Collector's Office,
District of Portland and Falmouth
Portland February 2d 1831.

Sir

Last Summer I employed Mr. Joseph Berry to repair a number of the Light Houses in the State of Maine. He took such help and materials as were necessary into a small Vessel chartered and went from one to another of the Light Houses on a list of which I gave him of such as required repairs until he had finished all but one, and this I am satisfied is the cheapest way. The one omitted was that on Manticus Rock, that he could not approach, owing to a long storm and contrary winds. It became absolutely necessary however to make the repairs. Manticus Rock being much nearer to Thomaston than this place, and knowing that there were good workmen, and all the materials there, and believing it would be much cheaper to send some persons from that place there from this place to do it, I wrote to Jos. Miller, Esq. a gentleman in whom I had full confidence, and requested him to employ some person to take a small Vessel and go to the place and make the necessary repairs, which I did not suppose would cost over fifty or sixty dollars; nor would they have cost more if the wind had been favorable. He engaged the men and the Vessel, the materials were put on board, and the Vessel sailed, but before the

the wind changed and obliged them to put into a harbour about fifteen miles from the place; one of our long storms and contrary winds kept them there for a fortnight or more before they could reach the Rock. They charge me for the whole time detained there, as well for the hands as for the vessel, which swells their demands to over two hundred dollars, a sum so much larger than I expected that I have thought best not to pay it without consulting you on the subject. Under these circumstances is it proper to settle their Bills? I have no doubt but what they made every exertion to effect the object, and that it was owing entirely to the wind and weather that they could not arrive sooner than they did.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your humble Servant

John Chandler
Collector
and Superintendent of Light Houses
in Maine

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