

Ann. 181574

(Major Powell.)

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S. 52006

CRESTON, IOWA, MAR. 9 TH 86.

PROF. S. B. BAIRD,

MY DEAR SIR;

THE SPECIMENS PROMISED WILL BE SENT TOMORROW. BUSINESS HAS PREVENTED AN EARLIER SHIPMENT. HOPE THEY WILL COMPENSATE FOR THE DELAY.

I AM ONE OF SEVERAL GEOLOGISTS WHO, AS SOON AS SPRING OPENS, ARE GOING BY WAGON TO THE LAKE REGION OF NORTHERN IOWA UPON A PRIVATE SURVEYING EXPEDITION,

THE ROUTE AS PLANNED, IS BY WAY OF THE CRETACEOUS DEPOSITS IN GUTHRIE CO. AND BY THE CELEBRATED WALLED LAKES TO THE HAMILTON GROUPE SHOALS, OF CERRO GORDO, FLOYD AND WORTH COUNTIES. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO INVESTIGATE NUMEROUS FOSSIL BEDS IN ADAIR CO, HITHERTO ENTIRELY UNEXPLORED AND SAID TO BE RICH IN VERTEBRATE REMAINS, THIS INFORMATION IS OBTAINED FROM THE NATIVES OF THE REGION WHO TELL ME THAT THEY [^] ~~ALIVE~~ DISCOVERED MANY LARGE BONES IN THE PEAT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO WORK THE BEDS FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES, WHY IT IS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN THAT THE BEDS ARE SO RICHLY PROMISING I AM UNABLE TO SAY.

IF THEY ARE AS REPORTED I SHALL CERTAINLY SEND AN ACCOUNT TO THE INSTITUTION, WITH THE EXPECTATION OF HAVING THE MATTER LOOKED INTO BY COMPETENT MENFULLY QUALIFIED MENTALLY AND FINANCIALLY TO PUSH THE THING. SOME MONEY MUST NECESSARILY BE EXPENDED IN CONSTRUCTING A SERIES OF DRAINS, AS THE BOG IS IN A BASIN BELOW THE LEVEL OF THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY. I HAVE SEEN VERY FEW OF THE SPECIMENS COMING FROM THERE AND THESE IN MORE OR LESS IMPERFECT CONDITION FROM THE EFFECT OF THE IMMENSE QUANTITY OF IGNORANCE EMPLOYED IN MAKING THE EXCAVATIONS, BUT SHOULD JUDGE THAT THE PLACE WAS WELL WORTH AN INVESTIGATION,

I KNOW OF VERY MANY FINE SPECIMENS WHICH I COULD OBTAIN FOR THE INSTITUTION, IF I WERE POSSESSED OF PAPERS OR CERTIFICATES TO THE EFFECT THAT I AM COLLECTING FOR YOU.

[2]

WOULD YOU CARE TO SEND ME SUCH?. I ASSURE YOU THAT I WOULD NOT
ABUSE THE COMMISSION,

VERY RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

W. R. LIGHTON.

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.

G. R. | MAR | 15 | 1886

13686

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.

599	G.R.	MAR	15	1886
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City

Mar. 13.

Smithsonian Instn

refers letter from
W.R. Lighton, Mar. 9,
saying spec. from
used will be
sent Mar. 10.

Remarks,

March 15th 86

Respectfully referred
to Prof. O.C. Marsh.

By order:

599
1886: *James P. Smith*
L. L.

March