1791

Sir

Inclosed herewith I transmit my Quarterly Account for the Support & maintenance of the Light House in this State, & for the repairs to the 30th of September past. —

The extraordinary quantity of Glass used in the repairs in this quarter was occasioned by the Oil taking fire in the Lantern & breaking the Windows, by which the building was in imminent danger of destruction. — The cause of its taking fire I have not been able clearly to investigate, but am apprehensive it arose from the improper construction of the Vessel containing the Oil, which has been in use many years. — It is an open pan about 20 inches diameter & 3 or 4 inches deep, the wick being supported in it by an Iron plate (or piece of hoop) cropping & sunk in it, to the level of the Surface of the Oil. — The Oil in use being fish oil, I find affords a very indifferent light, & as an improvement to the light I had procured Oil of a better quality & that very manifestly burn — in the first tryal the accident happened which renders it necessary to lay this kind of Oil aside; till such

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to Supervisors
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admit of the use of Spermaceti oil with safety, — Though the bad quality of the oil hitherto in use, an accident of this kind never before took place. —

I conceived it to be my duty in this place, to give you this detail, that if it should be thought proper, I might be furnished with particular instructions respecting the necessary improvements, which I conceived probable the discription of the Construction of the most approved Lighthouses concentering at the Treasury would furnish the means of.

The Lighthouse, which is of wood, is in good repair excepting that it will require a coat of paint next Spring to prevent the Shingles from decay. —

I found it necessary to anticipate in my payments for the Support of this Quarter, the Presidents approbation of the Contract. — Where is this?

I am Sir, very respectfully
Your Most Obd't Servant
I. Whipple, Superintend't
of the Lighthouses

The Hon'v Alexand Hamilton Esq.