Collector's Office,
District of Portland and Falmouth
Portland, April 4. 1834

Sir.

Captain Foster, Commanding the Revenue Cutter Morris, informs me that he was at Whitehead a few days since, and that, on examination, he is convinced the Bell, connected with the Light House establishment at that place, would be much more useful if it was removed on to a certain Rock, a little distance from the Light House. He thinks the Dwelling House and the Tower prevent the sound from being heard very far in the most important direction. I suppose the expense of removing it will not be very great. Shall I be authorized to have it removed, in the month of May or June; if, on further examination, it shall be thought best.

The Light Houses will want considerable repairs this season, such as pointing, painting, whitewashing and otherwise: Shall I employ a person, by the day, and let him charter a small vessel, to visit them, and make the repairs; or what course will you direct. In 1832, nine of them were repaired, by

Contract

Contract, after advertising for proposals, and cost, I think about thirteen hundred dollars. — It is found that the Roman Cement answers a tollerable purpose, when the stone work was such that it could be used properly; but some of the old buildings have too many small stones in them to make them tight in any way. On the east and north east sides of the buildings, the point=ing cannot be made to stand they will have to be pointed and whitewashed every year. It cannot be made to withstand the violence of our Northeasterly storms; and the frost also throws it out. It is, therefore, desirable that the repairs should be made early in the season, not later than July. There are several of the Light Houses which would cost less to rebuild them and keep them in repair for twenty years, than it would to keep them in repair, for the same period, build as they now are. — I find where the buildings are frequently white washed, with a thin coat, several times in the course of the season, it does much the best, where the point, for it prevents the pointing from coming out, and a thin coat adheres to the stone better than a thick one, therefore let each thin coat dry, and then put on another over it, and it becomes almost as firm as the rock, if well done; and when the frost comes out of the stone, it throws off very little, compared with what it does, when a thick coat is put on. A few of the Keepers attend

attend to it, and do the whitewashing, as above stated, and there is comparatively very little expense attending it. But, if we have to send a vessel and workmen to all, two or three times a year, the cost would be too great; — if they are sent only once a year, a thick coat is put on, and it will not remain on. The Keepers could do all the low Towers, as far as can be done with ladders, if suitable ones were furnished; but those which are so high as to require a staging it will be necessary to send workmen and staging to do it. I wrote you upon the subject of the Keepers' doing the work, the materials being found, (where they could do it,) on the 8th of February last, but have received no reply to it.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient 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