Collector's Office,
District of Portland and Falmouth,
Portland, 21st December 1830.

Sir:

I deem it my duty to state to you that it is very important that the Light Houses and Dwelling Houses at White Head and Franklin Island should be rebuilt. They are wooden buildings, and are very rotten, particularly that at White Head, it can stand but a little time; and the one on Franklin Island rocks so much that the glass in the lantern cannot be kept whole; there were forty six broken squares of glass in it at one time. Those are important lights, and the expense of repairs must be so great as to make it less expensive ultimately to erect stone buildings than attempt to repair such rotten old buildings, and more important to rebuild those important lights than to build additional less important lights. If the appropriation is made at this Session of Congress to rebuild them, it will be too late before they can be advertised for, and a Contract entered into, that they cannot be finished next season in time to have them dry before the frost sets in, and destroys the adhesive quality of the mortar. Almost all the Light Houses that have been built for a number of years past were ruined partly by being late built. If the appropriation should be made, I should propose to contract next season to have them built between the middle of

of April and the middle of July following, then there will be time for the work to dry before the frosts set in. I presume that an appropriation of six thousand dollars for each will be sufficient to erect the two Light Houses and the two Dwelling Houses, and if they should be built for less, the money will remain unexpended, and they will be built for a less sum in this way, as the Contractors will have good time to get out the materials. I feel bound to press the importance of the appropriation being made I thought proper to address you on the subject, and to request you to lay the application before the Secretary of the Treasury. —

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Very Respectfully,
Your obedient humble Servant,

John Chandler, Collector, and
Superintendent of Light Houses
in Maine —

Stephen Pleasonton Esq
Fifth Auditor of the Treasury, and
Acting Commissioner of the Revenue
Washington