July 12th 1797.

Benj.a Lincoln

Collector Office Dist.t Boston & Charlestown Supt. Light houses

Free

Tench Coxe Esquire

Commissioner of the Revenue

Philadelphia

BO[illegible]

about 12 pairs -

Portland L. house

I have caused a Report to be made me respecting the State of the Light House at Portland & find that it wants pointing with good Lime Mortar & that the expence of doing the business will amount to Twenty or thirty dollars. — Since I have received another report said to be made by some of the first Masons which for your information I enclose. — If the present Building is really too damp the defect can be cured with a small expence compared with that of Stone work & much more effectual. as it relates to dampness. I propose to your consideration the propriety of enclosing the Walls by pine planks Spiked in the first place to the Walls by driving the Spikes into the Joints between the Stones - after this is done the whole should be embraced by three Iron Hoops & the whole covered by a Coat

it relates to dampness. I propose to your consideration the propriety of enclosing the Walls by pine planks Spiked in the first place to the Walls by driving the Spikes into the Joints between the Stones - after this is done - the whole should be embraced by three or four Iron Hoops & the whole covered by a Coat of good Shingles well painted the Expence of which will be as follows Viz:

3m Pine planks	$20	60 —
20m D° Shingles	2.50	50 —
6 C° Iron for Hoops		50 —
Carpenters work		55 —
Painters bill say		70 —
Spikes, Nails. &c		25.
Stuff or Staging		15
Probable Expence		325 —

Turn Over

469

Expence of Stone

417. Yard of Stone	@ $1. —	417 —
Masons bill 85 ℔ Town		208
20 Yds Lime		100 —
Staging & Labourers to hoist Stone		200 —
Probable expence		$ 925

I really consider a coat of Wood as proposed to be the best; and suppose that Stone will cost only 500 Dollars more, that sum at Interest forty years; the Coat will last longer that time with a little attention as must be paid to the Stone work — I say that at the end of Forty years, a saveing from Interest only will amount to $1200 — These hints are submitted to your consideration, if any good shall be experienced from them I shall be satisfied that they are offered.

I am Sir your

Obedient Servant

P. Lorrain