Sir,

Treasury Department
Revenue Office, July 19th 1797

The report of the Masons concerning the Portland light House is so imperfect, that it does not afford the requisite and obtainable materials on which a judgment can be formed. They do not say in what consist or appear the insufficiency, defects, or faults of the building in regard to construction and workmanship or present condition. A good pointing with a rich plaister inside and outside, and coat of thick white washing while the plaister is not more than half dry, will be very useful, and ought to be done immediately. If the wall proposed by the Masons should be built, it will be of great weight and therefore will inevitably settle. Suppose it to settle but one inch, that will produce a universal separation of the new from the present building, and as that is smallest above, and not cylindrical, the settling will produce a distention and loosening

of the

the new building — If any building with stone were to take place, I should think it best to be either on the inside and in a circular form as to its inner out line while the new work fitted the old in the external out line — or perhaps it would be better to lay on the out side, long and wide slabs of free stone with close joints, yet with mortar.

Nothing however, but the pointing and wash as above appears advisable, till the thickness, goodness, badness &c.ª of the stone, mortar, stonework, manner of laying &c. has been examined and noted by the Inspectors. I think one ought to be a person who cannot have a hope of being employed, and is not nor ever has been a Mason.

Will you be pleased to have the pointing inside and out with the best mortar effected, and to direct the seams to be just picked with an instrument, and the white wash to be put on at the proper moment.

I am, Sir — Your most obedient Servant,

Benj.ª Lincoln Esq.ʳ

Sam.ˡ Lyman
Commissioner of the revenue