Bajeman, Montana Feb. Jan. 20th 1884

Hon. Professor Baird
Smithsonian Institute
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

Several years ago I discovered in the Bad Lands of the Upper Missouri a place, where petrified fossil vertebrates especially large snakes (up to 3' and 4' diameter), fishes and other animals, not known to me, existed in large quantity. The petrifications are very complete and lifelike, the scales having a glossy appearance of different colors. Snakes or like animals can easily be separated at the joints. The place is only about 3 miles distant from the Missouri and specimens could be hauled there by wagon and shipped down the Missouri on steamboats during the summer months.

I would be very much obliged to you, by informing me, whether the above mentioned petrifications are of any value - sufficient to pay me to work on it - and where I could dispose of them. I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant
August Gottschalck