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Perry, Taylor Co., Fla. Jan 23/82.

To the Smithsonian Institute,

Washington

D. C.

On the 29th of Dec. last, I succeeded in taking out of the earth, eight feet below the surface, in a bed of lime and lime rock, the petrified bones of a Mastodon. Dimensions as follows as near as could be obtained:— From the top of the head to the end of the jaw-bone 9 feet, width of jaw-bone $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. length of under jaw-bone 7 feet, thickness of under jaw-bone 6 inches. Molar tooth the largest size 11 inches long $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick and $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches from top of Molar to end of the root $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, eight transverse grinders with cavities appear to be made worn by eating— Each front tooth 5 inches one way— 6 inches the other— and $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches from top of tooth to end of the root. Length of spine 27 feet— vertebrae of neck 7 feet from top of head to across the under jaw-bone 5 feet. Across the chest 10 feet from the end of the fore leg at the ankle to where it joins the shoulder-blade 7 feet. Tusk of remarkable

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size but broken. I have a good specimen of the animal's bones sufficient for an expert in Natural Science to put the skeleton on its feet. I exhibited a small specimen of the bones in Tallahassee Florida to H. Q. Platham Govr., the Cabinet officers also the Judges of the Supreme Court and the medical men of that city, which their opinions can be had— The bones are indeed remarkable. I did not want the bones to cross the Atlantic— they were discovered in this Govt, and I would much rather they would remain. If the Museum is all ready supplied inform me, if not I would like that some steps would immediately be taken in the direction of the bones. It certainly is a very important discovery an animal unknown since the day of man. If you will send a man to examine the bones I think the Government would buy them. I met with Sir Edward Reed, a member of the English Parliament in Tallahassee, he saw the specimens I had there and insisted that I would not dispose of the bones until I heard from the City of London as they were give high prices for the bones of such animals over there. Advise me on the subject as early as possible if a man is not sent. If you

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send a man the bones represente thoughtly, not knowing anything about ~~the~~ bones of animals it is impossible for me to give a full description of the bones. I shall expect to hear from you at an early date.

Respectfully

Samuel W. Miller
Perry, Taylor Co.
Florida