Treasury Department,
Revenue Office,
November 24. 1815.

Sir

I received your favor of the 9th ultimo transmitting the abstract of the Keeper's reports and the report of Mr. Lewis respecting the Light Houses.

You will please to inform me if it is necessary that the keeper of Thatcher's Island Light House should be furnished with the large boat recommended by Mr. Lewis in addition to the small skiff which he now has.

Mr. Lewis's report states that the buildings at Baker's Island cannot be kept up, without small repairs, longer than until another summer, and that the frame of the building will not support the towers of the lanterns. Is it meant to convey the idea that it will be necessary to rebuild the Light-Houses, or that they will only require a more thorough repair?

When alterations or repairs become necessary

it is advisable, in stating them, to accompany the statement with an estimate of their expense. An estimate of the cost of the addition to the house of the Keeper of Cape Poge Light House is now wanted before authority can be given for having it done.

You will be pleased to give me your opinion on the propriety of rebuilding the house of the Keeper of the Nantucket Light House as recommended by W. Lewis. I do not rightly understand him in saying that the contractor for the new house should be made to take the present house as it now stands, and build one near the Light House. Is this meant to build the new house with the materials of the old one, or that the contractor should be at liberty to occupy the old house in its present situation? If this last be intended, it cannot be admitted, as the dwelling of the Keeper only can be permitted on the ground belonging to the United States. If you think it advisable to have a new house built, you will accordingly send an

estimate of the expense.

I am,

respectfully,

Albert Gallatin

Commissioner of the Revenue

Henry A. S. Dearborn Esq.