PETITION FOR THE ERECTION OF A LIGHT-HOUSE.

ADDRESSED TO THE ASSEMBLY JUNE 14, 1765.

That the Necessity of a Light house at some suitable place near the moth of Piscataqua harbor has been a long time acknowledged and desired, x x For building of which Provision was made by the act commonly Called The Loan Act, above 20 years ago. x x the burthens & difficulties now attending Trade of which every one is Sensible more than when sd. act was passed. x x There is a Society of Gentlemen in Portsmouth formed under the name of Marine Society who are more intimately acquainted with the circumstances & Incidents attending Navigation of this River than others etc. x x x x x

The foregoing petition was Read Recommended & ordered to be sent down to the Honble House June 19- 1765 -

Ordered that the Petitioners have leave by Messrs. Jno. Sherburne, Jona Warner, Danl Rindge Sam Cutts, Thos. Wentworth, Gregory Purcell, Titus Salter, Geo. Janvrin to take a view of Odiornes Point & any other place which they may think more suitable to erect a Light House and, that they prepare a plan of the Building - make an estimate of the cost thereof & ye annual Expense of Supporting it, consider what materials will be most suitable for such a building & make report to the Gen. Assembly as soon as may be. - Council Concurred.

Thursday Apr. 4th 1771. Journal of the House.

The Deputy Sec. Brought Down a written Message from his Excely - Relative to the Support of his Majesty's Fort William & Mary & relative to fixing a Lanthern at the flagg-staff at ye Fort as on File -

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In examining the Treasury Accts. there appears, a sum appropriated for building a Light-house, but it is insufficient for that purpose. Many valuable Lives are annually lost, and much property destroyed for want of Such a frendly Edifice. This may be in a great degree effected by making a Large and proper Lanthorn to be raised into the head of the mast which supports the Flagg-Staff in the Castle - the Cost will not exceed thirty Dollars - and may be supported, by raising on all Sloops & Schooners 9d pro-money - on all other vessels 18d every voyage - to be collected upon the passes for sd Castle, and quarterly paid into the Treasury for this purpose, free of all deductions or expense. There can be no officer, who would not willingly do this duty, free of other reward, than would result from the animating Glows of Humanity. On my part I will order that it be properly attended by the officer at the Castle free of Charge - When we reflect on the many distressful Losses that now fill our Sea Coast with Widows & Orphans, which would undoubtedly have been in a great degree prevented - by such an aid as herein earnestly requested, Their Tears, Their Pitable complaints, irresisably enforce our Minds in

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and that we shall participate with every contributator in the Blessings of our fellow Creatures whose Lives may thus be rescued from Death.

J. Wentworth

Council Chamber - Apr. 4th 1771

CHAP. 16, Laws 1771

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH a light to be Kept at Fort W^m & MARY for the Benefit of Vessels arriving or being upon this Coast in the night time

PASSED APR. 12 - 1771.

Whereas losses frequently happen of the lives and property of Persons arriving and upon the Sea Coast of this province in the night time for want of a proper Light for their direction, and it is thought that a large and suitable Lanthorn to be lighted & Kept upon the top of the mast might be the means of Preserving the lives and Property of Many persons

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor Council & Assembly that there shall be procurred & Kept at his Majesty's Fort W^m & Mary under the direction of the Commander of Said Fort a Large Suitable Lanthorn to be lighted and raised each night unto the top of thr Mast that supports the Flag Staff for the benefit of Mariners being on the Coast in the night time - and that the expense of Procuring & maintaining the same be once a year or oftener settled by the Gov. Council & Assembly - and paid out of the Treasury of this Province, and that a duty of nine pence on all sloops - and schooners of more than 30 tons, and one shil & 6 pence on other Vessells be laid levied & Collected by the Commander of sd Fort - every voyage they make, free of charge, to be paid on passing out by the Fort, and the same be paid by him to the Treasurer of this Province once a year or oftener if required to be laid out for the purpose afsd. as the Governor, Council & Assembly shall order. This act to continue & be in force 3 years & no longer.

CHAPTER 7. PASSED JAN. 11 - 1772.

WHEREAS the method prescribed in the before mentioned Act of a suitable Lanthorn being lighted and raised each night into the top of the mast that supports the Flag Staff has been found impracticable and a Light House hath been lately erected for that purpose, and also the duty therein ordered to be paid by Vessells on their passage out by the Fort is found insufficient for the supporting the light in Sd. Light-House -

For remedy Whereof be it enacted by the Gov. Council & Assembly, That a suitable light be Kept each night in the Lanthorn on top of the Light house lately erected at the afsd. Fort Wm & Mary instead of the Top of the Flag Staff, etc. This act to be in force until the 12th of April which will be 1774 - and no longer - being the time when afsd. Act referred to will expire.

Raising the duty to be paid by Vessels to be paid for every Voyage.

This Act to be in force until the 12th of April 1774 - and no longer -

CHAP - 3 MAY 27 - 1774.

Raising price per ton - Time of Lighting etc. This Act to Continue & be in force until the first day of June 1775 and no longer -

JAN. 16- 1772 HIS EXCELL. the GOVERNOR was pleased this day to give his consent to all such Acts & allowances as had passed this Session

5th. AN ACT in Addition to an act Intitled An Act for establishing a Light to be Kept at Fort W^m & Mary for the benefit of Vessels Arriving or being upon this Coast in the night time.

JAN. 9th 1772 JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PROV. PAPERS VOL.7

The Committee appointed to examine the Accounts of the Charge of Building the Light House having considered the Same & made such deductions as they tho't Reasonable have reported that there is due to Dan'l Brewster the sum of three hundred & seventy two pounds, Eleven Shil. & 1d togather with the other workmen employed in Sd. work to whom he is answerable VOTED that there be paid Daniel Brewster the above sum from amount appropriated for the Building of a Light House.-

Jan. 16th 1772 Noah Parkers acct. for supplies for the Light House allowed £ 6-15-9

AT A COUNCIL HOLDEN AT PORTSMOUTH BY HIS EXCELLS - SUMMONDS on tues 22d - Dec. 1772 - Present - His Ex John Wentworth Esq. Gov etc. And Members of the Council.

His Excel informed the Board that John Cochran Esq. Comr of the Fort had exhibited his acct. of the amt. of Light Money recd. & of Expense incurred by the Light House, whereby it appears - that the Collection of Light Money by the present Act. is insufficient to Support the Light, and that the same - is now considerably in arrears to Cap. Cochran & asked whether that the Council would advise to draw a warrant on the Treasurer for twenty pounds, Light Money, that the light might not fail, before the meeting of the Genl Assembly, which would settle the sd account and Pass such further order respecting the Said light as may be sufficient to support the same.

Advised to -