Treasury Department,
Revenue Office, August 2. 1816.

Sir

Your favors of the 26th and 27th ultimo are received.

I concur with you fully in opinion, that in the present situation of the United States, all the works effected by the government should combine durability with convenience, and that, generally, the Light Houses should be built of stone or brick.

When, however, an appropriation is made by Congress for particular objects which can be effected, though not in the most durable or commodious manner, it is considered ordinarily correct to have them executed in the best practicable way. In the case, therefore, of the three Light Houses, contemplated to be built on Point Gammon, Race Point, and Petit Manon, I am of the opinion that it would be improper, as a single appropriation is made for the whole, to apply it so as to preclude, without a further appropriation, the erection of one or more of the buildings. But it may be so applied, as that the most important Light House should be at once erected of Stone, and that a sufficient

balance may be left for erecting the two others of wood, or so that the two most important ones may be erected of stone, and a sufficient balance remain for erecting the other of wood, connecting with this course a suspension to erect those that cannot now be constructed of stone until after the next session of Congress, when a further appropriation may be requested, equal to completing all the buildings of stone. This course, so far as you consider it advisable, may be pursued by you. It is necessary to add, for your government, that the act of the State cedes only the jurisdiction over so much of the Island of Petit Manon, as may be needed for a Light House, and is silent as to the cession of the soil.

You will be pleased to consider yourself as authorised, conformably to your recommendations, to enlarge the dwelling house of the Keeper of Cape Poge Light House 14 by 15 feet provided the expense shall not exceed two hundred and fifty dollars, and to paint the Light House and dwelling house provided the expense shall not exceed one hundred and twenty dollars; to underpin the dwelling house of the keeper of Nantucket Beacon, provided the expense shall not exceed seventy dollars; and to new board, shingle and paint the dwelling house on

Sequin, putting it in a perfect state of repair, provided the expense shall not exceed four hundred dollars.

I am,

respectfully

Commissioner of the Revenue

Henry A. S. Dearborn Esq.r

Sup.t of Light Houses

Massachusetts