Bird Island, Nov. 15th 1819.

Sir —

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters; the one bearing date the 29th ult., received on the evening of the 6th, and the other of the present month, received this morning. I avail of this opportunity to thank you, Sir, for the very obliging manner in which you have been pleased to instruct me. If I am right in construing the letter of the 29th as a gentle reproof for the hasty and want of experience discernible in my communication of the 12th Octr., I cannot too highly appreciate the generosity in which it was conceived or the very mild and acceptable language in which it was conveyed. I regret that during the short time I have had the honor of being known to you, to have intruded upon your attention so often. I came to the discharge of the duties of this station without expecting any other considerations than are common to all other persons in the same course of life; and that with the full determination that any personal inconveniencies unconnected with the facilities contemplated to be afforded, should never form a subject of complaint. I should have acknowledged the receipt of your favour of the 29th ult. with some remarks relative to my letter of the 12th, but fearing I might be thought assuming an unbecoming forwardness, or intruding upon your attention with frequent unimportant communications, I omitted it. Finding the Light [redacted] a leaky condition, I mentioned it to Mr. Howes, when he visited the Island, and [redacted] that it ought to be painted over again: but made no observations relative to the general practice. In examining the work I found where the cement had [redacted] between the stones in which no cement had been placed: also that the cement contained a greater quantity of sand than I recollect to have noticed in any thing of the kind before. In managing the Lamps, I found no difficulty; but the clock had been fitted up with so little intelligence and regard to the height of the Light House, that it gave me more trouble than all my duty beside. The clock of [redacted] is a good one: but the former line was quite too long, tight coils and unpliable: [redacted] of sixteen feet, the distance from the platform to the place where the weight [redacted] when down, more than five feet was taken up with the pullies and weight; and a simple huff tackle purchase (to use a sea phrase) constituted the agent of operation. With the materials brought me by Mr. Leamon, I made a three fold purchase and reduced the length of the weight; and the clock performed well during the night he remained on the Island: but the next [redacted] it stopped twice: I took the purchase again to pieces, and found in the bushing of the pullies, projections in two; owing to their not being solid, but turned together: and as the times of their revolutions were unequal, the projection in one was liable to catch in the corresponding projection of the other, and consequently stop the whole operation. After remedying this defect, I kept the clock in operation for several days and nights, and it performed with the most perfect constancy and accuracy. I object ever to have made any observations upon the Reflectors, as collectively they throw a brilliant light; still there is at least one hundred per. cent. difference between some and others. I enclose their exact admeasurement, as taken before my letter of the 12th Octr, of which this is a copy.

2 was ignorant of the proper way of measuring the them, and therefore measured them both ways, and as neither corresponded with Mr. Lewis' receipt, 2 concluded that the chimeter, (or concave measure) was the right one; and hesitated on that ground. In consequence of not having arrived at this place in time to receive the keys from the proper person, and at the proper time for making myself acquainted with the condition of the articles furnished, 2 have thought it but reasonable that 2 should be held accountable for any loss or damages sustained, and therefore shall consider myself accountable to Capt. Lewis, for the deficiency of Oil, which 2 estimate at seventeen gallons. 2 beg your indulgence, Sir, while 2 relate a circumstance upon which 2 ground some suspicions in relation to the oil — 2 arrived at the Port of Rochester, on Friday, about noon; and immediately embarked my goods for the island, having in company Capt. Norton and Luce and Deacon Hiller, in whose custody the keys had been. In company with those persons, 2 examined every thing that had been furnished from the Lt. House, and when 2 came to the oil, 2 observed to them, that the appearance indicated that some had been taken out of the Butts. as it was evident the oil had once stood higher up than it then was. Their opinions corresponded. 2 marked the places at which the oil stood. requested them to notice, and observed that 2 should measure it. Capt. returning to Deacon Hiller's for the night, where 2 had left my family. He requested me to sell him some oil, and the same request was made to my wife by Mrs. H. in the course of the evening. This request was repeated several times, either seperately or together in the course of the evening and the next morning. They offered every decision of exchanging some vegetables for a gallon or two of oil. as they were strangers, 2 showed no resentment. answered them civilly and told them it would be a very improper thing to dispose of what was not my own. that it belonged to the Government, &c. they said the government was rich and would never miss it. &c. &c. Who could countenance an act of this nature in another, 2 think would not be over scrupulous of embracing an opportunity when it presented of doing the same themselves. This man kept the keys — If the Deacon is too scrupulous to do the thing himself. he has a son who could for him —

