sir
(Wm. Miller Esq.)

After a long and close attention to the Act of Congrefs for rebuilding a Lighthouse in this district communicated to me by your letter of the 22d of April last & directed in subsequent communications - I have not received such proposals as would justify my closing the term of their reception - but it is necefsary now to communicate such as have been received. -

The unacquaintedness with this kind of architecture of our Mechanics evinced by the great variety & excefs in calculation which have been produced to me - led me to extend my notice & correspondence to every point on which a probability existed of a favourable termination.

The result of all this is, that I am enabled to transmit you proposals only from 5 persons for your examination & for the consideration of you and the Secretary of the Treasury & if his decision whether either of them can be accepted or not - all of which exceed the sum appropriated. - A number of other proposals have been made - but these amounts have gone so far beyond the limits of these at hand - or are from persons in whom I could not confide for their skill in workmanship that I have selected these only for your view - on which it is proper I should make a few remarks. -

N° 1. Proposals from Henry & W. Wiggin, residing abt 10 miles from hence - These men are carpenters understanding in the Construction of dwelling houses, but have had no knowledge of the workmanship of Light houses & their proposal far exceed the appropriation

N° 2. Mr. Hobart lives in Pittston, district of Maine about 200 miles east of this town - I have corresponded with this Gentleman on the subject & confered personally with him, he is well informed respecting these buildings, has attended the construction of several Lighthouses & would procure good workmen for executing the Several kinds of Work in the best manner his terms exceed the appropriation 850 Dollars -

N° 3. Mefsrs Beal & Thaxter residing at Hingham about 20 miles from Boston - they are carpenters by profefsion & have erected several Lighthouses in Mafsach they are recommended to me by Genl Lincoln collector of Boston, who has employed them & who afsures me they are faithful & Skilful workmen - their terms exceed the appropriation by 750 dollars -

N° 4. Silas Frink - lives about 8 miles from this town - is an experienced & approved carpenter & is capable of constructing in the strongest manner any kind of framed wood building His proposal is Verbal at 5000 Dollars

N° 5. Benj. C. Gilman - residing 15 miles from hence - is not a carpenter, but is pofsefsed of great mechanical ingenuity & from his character I am of opinion he would cause the work to be executed in the best manner, his terms also exceed the appropriation by 650 dolls but one lower than any hitherto proposed. From the advanced price of labour & materials I am apprehensive lower proposals than these will not be obtained this year - as at any time while labour continues to be in so high demand -

I cannot see a probability of going on with the work unlefs the general appropriation for Lighthouse estimates will yield a Surplufs which may be applied to this particular one - should that happen to be the case, & a decision made on one of the proposals herein enumerated & speedily signified to me - the promptest practicable opperations shall be attempted by me to have the work performed with fidelity.

I am &c

P.S. On the close of this I am favored with yours of the 21 ULT° by which it appears 500 dolls additional appropriation has been made for the object in question, which comes within 150 dollars of M^R Gilman's proposals. - Be pleased to observe that it is found necefsary to give the lantern elevation of 80 feet from the foundation & the Pyramid at base 39 or 40 feet, hence the necefsity of large timber in the construction of the building - which is unavoidably expensive.