Treasury Department
Fifth Auditor's Office July 24, 1823

Sir

I was my intention to have replied to your letter of the 15th. May soon after its preciept, but it having been accidentally placed with others to which there was no occasion to refer it now, it escaped my attention.

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Mr. Staats, the Keeper of Buffaloe Light House is distinctly to understand that he is placed under your Superintendence and is subject to your orders in every thing relating to the due Execution of his duties as Keeper. This indeed is implied by the very nature of your respective trusts and is called for by the public interest. There would be no advantage in having Superintendents if the Keepers of Light Houses were to be independent of them. It is to the Superintendent, as being the officer of the highest grade, we look, not only for keeping the Light Houses in repair, but for conducting them in a suitable Manner; of this you will inform the Keeper.

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The Keeper will also receive his pay from you quarterly. What may be due to him down to the 1st. July inst, will be remitted to you on your stateing to me precisely what it is. Hereafter you will at the beginning of a quarter forward to me an estemate of the Keeper's salary and of such other expences as may be necessary during the quarter, and the money shall be remitted to you in time to make the payments at the close of such quarter. I am &c.

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Signed S. Pleasonton
Fifth Auditor and Acting
Comm.r of the Revenue.

Mynderd. M. Dox Esq.re

P.S. It is not considered proper to make the alteration in the lamps as proposed in your letter, nor to direct the Keeper to light the lamps on the Pier.