State Library of Massachusetts

Boston Sept 26th 1845

Sir

Your letter of the 18th Inst is received acknowledging the receipt of mine of the 12th Inst, which enclosing a sketch of Cohasset Rocks In your letter you say "you ~~you~~ are also desirous of possessing ~~as~~ my opinion as to the dimension Height of the Tower as well as the cost which would be most suitable for so expensive a place,"

In your letter of the 12th of June last, You were pleased to say "all you wished ~~would be~~, would be to Examine the Rocks, and to give a drawing of them with the best site for the Light-house marked on ~~the~~ them, at a very moderate charge—"It would be sufficient for your present purpose to posess a drawing of the rocks with one noted which would ~~be~~ best suit for the building" "Also that the Plan of the Whales-Back with some deviation which could be ~~done~~ determined upon hereafter you had no doubt would answer perfectly well for Minot's Rock"

Therefore I concluded if I made out a sketch as named in your letter of the 12th of June last with a site marked on said rock ~~would be~~ ~~was all you wished at the present time~~, ~~and~~ that it would be sufficient for your present purpose"

In regard to ~~the~~ a suitable light house to be Erected on Minot Rock, I think one on the Plan permitted you in 1838 for the rebuilding the Light-house on the Whalesback in Portsmouth N.H. Harbor with the dimensions enlarged, as I have not a copy of that Plan at hand, ~~I think~~ I cannot say with certainty would be most suitable. what the dimensions, ~~were~~ but I believe the Base was about 30 feet Diameter, and the Height to the Lantern 62 feet which is about the height of the present Stone tower. The dimensions of a suitable Light-House to be Erected on Minots Rock should be about 32 feet diameter at the base

State Library of Massachusetts

of the Tower and 60 feet high to the Lantern, Barton Light is said to be "82 feet above the sea" there are however various opinions as to the proper height for Light houses The Edystone is 90 feet ~~above~~ and the Bell rock light house is 118 feet of this I presume you are ~~better~~ as well if not better informed than I ~~am~~ am at ~~this~~ the present time,

"The cost ~~of~~ which would be most suitable for so expensive a plan" cannot be very accurately be given without first making out the Plans in detail but to judge from the estimated cost of ~~the~~ ~~that~~ furnished as named above for the Whole Work, the Estimate of which was about 75,000 Dollars without a Lantern (Calculated it was in that Estimate to use the old Lantern ~~frame~~ I should think however that a suitable Light House could be Erected on Minot Rock for ~~100,000~~ one hundred thousand Dollars

If you ~~wish a Estimate~~ a Plan & Estimate in detail, ~~I shall be~~
I shall be very ~~glad~~ to furnish you with one,

If you wish any further information that I am possessed of, I will most cheerfully furnish it to you

I have the honor to be
Respectfully Sir
your Obt Servant

Hon Stephen Pleasanton
5th Auditor of the
Treasury Department
Washington City D.C.

Copy of Letter to the 5th Auditor Sept 25th 1845

Cohasset Rocks

&

Minots Rocks

State Library of Massachusetts

SLM030
Draft of Letter from Alexander Parris to Stephen Pleasanton

[*written in Alexander Parris's hand*]

Boston Sept 26th 1845

Sir

Your letter of the 18th inst[ant] is received acknowledging the recept of mine of the 12th inst[ant] which enclosed a sketch of Cohasset Rocks. In your letter you say "you are also desirous of possessing my opinion as to the dimension and height of the Tower as well as the cost which would be most suitable for so exposed a place."

In your letter of the 12th of June last, you were pleased to say "all your wishes [*crossed out:* was, would be] would be to examine the Rocks, and to give a drawing of them with the best site for the Light-house marked on them, at a very moderate charge – "It would be sufficient for your present purpose to possess a drawing of the rocks with one noted which would be best suit for the building." "Also that the Plan of the Whales-Back with some veration which could be [*crossed out:* done] determined upon hereafter you had no doubt would answer perfectly well for Minot's Rock." Therefore I concluded if I made out a sketch as named in your letter of the 12th of June last with a site marked on said rock [*crossed out:* would be, was all you wished at the present time, and] that "it would be sufficient for your present purpose."

In regards to [*crossed out:* the] a suitable light house to be erected on Minot Rock, I think one on the Plan furnished you in 1838 for the rebuilding the Light-house on the Whales-back in Portsmouth N. H. Harbor with the dimensions enlarged would be most suitable. As I have not a copy of the Plan at hand, [*crossed out:* I donot] I cannot say with certainty what the dimensions were, but I believe the Base was about 30 feet diameter and the height to the Lantern 42 feet which is about the height of the post structure. The dimension of a suitable Light-House to be erected on Minots Rock should be about 32 feet diameter at the base

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of the Tower and 60 feet high to the lantern. Boston Light is said to be "52 feet above the sea" there are however various opinion as to the proper hight for Light houses. The Edytone is 90 feet [*crossed out:* above] and the Bell rock light house is 118 feet of this I presume you are [*crossed out:* better] as well if not better informed than I [*crossed out:* and at] am at [*crossed out:* this] the present time.

"The cost of which would be most suitable for so exposed a place" cannot be very accurately be given without first making out the Plan in detail but to judge from the estimated cost of [*crossed out:* the, that] furnished as named above for the Whales-Back, the estimate of which was about 75,000 dollars without a Lantern (it was calculated in that estimate to use the old Lantern.) I should think however that a suitable Light-house could be erected on Minot Rock for [*crossed out:* 100,000] one hundred thousand dollars.

[*Crossed out:* If you wish a detailed, a Plan and estimate in detail, I shall be very glad to furnish you with one.] If you wish any further information that I am possessed of, I will most cheerfully furnish it to you.

I have the honor to be
Respectfully sir

Your obe[dien]t servant

Hon. Stephen Preasanton
5th Auditor of the Treasury Department
Washington City D.C.

[*page 2 verso*]

Copy of Letter
to the 5th Auditor

Sept 26th 1845

[*written in another hand*]
Cohasset Rocks
or Minots Rocks