To Tench Coxe, Commissioner of Revenue Oct. 4, 1792.

I had the honor to receive in due course your letter of the 20th August signifying the President's approbation of Titus Salters contract for keeping the lighthouse which I deferred answering till the expiration of the quarter ending the 30th of Sept. Ulto., should enable me to transmit my quarterly accounts of the lighthouse expenditures to that period of which I now enclose you.

My reason for adopting the troublesome mode of forming the contracts for such short terms is that I am endeavouring to inform myself of the best constructed lamps or other apperatus for making a better light than the present establishment exhibits as in case such improvements should be adopted, material alterations would probably take place in the terms of supporting it. Intended improvements also in the attendance hath from time to time occasioned the expiration of those contracts before new ones were made.

When the lighthouse was first committed to my care, on inquiry I found that common fish oil made of the varieties of fish caught on this coast, being the cheapest and easiest procured had been used in it, and that hake oil was esteemed the freest from impure matter, less glutinous and yielding less smoke than any other. The consideration of having the of a better light or the arguments founded on the probable benefits thereof induced several fishing masters to promise to save this kind of oil separate from that of other fish and supply therewith the person who had undertaken the attendance and supply of the lighthouse. Having laid this foundation for a supply of Hake oil, I confined the use of it, with a conditional alteration for the use of Spermacite oil in the first contracts but whether the use of the hake for this supply has been kept separate from mixture

Joseph Whipple.

with other oil has depended on the fidelity of the fishermen. I doubt whether their engagements have been strictly adhered to and of course a fair tryal of this kind of oil which was my object cannot be depended on.

Making it my constant practice to enquire of masters of vessels, the appearance of the light, I have had many complaints of the dimness of it though less frequently than formerly. Those that are truly founded, I impute to the quality of the oil, the small quantity consumed, and the construction of the lamp or rather vessel dontaining it. And it cannot be expected that the consumption of one gallon of fish oil will yield a light equal to that of three gallons in the same term of time which is the difference between the Lighthouse here and others in the vicinity.

The construction of the Vessel containing the Oil when burning will not admit of the use of spermacite or other free burning oil without a risque of burning the Lighthouse as experience hath shown and of which information was given in my letter to the Secretary of the Treasury of the and I am of opinion that it can never be considered as a very useful Lighthouse till the use of Spermacite oil and the proper lamps is adopted.

There may be some deficiencies in the attendance by means of the distance of the Lighthouse from the dwelling of the attendant (which is 300 to 400 yards) and there is no house near it for his accommodation, those formerly in the fort being destroyed. I conceive that it would be a useful improvement of the establishment if a small house was erected in the fort. which might be done for about 100 Dollars expence where the keeper of the lighthouse might reside and be conveniently situated for giving attention to it in the night.

It is evident that improvements are necessary in several respects and it is probable that such information is collected at the Treasury of the most approved constructed Lighthouses in the United States which will enable the direction of any alterations that may be thought proper on the Lighthouse in New Hampshire.

To Alexander Hamilton, Sec. of Treas. Oct. 17, 1792.

Conformably to the order of the Senate of the United States passed the 7th of May last and with your directions dated the 31st of August, I have the honor to transmit to you herewith a Statement of my emoluments for one year ending the 1st of October instant and also those of the several officers who have been appointed by me.

It is with much reluctance that I am led on this occasion to renew a subject which must be uninteresting whether viewed in an official light or otherwise. It is respecting my emoluments as Collector of Portsmouth. The favourable opinion which I had entertained of the approaching happiness of my country and the peculiar satisfaction with which I anticipated the effects of the Federal government (and which has been amply verified in the administration of the department under which I act) induced me not only to accept but to seek an occasion of contributing in some degree towards the execution of it. This ultimately threw me into the office which I now hold and although the emoluments was not the first object, I entertained an Idea that they would in due time and when it should be known how to form an opinion of the value of the Services be advanced to an equitable compensation. At the last session of Congress an addition was made to my emoluments of 100 dollars per year and 2½ commission. This scarcely begins to operate, when

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it does fully, it will yield several hundred dollars short of a reasonable reward for the Services and there willbe no kind of consideration for the deficiences in the three past years, the emolumen of which were, for the first 225.92, the second 295.08 and the third 546.58,

An unwillingness to relinquish an office that I am not averse to hath induced me again to mention this matter to you and to request that you will be pleased to inform me wiether there is a possibility of such augmentation being made as will enable me independently of other resources, to continue in the execution of it and whether any further application on my part would be necessary to that end.
If the returns now made have any relation to that object the noticing of the emoluments for the two first years is not, I apprehend, improper, especially if compensations or grants for deficiencies are admissable.

I think it cannot be conceived that the Services incident to my several functions as Agent for the Cutter, superintendent of the Lighthouse and Collector can be executed for less or be worth less than one thousand dollars net per year, the two former give nothing but are attended with considerable care. I em etc etc.