Sir,

the Superintendent of the Massachusetts Light houses has been placed by an accident in a situation from which he wishes to be relieved by the goodness of the President. Whon he transmitted to this office the petitions and lengthy testimonials of the Candidates for the station of Keeper of the Cape cod Light house, he omitted to inclose one set from and in favor of Captain Thomas Newcomb. — After I had dispatched to him, information of the appointment of Mr Isaac Small, I received from him the papers concerning Mr Newcomb with a letter mentioning that they were omitted to be inclosed. As the appointment was already made, I returned the papers of Mr Newcomb to General Lincoln. — He has lately transmitted a request that they may be submitted to the President, that the President would have the goodness to revise the whole subject, and to relieve him from a situation of some pain and delicacy by making an appointment in such manner, as with the whole of the applications before him, he may deem to be most respectful. With a view to prevent inconvenience General Lincoln has suspended the communication to Mr Small of his appointment. —

It is necessary for me to observe, that there is no remark for or against Capt. Newcomb in either of General Lincoln's letters, nor is any reliance placed upon his preference of Mr Small.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect, Sir, your most obedient humble servant

Oliver Wolcott

The President of the United States

Philadelphia September 1st 1791

Sir

Applications have been made for the place of Keeper of the Capeticod Light House, which appear to be abundantly supported for the number of signatures to the two inclosed petitions. General Lincoln's wishes are in favor of Isaac Small. The land bought for the site of the Light House, was purchased of W. Small, who owns the adjoining grounds. It is probable therefore, that economy in regard to fencing and salary may be made by appointing him. It will be the cause of an equitable saving, if the Keeper be appointed with condition that his salary shall not commence until the Light House shall be completed for lighting. In the mean time he can make use of the land and of the dwelling house when finished. As this establishment will be accommodated with a good house, barn well and ten acres of arable land, worth without timber, fence or buildings, ten dollars ℔ acre, in a good neighbourhood and a healthy situation, with the opportunity of taking fish, it is probable a qualified keeper will be always procurable for a salary of one hundred and fifty dollars ℔ annum, and the use of the public Estate. The lantern is of the second class, and the Light House was made very low on account of the elevation of the land above high water. These facts affect favorably the actual trouble or labor of the Keeper.

I am, Sir,

The Secretary of the Treasury

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) Tench Coxe

Commissr. of the Revenue