To Alexander Hamilton Dec. 15, 1791.

Mr Parrott the 2nd Mate of the SCAMMEL having an adventageous offer in the Command of a Ship has resigned his place in the SCAMMEL. I thought it proper that his Commission should be transmitted which is accordingly enclosed herewith together with his letter to the President which I sent open for your preusal.

It is not without regret that I am obliged to give this information as I esteem Mr. Parrott a valuable young man and one that bids fair for a good officer. As there is no power to retain an officer who inclines to quit the Service, I was obliged to acquiesce in this resignation which is rendered the more inconveneint by the Scarcity of young men Suitable for the Station of 1st Mate to which I recommended Mr. Parrott. To remove the inconveniency to the Service arising from s deficiency or officers, I would propose for your consideration and direction the temporary appointment of such persons as may appear the most suitable till the places can be filled with

taking fire Joseph Whipple.

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 in diameter and 3 or 4 inches deep, the wick being supported by an iron plate (or piece of hoop) crossing and sunk im it to the level of the surface of the oil. The oyl in use being fish oyl, I find, affords a very indifferent light and as an improvement to the light I had procured oil of a better quality and that was more free to burn. In the first tryal the accident happened which renders it necessary to lay this kind of oyl aside till such alteration is made in the Construction of the Lamps. Thru the bad uality 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 dexcriptions of the constructions 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 in the spring to prevent the shingles from decay. I am Sir, etc etc.