Report of the fire at the Lighthouse. Oct. 1, 1792.

(being the fire previously referred to)

On the cession of the New Hampshire Lighthouse to the United States, the same management was continued as when under the jurisdiction of the State. It was found by observation and inquiry that the light was not so good as in other lighthouses in this vicinity. This defect was imputed to the use of fish oil, therefore a quantity of Spermacite oil was procured with an intention

of improving the light by the use of it. On tryal the first night the oil took fire, and the Lighthouse was in great danger of burning. The vessel containing the oil is an open copper pan about 20 inches wide and 4 or 5 inches deep. This is suspended to a proper hight in the lantern, the wicks are rested on a plate or strip of Iron laying across the pan and sunk in the oil to the level with the surface of it. These being lighted as usual to the amount of 7 wicks on the suspending plate or strip of iron, it is supposed so effectually heat the irons and consequently the whole quantity of oil exposed on a surface of 400 square inches and 2 inches only deep that the oil being of a quality free to burn caught fire which the ordinary oil heretofore in use would not. Hence it was necessary to lay aside the free burning oil and resume the use of that before employed till such new construction of lamps or other equipment improvements should be adopted as woyld admit of the use of the best oil with safety.