

## **To the honorable the Senate and House of representatives of the United States**

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We, the undersigned, beg leave most respectfully to represent that, feeling a deep interest in the collection, preservation, and protection of works of art, of literature, records, and whatever may illustrate the early history of our country, we are so thoroughly impressed with the historical, scientific, and artistic merits of "Catlin's Indian Gallery and Museum," that we most earnestly call the attention of your honorable body to its purchase and preservation by the Government.

Considered simply as a museum of the types, manners, and customs of one of the four great divisions of the human family, which is on the verge of disappearing, and which it represents with extraordinary completeness, fidelity, and vigor, it is of sufficient interest to the present, and of so much greater interest to a future, generation as to warrant its preservation by any enlightened Government.

But when it is considered that the race this collection represents is the one which possessed the whole of this continent when our ancestors first landed, it seems peculiarly appropriate that our Government should preserve among its public archives this unique memorial of early America.

Influenced by such considerations as these, we cheerfully unite in this joint expression of our wishes, that the present Congress will adopt such measures as will preserve for public instruction this valuable record of American history.

ROBT. RUSSELL BOOTH.

S. D. BURCHARD.

W. M. PAXTON.

O. EASTMAN.

GEO. L. PRENTISS.

THOS. S. HASTINGS.

Dr. JOHN HALL, D. D.

HENRY M. FIELD.

Dr. W. ADAMS, D. D..

Dr. S. G. BROWN, *President Hamilton College.*

S. RALSTON SMITH.

Dr. E. P. RODGERS.

PHILIP SCHAFF.

W. W. NEWELL.

Judge R. P. DALY, *President of Geographical Society.*

Prof. OGDEN DOREMUS.

THURLOW WEED.

JOHN E. DEVELIN.

C. A. ARTHUR.

H. A. SMYTHE.

RICHARD PATRICK.

CHAS. A. STETSON.

W. M. EVARTS.

FREDERIC SEWARD.

JOHN SPAULDING.

S. IRENEAUS PRIME, *President New York Association for Advancement of Science and Art.*

W. H. BIDWELL.

CHAS. S. ROBINSON.

Dr. HOWARD CROSBY, *President University of New York.*

Dr. H. D. GANSE.

ISAAC RILEY.

CYRUS DICKSON.

Prof. ROS. D. HITCHCOCK.

M. S. HUTTON.

*Dr.* JAMES M. LUDLOW.

JOHN V. L. PRUYN.

S. D. BABCOCK.

R. H. M'CURDY.

R. S. WINSTON.

L. ROBINSON.

RICHARD A. M'LANDREY.

THOMAS L. JAMES.

W. E. DODGE.

JOHN M. BIXBY.

New York, *December 27, 1873.*