District of Port of Newport,
Collector's-Office,
September 20th 1825.

Sir

Soon after the receipt of your letter of the 14th of July last, I went, in the cutter, into the West-passage of Narragansett-bay, in order to ascertain whether a site for a light-house in every respect equally eligible as that on Dutch Island could be found in its neighbourhood, and for which the proprietors would be willing to take a reasonable price. Such a site — a site indeed, in the opinion of the officers of the cutter, competent judges, and in mine, preferable to the other — presented itself at Cosse Shalls-beach, on the western shore of the bay, in the town of North Kingstown, nearly opposite to Dutch Island, but a little higher up. — Wm Carpenter, proprietor and agent for the other proprietors of Dutch Island, who was on the ground, was informed of the object in pursuit, that he might, if he saw fit, retract and agree to convey the two acres at the price of $172 an acre which had been offered: to do which, however, he did not seem inclined. Having thus satisfactorily settled the point of eligibility, and no prospect

of accommodation elsewhere remaining, I proceeded, shortly after, July 23d., in the cutter, to East Greenwich, to see the owners of the land, there residing, and to obtain their price for it. This could not be determined without a meeting of the parties at Coggeshall's beach, which, by agreement, was had, the 10th. instant, and from which resulted the enclosed letter, wherein five hundred dollars are named as the last sum for about four acres of land, one half of which may be made arable and the remainder is salt pond and beach; the latter only of use to the United States, and merely as a spot for a light-house, with a way from it to the upland whereon a keeper's house might be built; the reservations extending to every thing of value derivable from the beach and pond. But, considering that the beach forms the sea-boundary of a large farm, and how very undesirable its alienation, in any manner, must necessarily be on account of its relative position, the price demanded does not appear to be unreasonable. Previously to the meeting with Mr. Casey and his son at Coggeshall's beach, I again saw and conversed with Mr. Carpenter, who declined, as before, any departure from the report of the Commissioners. Notice of the contemplated change of site has been circulated among

the merchants and others concerned in navigation
objections, if any and made known to me, will be
communicated. There cannot, however, I am confident,
be a question as to the greater eligibility of Cogges-
-halls-beach.

I have respectfully,
Sir,
Your Obt. Servant
Chris. Ellery Col. Cus

Stephen Pleasonton Esq
Fifth-auditor & acting-com-
-missioner of the revenue

13. to
Act'g Com'r. Revenue,
Sept. 20. 1825.
with copy
letter relative to site for light-
-house at Coggeshall's-beach