By Mr. Lemon, the workman from Boston, 2 received a letter from Capt. Lewis, in which he observes, "there are some expressions in your letter to Mr. Dearborn, which 2 think might as well have been omitted or modified until you had become better acquainted with the nature of stone buildings and the opportunity for lighting Lt. Houses." From these observations 2 readily infer, that 2 have the misfortune to have injured the feelings of that gentlemen. If so, 2 most sincerely and deeply regret it. 2 certainly never intended it. nor is there any possible inducement to such a thing; for during the few times 2 had occasion to call on Mr. Lewis, 2 experienced all that gentlemanly and condescending attention which the nature of my business could possibly entitle me to. and felt towards him all that respect which is naturally inspired. 2 cannot recollect the exact expressions contained in my letter; but hope there were none calculated to injure the feelings of a gentleman to whom the country is so much indebted; and 2 might with equal propriety say the commercial world. My letter was written in haste, and under the influence of feelings considerably excited by two reports reaching me, that vessels had arrived in the neighbourhood of this place, and saw no Light on the Island. This was undoubtedly occasioned by the stopping of the clock, when the frames to which the Lamps are attached presented the dark side to the entrance of the Bay. 2 felt an anxious solicitude for my reputation as keeper of the Light, fearing that through ignorance or design, or both connected, a representation highly unfavourable to me might be made to the Superintendent of Lt. Houses. conscious at the same time of having exerted myself to the utmost to discharge my duties with fidelity —

To these considerations were added the recollection of my friends who had so generously exerted themselves to procure me the appointment;- and the imputations of neglect of duty would shake their confidence, which once lost might never be regained. Major Brooks' last injunctions to me were;- "repair to your station and acquit yourself of your duty with fidelity to the public and the acceptance of Genl. Dearborn, and await what chance may throw in your way." The high sense of obligation and respect due to that gentleman, would of itself, aside from all other considerations be sufficient to elicit my utmost efforts to a faithfull discharge of my duty- Under the influence of circumstances and such considerations, my duty being new to me, I undoubtedly drew hasty conclusions, and considered every obstacles to its performance as requiring an immediate removal. As no better portion offers than the consideration of not having committed errors, would be so complete, as that of making reparation for them when committed; I am led with great confidence to hope that any improprieties contained in my letter of the 12th. ult. may receive such consideration as circumstances and the assurance that they were not intentional may entitle them to-

I enclose two blanks, which I have signed, and will thank you, Sir, to do me the favour of having them filled out: as the forms are for Quarters, and the account is to include the month of Septr. as part of another Quarter, I feared that I might not do it properly, or would not trouble you on the occasion-

I am, Sir, very respectfully
your most obedient
Servant

William L. Morris

Genl. Mt. C. K. Dearborn

P.S. And as I have occupied your attention at some length, for the purpose of not having occasion to intrude upon your time again soon. I beg leave to subjoin. that for several years I have considered that my health required the benefits to be derived from a warmer climate- as more congenial to my constitutional habits- that each winter produces a deterioration of health and spirits. I have therefore contemplated applying to my friends, to endeavour to procure for me a transfer from this place to Sappello or Cumberland Light, when erected- in giving the preference to Sappello. As your opinion, Sir, might save me much trouble in ascertaining the probable success of such an application- I should feel myself under great obligations to you, should you think proper to express it. If, Sir, you should not think such an application likely to be attended with success, it would be sufficient to prevent my making the attempt- but if otherwise, I would most willingly exchange situations even though the salary there should be less than what I now receive.

It may be proper to remark, Sir, that my observations in relation to Baron Hiller, were intended exclusively for your own consideration- that I am not disposed to injure any person's character upon loose conjectures- that I could offer many additional reasons for my belief that he knows what become of the Cash- that notwithstanding his church title, things of an more aggravated nature are alledged against him by many- and that the most favourable construction that I can put upon his offer to purchase all is, that he might have occasion against me, procure my removal, for the purpose of obtaining the situation himself, of which he was and is at present very desirous- being poor.

Rochester Mass
11 mo 22

Paid 10

Genl. H. A. S. Dearborn,
Superintendent of Light Houses
in Massachusetts

Boston.

Wm. S. Thayer
Mar.
Mass. Rec. Salem
Essex

Nos.	Convex surface	Concave	By concave is meant the die alrop the front.
1	18	14 1/2	
2	18	14 3/8	
3	18	14 1/8	
4	15 1/2	12 3/4	
5	15 3/8	13	
6	15 1/2	12 7/8	
7	15 3/4	12 7/8	
8	16	13 1/2	
9	18	14 3/8	
10	18	14 1/2	