Sir,

Dec. 20, 1837

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter from the Collector at Boston, with its enclosure, by which it appears that the two Light Houses on Plumb Island, near Newbury Port, Mass^{tts}, which were erected in 1809 have become useless and even dangerous in consequence of a change in the channel thro' which vessels are conducted into port; and that two new Light Houses are necessary the cost of which is estimated at 4000 dollars. I respectfully recommend that an appropriation be made for this purpose.

A copy of a letter is also enclosed from the Collector at Portland, Maine, (No 2) shewing the necessity of substituting a New Light House, for that at Wood Island, which was built in 1808, of Wood, & is now so much decayed as to be unworthy of repair. I propose that an appropriation of 6000 dollars be made for this purpose. With this appr^{n} I should be enabled to ~~build~~ erect ~~the~~ durable buildings of stone or brick.

An appropriation was made at the last regular Session of Congress of Five hundred dollars for building two beacon Lights near Nantucket. By the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr Norton, Super-

intendant of Edgartown, it will be perceived that an intended at Edgartown (No. 3) it will be perceived that an additional appropriation of 2100 dollars is required to erect two Beacons of the most ordinary kind. The propriety of an appropriation of this sum is respectfully submitted.

I would respectfully call the attention of the Committee to the communication from the Engineer Department, herewith enclosed (No. 4) recommending the establishment of a Beacon Light on the Pier which has been erected at the mouth of Genesee River, New York, and also a Beacon Light at the mouth of the River Raisin in Michigan. The estimated expence of the Beacon at Genesee, to be built in a substantial manner, is Eleven thousand dollars, and of that at the mouth of the River Raisin is 2762 50/100 dollars.

By a letter from the Superintendent of the Light House at the mouth of Genesee River, of which a copy is enclosed (No. 5) it appears that the Light House now there may be dispensed with, when a Beacon Light shall be erected on the Pier, as proposed.

Enclosed also will be found the copy of a letter from Lt. L. Coste, with a Sketch of the Tortugas Islands, (No. 6) recommending that the present Light House on Bush Key be removed to Garden Key, and that two other Light Houses be erected at the Tortugas, the one on Loggerhead Key and the other on East Key. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the situation of the Tortugas Islands, or with the depth of water in the neighbourhood of them, to form an opinion as to the propriety of adopting the suggestions of Lt. L. Coste. The Committee will act as they think proper on the subject.

The Hon.ble Francis O. J. Smith
Chairman of the Committee
of Commerce — H. R.