Sir

Boston 14th Nov 1812

Portland Head Light house is a Stone building standing on an eminence 50 feet above the level of the sea the tower is 72 feet from the foundation to the lantern it appeass that when this Light house was built that 50 feet of it was built of the best materials, done in a workmanlike manner, some difference then arose among the contractors, the finishing was undertaken by another sett of men, who carried up the last 22 feet in the most slighty manner possible, on which they put a lantern of only 5 feet diameter. this Lantern was built different from any thing of the kind I ever met with, being made wholly with copper, without any iron, the posts being formed of Copper tubes; on examining this light house I found it would be an useless expence to try to repair the lantern, as it could never be made to answer the purpose; I concluding that it would be too late this season to make any alteration I put the new lights in for this winter & it is

with much difficulty that we can keep any light in it — The building is decidedly too high, I should recommend taking of 20 feet this would take of all that part that was sobadly done at first & give a sufficient deck for a lantern of ten feet diameter the building then would be substantial & they would have a light equal to the importance of the situation of it.

As the light must be put out during the alteration the summer months would be the most proper to have it done. I have made an accurate estimate of the expence, & find it will cost 2500 Dollars to have it completely done as it ought to be in every Respect.

I should recommend a lantern of the same dimentions & materials as the one lately built for Cape Cod with the octagon post sunk 7 feet in the stone work.

I am Respect[fu]y Sir
Your Ob[t] Serv[t]
Winslow Lewis

Hon[ble] Albert Gallatin
Secretary of the Treasury