Treasury Department

Sir — Revenue office. Novem^r 23. 1796

A passage in M^r Sweeny's letter has been misunderstood by you. When he wrote that "it was supposed that "chains or hooks for hanging the lamps went with the "lantern, which does not now appear to be the case", he meant, that it was supposed the chains or wire Hooks went from hence as was ordered and was declared to me at the hour preceding the shipment of the lamps, to be the case. — My letter of November 3^d — gave this explanation incidentally, before I had received your last.

The loss of a little oil by waste will not appear, on reflexion to be a reason of sufficient force for not sending according to request, at least a quarters or half a quarters supply by the vessel that took the lantern and lamps.

The arrival of those things & the probable advanced state of the work in the end of august, would leave the highest presumption, that the oil must be wanted, and the cellar or vault would be cool for keeping the oil in the barrels. The incompleteness of the Cisterns was a temporary inconvenience of no moment, but as far as

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a little leakage, if such casks of oil were sent, as were within custom and the contract. Had the oil been there, wires from the main, or even some of the workmens cords, might have been used by a person of Major Polereczky's Judgment, in a Lantern of metal, glass, Bricks and Mortar — I mean these explanations and remarks, as only apologetic for myself, as it is my particular wish, heightened by the respectability of those I address, not to appear to expect or desire any thing impossible, or even very difficult or unreasonable.

I am, Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

I shall soon expect the favor of your ideas about the proposed establishment on Cape Cod.

Tench Coxe

Commissioner of the Revenue

Benj.n Lincoln Esq.r

Benj. Lincoln Esqr.

Treasury Department
Revenue-Office
March 6th 1792

Benjamin Lincoln Esquire
Superintendent of Massachusetts Light-house
Boston

Transcript of letter
on the state of
light-houses
Augst 29th 1796