Scituate January 14th 1822

Sir

I have been a complaint lodged against me as being accessory in smuggling a bag of tea — In November last about 12 o'clock at night I was called up by two men at my door who informed me that their vessel was on the Rocks and wished my assistance — I with my two sons went on board of her to assist in getting her off which was effected and the vessel by our exertions was saved and got into the harbor — Soon after I got on board I was knocked over board by the helm by the sea striking against the rudder and was taken out of the water much hurt and in this situation I was carried below and did not again come on deck until I was carried on shore nor did I know what was done — It afterwards appeared that during the night which was dark and stormy my sons assisted some one in carrying a bag of tea ashore on the opposite side of the River to which I lived this I had no knowledge of at the time — My sons are both over 21 years of age and follow the sea — I cannot suppose that you will blame

accountable for the conduct of those over whom I had no control altho they might be my children —

I have been keeper of Scituate Light house for nearly ten years and for my conduct during that time I appeal to the Collector at Boston to Mr Winslow Lewis and to the Public generally —

I am now advanced in years and humbly request that you will give the case your consideration and take into view that the complaint first made against me originated with those who are in expectation of getting the place I hold as keeper of the Light house —

Very Respectfully

Stephen Pleasanton Esq. Yr mo Obd Sv

5th Auditor of the Treasury

& Act Commissr of Revenue

Simeon Bates