swer is ready. We are rewarded with a good light to designate the coast, with an eclipser to distinguish it from the neighbouring lights of Portland and Portsmouth. Winter Harbour has become a place of safeguard and security to all vessels in danger and distress: property to a large amount, has already been saved to various citizens of the community; and Government itself is repaid by the valuable articles, bonded at the Custom-Houses, which otherwise would have been swallowed by the rapacious waters.

I wish, Gentlemen, it were in my power to tell you that this picture, is an accurate description of the reality. But, the reverse in every thing is the truth:—From the completion of the Light-house to this day, no light has ever shed its cheering rays over a stormy sea; no vessel has found in it a protection from a rocky shore; no pilot has discovered the entrance to Winter Harbour by its aid. But vessels have been wrecked on the coast; and others belonging to this port when returning home, have been in imminent danger. Knowing that the Light-house was erected, and supposing that it was lighted, they have mistaken the lights on the neck for the light on Wood-Island, and have barely saved their vessels from the rock, and themselves from poverty or death.

Why is it, Gentlemen, that not a gallon of oil has been sent to Wood Island, when every thing is ready, and the keeper is waiting for its reception? I have observed in your paper, some time since, certain proposals of Government for the purchase of 40,000 gallons of oil for the use of Light-houses. Is Wood-Island forgotten? Or are the administration haggling with the oil-contractor to save a half cent on the gallon, that the cheapness of the purchase may tell well in a report. O blessed fruits of democratic economy to pay 5000 dollars, for a light-house to give a keeper 225 dols. a year salary, beside house-rent and firewood, and then refuse to supply him with oil, because it is half a cent dearer than they are willing to pay.

And who, Gentlemen, reap the benefit of this expense? Do the merchants? Do the mariners? No.—Their property and their lives are still exposed to dangers that may be removed. But the Government is *economical*, and the money is well expended. The keeper becomes a good Democrat; enjoys a salary from a sinecure office, blesses Mr. Jefferson, and quotes the *saving* to the Government of the *Oil*, as a superlative instance of his foreknowledge, as events have proved, and says that in a little time there will be no expenditures for oil and for light-houses, as our vessels will all be detained abroad, or returned into port to be safely laid up in the *Grand dry Dock* of the *Embargo*.

H. M.

* *A shrewd old Democrat would probably have received this sing birth had he not been a little too hasty in the proofs of his sagacity and merit. He was the Proprietor of that part of the Island which the General thought the best suited for the site of the Light-house; and accordingly the General purchased ten acres of him, communicating with the sea. The old fellow measured to low-water-mark, and gave him ten acres of* rocks, *which obliged the Gen. who would not quarrel with him, to make another purchase of ten acres of* land, *for the accommodation of the Light-house, the keeper's house, and and to supply him with wood. The old man was admired for his shrewdness, but he left a comfortable dwelling-house and a lucrative office.*

FROM THE BOSTON GAZETTE.

WOOD ISLAND LIGHT.

The dangerous navigation of the coast of New England, during the tempestuous seasons of the winter and the spring, is well known to every *sailor* and to every *merchant*.

With the exception of Cape Cod, few places are more difficult and more dreaded than Fletchers neck. In consequence of which, and as an adequate remedy for the evil; during the last session of Congress, 5000 dols. were appropriated by the national Government, for the purpose of erecting a *Light-House* on Wood-Island; and Gen. Lincoln, the collector at Boston, was appointed the agent to procure its erection and establishment.

In pursuance of his instructions, the General in the course of the last summer, purchased twenty acres of land of one of the Proprietors of the Island, for which he paid 160 dols; and contracted with an experienced workman, to build a Light-House, and a house for the keeper, with every convenience necessary for the situation. To this contractor he agreed to give the sum of 4750 dollars.

On the 1st of September, according to the agreement between the agent and the contractor, the Light-house was completely finished, and the house prepared for the reception of the keeper. Many applications were made to procure this* appointment; and of the applicants an old sea Captain was the fortunate candidate. On receiving the news of his appointment, from Gen. Lincoln, with 225 dols a year as a salary and the use of the house and land for his service, he immediately removed on to the Island and prepared himself for the regular discharge of his office.

And what, Gentlemen, is the consequence of this well contrived and expensive establishment? The an