Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, November 15, 1836.

Sir

I received this morning your letter of the 7th instant, enclosing your account for the quarter ending the 30th September last, and two letters from Mr. Lane, keeper of the Portland Lighthouse, by which it appears that the Contractor, Judge Campbell, has failed to supply the necessary gas to keep that Lighthouse duly and properly lit, as he was bound to do by his Contract.

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As we have frequently had complaints of the failure of this gas, and there is no probability, according to the reports of the keeper, that it will be remedied, it seems to be indispensable that the authority contained in the Contract should be exercised by giving notice that the Contract must cease at the end of six months. You will accordingly give Judge Campbell notice that at the end of six months the Contract must cease, and in the mean time he must repair his gas works so as to afford a good light, or no payment will be made to him.

At the expiration of this time, it will be necessary to have the Lighthouse fitted up with a suitable number of Lamps and reflectors, according to Winslow Lewis' patent, and this I have to request you will take timely measures to have done. It would be proper to have the Lamps, Apparatus, &c. prepared in season, to take the place of the gas, without suspending the Light for a single night. Should no person be able to make these Lamps and reflectors at

Buffalo, for a reasonable price, it is probable the Contractors at New Bedford, Messrs Charles Morgan & Co, would make and send them with the annual supply of Oil, sufficiently early in the Spring to have them fixed and used in the Lighthouse, on your writing to them for this purpose. Oil butts and all the usual appendages ought to be furnished with the Lamps.

The payment to the Contractors for the 3d quarter, which you have introduced into your account, and all other payments should be suspended until they put the gas works in good order and afford the Light they are bound to do.

I am, &c.

(Signed) S. Pleasonton

Fifth Auditor and acting Commissioner of the Revenue

Pierce A. Barker Esqr.