Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office,
March 12, 1831.

Sir

Among the appropriations for Lighthouse purposes made during the last Session of Congress, was one of "Twelve thousand five hundred and twelve dollars, in addition to an unexpended balance (2500 dollars) of former appropriations for erecting a Light house and forming the foundation of the same, in the Harbour of Buffalo".

It was the desire of the Treasury Department that this work should be connected with the Pier which has been built, or is now in progress at Buffalo, under the direction of the Engineer Department, and that it should be conducted by the latter Department. With a knowledge of this fact Major Maurice, it is presumed, made the Estimate upon which the above appropriation was granted; but I am not informed whether it is the intention of the Engineer Department to take charge of and prosecute this work, under the informal understanding which heretofore existed on the subject

between the two Departments, or will require a more formal authority for the purpose. It would certainly be an accommodation to the Treasury, and would probably ensure a more faithful execution of the Work, if it be undertaken by the Engineer Department, and I have to request the favor of you to inform me whether we may consider it in your charge, or if not, what may be necessary on our part to place the work under the control of your Department.

I have the honor to be

Respectfully, Sir,

Your obdt. Servt.

S. Pleasonton

Fifth Auditor and acting

Commissioner of the Revenue

Genl. Charles Gratiot.