

Prof. Baird
Oct. 1880
Oct 2

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 2, 1880

Enclosure.

Dear Mr Marsh.

I enclose a letter to the Director of the Bureau of International Exchanges of Rome, which I shall be glad to have you read, & if you can understand my drift, explain it to the gentleman in question.

As you will see by the enclosed letter, he wants us to deliver our packages free of expense, in Rome he to do the same, to Washington. To this I object - that while I can pay charges & settle accounts readily as far as New York, or even Genoa, I cannot conveniently compare the cost from Genoa to Rome. This must be paid by somebody, as I presume the railroads will not give credit, & besides, there would be the perplexity of keeping accounts, with a varying rate of exchange etc. Furthermore, the arrangement would not be fair for the reason that we have so much more to send than we can expect to receive.