under proper supervision, fulfil all requirements in a subordinate position. I hope I did not overstate

the facts. I naturally feel greatly interested in my brother's welfare and was much gratified to hear that you had selected him, and can only trust that he will answer your expectations. He is very reserved in his manners, which quality, combined with a certain amount of diffidence, causes him to appear uninterested in his work. This, however, I am sure is not the case; judging, from his correspondence and conversation, that the subject is very dear to him and that, although the work is quite onerous, he means to do his very best to carry it through. I have of late had repeated op-

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opportunities of conversing with
Mr. Teller in regard to the
system of Indian Schools, and
was greatly pleased to see
how well he appreciates what
you are doing.

Very truly yours,

Spenner

Captain R. H. Pratt:
Indian Training School
Carlisle, Penna.