Sir

Revenue office June 1st. 1797.

I have this day received from Genl. P. Wadsworth two papers of which copies are enclosed. I have informed him that the repairs and improvements of the House, and the suggestion concerning the Keeper do not require legislative interposition.

It is said that from an excess of sand in making the mortar it can be picked out and has fallen much; and that the house is constantly wet, that this produces a great vapour dimming the glass, that the Gallery is too small to admit of a person going outside to clean the glass and that the lantern is much too small.

It is possible that there may be too much sand, or that it may have been taken from a beach or bank of a body of ~~water~~ salt water, either of which, especially the latter, would make the mortar bad. If this be the case, it is probable a good rich coat of pointing, nearly equal to a rough casting, and a thick whitewash, may be useful or necessary, first carefully picking and raking out with an iron pick or tool as much of the old mortar as possible

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It is not perceived from the Report of 27th Dec. 1792, whether the lantern is of iron, copper or wood.

Genl. Wadsworth thinks it is of metal. Be pleased to inform me. I suspect there is a want of ventilators above, or of air pipes below, or both. The Virginia House tho' apparently excellent, and with an iron lantern of 10 3/4 feet diameter, did not answer at all; till I caused air pipes to be made in the lower part of one of the sides and in the floor.

As the keeper alledges, that he has not room to move round the lamps between them and the lantern sides to clean the glass, I suspect their position or form or both are bad. Will you ascertain the construction, manner of hanging &c. and endeavour to regulate this part of the business.

I suspect Gl. Wadsworth will move for an order to examine into the subject of the desired buoys. But it will be agreeable and save time, if you will take occasion to have the proper enquiries made upon that subject, extending to the number, cost &c.

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I am, Sir,

your most Obed. Servt

Jnº Nicholas

Commissr. of the Revenue

Benjn. Lincoln Esqr.