Collectors Office
District of Portland & Falmouth
June 5th 1822

Sir

I have received your letter of the 27. ult. informing that Congress at their last session passed an act appropriating three thousand Dollars for building a Light House at Monhegan Island; directing that the Light House authorized to be built on Cross Island be built on Libby Island, for which five hundred Dollars in addition to the balance remaining of the former appropriation, is made, & also appropriated four thousand Doll. for finishing Kennebunk Pier; requesting that I would take the proper steps for obtaining the title to the land most suitable for the location of the respective Light Houses, and a cession of jurisdiction over it by the State: and also inform you if any thing further remains to be done that will require the application of any part of the present appropriation for Kennebunk Pier.

I am informed that Libby Island containing about 30 or 40 acres, is owned by John Coffin Jones of Boston, who will sell the whole Island for a sum not exceeding twenty Dollars per acre; or he will sell any number of acres the United States may want for a Light House, for fifty Doll. per acre. The Island has a good soil, some wood, and is well worth the price asked: The jurisdiction of the Island is ceded to the United States, per copy of an Act of the Legislature of Maine herewith enclosed. You will please to give directions whether the whole Island shall be purchased, or such part only as may be necessary for the Light House.

As early as practicable I shall take steps for obtaining the title to land suitable for a Light House on Monhegan: the Cession to the United States can not be obtained before January, and unless this can be dispensed with until the Legislature of Maine next meet, which will be in January, the building of the Light House on Monhegan must be deferred untill the next year.

I intend visiting Kennebunk in the coming week, and ascertain what addition is necessary to be made to the Pier, that will promote the safety of navigating the River. The Pier erected last summer, was completed in every part agreeably to contract; probably however the merchants of that port may wish to have it extended further towards the sea and nearer the bar at the entrance of the River; of this however I am not certain; but shall in a few days ascertain whether any thing further remains to be done that will require the application of the money appropriated

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Sir
your ob.t servant
Isaac Lslay
Supt of Light Houses in Maine

Stephen Pleasanton Esq.
Fifth Auditor and Actina
Commissioner of the Revenue
Washington.