Treasury Department

Sir, Revenue Office August 12th 1797

The reason assigned in my other letter of this day prevented an earlier attention to yours of the 27th ultimo.

General Dearborn is bound to sink, complete and furnish a Well. I presumed he had done it. Mr Cony, tho so instructed did not pay his final visit - and therefore the certificate of finishing was wanting, but Mr Cony's report was so favorable and the assurances of the General, that every thing was completed according to contract, were so decidedly made that I am at a loss to judge how such an oversight could have arisen. He must yet make a good Well.

The furnishing good and complete conductors, and fixing them up in a proper manner, is a plain duty of the contractor. He must yet have that matter put in order. I wish the Keeper had described the defects or errors in their construction or setting up.

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The ventilators and air pipes may not have been provided, or properly conducted - or there may be an insufficiency. This matter will require a report from the Keeper - at all events while General Dearborn's people are there about the well and rods some more pipes below should be introduced, perhaps some more ventilators. If this does not prove sufficient I shall doubt the expediency of omitting the ventilator in the form of a man's head — The Virginia Lantern however did not do well at first - It wanted air below. after a change in that respect it was found to do very well. —

Some conversation with General Dearborn took place about the boat. I thought I had written fully upon the subject to you, until the receipt of yours of the 27th Ultimo. If the boat is proper, and at a just price, it can be taken, and ought to be completed according to the nature of the service and is usual with the other light Houses that

have

have boats. If Sails and rigging are usual, proper and necessary, it will be right to furnish them. —

P.S. I will write to General Dearborn about the Well &c., as the contract was made with this Office, and the letter will be inclosed, unsealed to you, that you may be perfectly master of the State of the Business. —

I am, Sir, —

Your obedient Servant,

Tench Coxe

Commissioner of the Revenue

Benjn Lincoln, Esqr —

Tim.th Cox Esq
Augt 12 1797 —
Covering a letter
to Genl Dearborn
Enquiring a Well
at Segunkedee &c
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