Collector's Office,

District of Portland and Falmouth,

Portland, March 1st 1832.

Sir

I have this moment received your letter of the 25th ultimo, in which you say that instead of employing men by the day, (as I propose) to repair the Light Houses, it is your opinion that I had better advertise for proposals, and give it to the lowest bidder, which I shall do of course; but I really fear that it will get into hands who will know little of the business and produce much trouble, and that the experiment in the use of the Roman Cement will not have a fair trial, nor the work be well done, for we have difficulty enough in getting the work well done with the best and most faithful workmen we can get; and as to the Keepers of the Lights, but very few of them are capable of judging what is necessary or judging of the work when done.

With respect to Capt. David, the Keeper of White Head Light, he, I believe got into some trouble, and left the light in the care of another person, and sent me word of his absence. I immediately requested Capt. Joseph Berry, of Thomaston, to take charge of the Light, until otherwise directed. This was on the 20th of January.

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I, at the same time, reported this to the Secretary of the Treasury, and recommended Capt. Perry as a suitable person to be appointed Keeper of that Light. He is a very respectable correct man and well suited to such an employment. I regret that I neglected to give you the same information. —

I have the honor, to be, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your humble servant.

John Chandler, Collector, and
Superintendent of Light Houses, within the
State of Maine.

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