Collectors Office
District of Portland & Falmouth
Portland July 23 – 1851

Sir

In your letter of the 3d of April last, I was instructed to put a new lantern and lighting Apparatus on the Tower of White Head light house

I knew by personal inspection, that the soap stone deck of said Tower, being in pieces was have out of its place and would not answer to receive a new lantern –

Beside the new lantern must necessarily be larger than the present one, to receive the new twenty one inch reflector, and consequently, the new deck must be larger which increased weight caused me to doubt, whether the top of the Tower was sufficiently strong to support such weight –

I therefore deemed it best to send Mr Libby one of our best Mechanics, who has worked on light houses to examine and make report – His report I herewith transmit –

As Mr Libby report so much repairs to be necessary preparatory to the reception of a new lantern and it being late in the season – Beside as I have not contracted for the new lantern, nor for the new lighting Apparatus, would it not be best to postpone to an other year, the erection of a new

lantern and lighting apparatus and in the mean time new putty the glass of the present Tower, replace with new glass, some of the broken panes — Point some of the bad places in the present Tower, giving it two coats of white wash — All of which I presume would not exceed in Expense one hundred Dollars —

I am most afraid, that before proposals to repair could be accepted and Materials got together, it would be hazarding too much, in view of freezing weather —

I think with partial repairs as above suggested, a good light could be kept through the coming winter —

I have the Honor to be
with Much Respect
Yr Obt Servant
Luther Lewis
Collector

Hon'd Stephen Pleasonton
1st Asst Auditor of the Treasury
Washington

Ans July 25 1851