Collector's Office,
District of Portland and Falmouth,
Portland, August 28th 1837.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, relating to the failure of the Keeper of Seguin Light House to ring the Fog Bell lately placed on that Island. I was informed by the Contractor, who built the Bell House and hung the Bell, that it was ready to be rung, on the 7th instant, and, on the same day, addressed to the Keeper of the Light House a letter, of which I herewith transmit a copy, marked A. — On the 20th, Sunday, I received information that the Keeper had not received my letter, and did not feel authorized to ring the Bell without my orders. — On monday, the 21st, I dispatched the Revenue Boat Teazer to the Island, with a second letter, accompanied by a copy of my orders of the 7th; which letters were delivered to the Keeper, by Inspector Sturdivant, the master of the Teazer. —

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The Keeper stated to Inspector Sturdivant that when the Bell was hung the Contractor told him not to ring, until he had orders; and that he had sent to the Post Office, each mail day, for his letters, but had not received any; - and thought there was a combination to subject him to censure. - The Keeper is a faithful man, and has, as I am informed, rung the Bell during foggy weather, since the 21st instant, and will, I have no doubt, honestly do his duty. -

As the appropriation was not sufficient to procure a Bell of the weight recommended by Capt. Smith, who examined the Site, by order of the Board of Navy Commissioners, and machinery to ring it too, the Keeper must ring it by hand; and to do this, at night, as well as in the day, he must have an assistant during the prevalence of the fogs; - for which extra service he should, in my opinion, receive an addition, at the rate of one hundred dollars per year, until machinery is attached to the Bell. -

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your Obdient Servant

John Anderson

Collector and Superintendent of Light Houses in Maine.

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