Collectors Office
District of Portland & Falmouth
May 7th 1824

Sir

I have to inform you that several complaints have been made to me of the Light House and of the Keeper at White Head; that the Light is too small, and not faithfully tended by the Keeper; he frequently leaving the light to the care of ~~others, who may not understand the duties or may neglect~~ to perform it.

On my visit to this Light House last summer, I found the apparatus and the glass of the lantern very dirty, and a great want of cleanliness throughout the whole establishment; for this neglect of duty the Keeper, Mr. Haskell, has been repeatedly admonished. I am however satisfied that the cause of complaint arises not altogether from the inattention of the Keeper, but considerably, from the smallness of the light, the lantern being constructed for and fitted with five lamps only, when the importance of the situation requires that there should be double the present number of lamps, at least.

Subsequent to receiving the written complaints, which are enclosed herewith, I directed the Captain of the Cutter on his cruise east, to call and examine into the situation of the Light House, and of the conduct of the Keeper; who has reported that, in his opinion, the cause of complaints was principally owing to the smallness of the light, and not so much to the inattention of the Keeper as had been represented. —

I

I would observe that it is probable, that two lamps with sixteen inch reflectors, may be added to the present light, by placing one above and the other below the circle, without the expense of enlarging the lantern; this addition I should advise to, if on examination it is found to be practicable; the cost I believe will not exceed one hundred Dollars.

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
Sir
Your ob. servant
Isaac Ilsley, Supt. of
Light Houses in Maine

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