State Library of Massachusetts

Sept 12th

Barton ~~August~~ 24th 1845

Sir

Soon after receiving your letter of the 12th of June last, I went on board of the Revenue Cutter of this port and was landed on Minots Rock, making one of the group of rocks off Cohasset called "the Cohasset Rocks". I found this rock (Minots) to be about 50 feet from North to South & 40 feet from East to West, the centre part is about Eight and the average about four feet above low water (Spring tides) I have made an Eye sketch which is herewith annexed, Taken from the Cutter which was anchor N.N.W. west about one mile distance from said Rocks also a Plan shewing the position of the Minot on which I have marked the site for the proposed Light House.

A Light-house could be built for a much less sum on a rock marked N° 1 on the sketch. marked N° 1 on the sketch. This rock lying about one third of a mile West of the Minot, ~~The rock is about~~ it is about one hundred feet each way, of an uneven surface and from 12 to 15 feet above low water at Spring tides, ~~but~~ a Light-house placed upon the Minot would be seen to greater advantage consequently ~~much better than on any other rock in this group if the outermost point of the large~~ to greater advantage consequently be of much more service to the Mariner if placed on coming on the east, than any other rock in the group.

Barton Light bears North West distance about 9 miles - Scituate Light bears South by west 5 miles - Cohasset Harbor bears South West 2½ miles - "Norman's Woe" Gloucester Harbor Cape Ann bears North East half East distance about 22 miles -

There is no doubt but a Light-house can be Erected on the Minot by first levelling the surface of the rock and placing there a Structure much on the same plan as the one built by

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one the Eddy Stone English coast, by the Celebrated Engineer Smeaton
Owing to the Great Exposure to the North Easterly Gales which are frequent
and of the severest kind on this Coast A Light house to be erected
on the Minot should built with the best materials and Workman
ship to ensure its Stability

I have delaid ~~Sending~~ completing the Sketch & forwarding it, this to you for some weeks with a view
of having an opportunity of viewing the "Cohasset Rocks" ~~before sending~~
as you mentioned in your letter of the 12th of June last that it would
answer any time in course of the Summer

As you mentioned in your letter of the 12th of June last that I
might have the whole summer to make the examination and forward
to you a Sketch with a site for the proposed Light House I have ~~therefore~~
delaid completing the Sketch until I could have an opportunity to
Examine the said Rocks from the Shore which I did a few days
ago & shall now forward the Sketch which I have made from an
Eye View,

Copy of Letter to the
5th Auditor Sept 12th
1845

State Library of Massachusetts

SLM029
Draft of Letter from Alexander Parris to Stephen Pleasanton

[*written in Alexander Parris's hand*]

Boston [*crossed out:* August 24th]
Sept 12th 1845

Sir

Soon after receiving your letter of the 12th of June last, I went [*crossed out:* a] on board [*crossed out:* of] the Revenue Cutter of this port and was landed on Minot's Rock, making one of the [*crossed out:* grope] groop of rocks off [*crossed out:* of] Cohasset called "the Cohasset Rocks." I foun[d] this rock (Minots) to be about 50 feet from North to South and 42 feet from east to west, the centre part is about eight and the average about four feet above low water (spring tides.) I have mad[e] an eye sketch which is herewith annexed. Taken from the Cutter which was anchor N.N.West about one mile distance from said Rocks. Also a Plan showing the position of the Minot and which I have marked the site for the proposed Light House.

A Light-house could be built for a much less sum [*crossed out:* marked No. 1 on the sketch] on a rock lying about one thurd of a mile west of the Minot marked No. 1 on the sketch. [*crossed out*: This rock is about] This rock it is about one hundred feet each way, of an uneven surface and from 12 to 15 feet above low water at spring-tides, [*crossed out:* but] a Ligh[t]-house placed upon the Minot would be seen [*crossed out:* to great advantage compared, much better than on any other rock in this grope it being almost the outermost point of the Ledge] to greater advantage consequently be of much more service to the Meriner comming on the co[a]st, than if placed on any other rock in the grope.

Boston Light bears Northwest distance about 9 miles – Scituate Light bears south by west 5 miles – Cohasset Harbor bears southwest 2 ½ miles – "Normans Woe" Gloucester Harbor Cape Ann bears North east half east distance about 22 miles –

There is no doubt but a Light-house can be erected on the Minot by first leveling the surface of the rock and placing there a structure much in the same plan as the one built [*crossed out:* by]

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one the Eddy stone English co[a]st, by the celebrated engineer Smeaton. Owing to the great exposure to the North eastly gales which are frequent and of the severest kind on

this co[a]st, a Light house to be erected on the Minot should built with the best materials and workmanship to assure its duribilety.

[*This whole paragraph crossed out:* I have delaied sending, completing the sketch and forwarding it to you for some weeks with a view of having an oppertunity of viewing the "Cohasset Rocks" before sending, as you mentioned in your letter of the 12th of June last that it would answer any time in course of the summer.]

As you mentioned in your letter of the 12th of June last that I might have the whole summer to make the examination and forward to you a skitch with a site for the proposed Light house I have [*crossed out:* therefore] delaied completing the sketch until I could have an oppertunity to examine the said rocks from the shore which I did a few days ago and herewith forward the sketch which I have made from an Eye View.

[*cover sheet*]

Copy of Letter to the
5th Auditor

Sept 12th 1845