SAD NEWS FROM MINOT'S LIGHT!

The Light House Carried Away!

The Assistant Keepers, Joseph Wilson and Joseph Antonio, both lost!

We have just learned from Cohasset of the destruction by the severe gale of Minot's Rock Light House and the loss of the two Assistant Keepers. The news was communicated to us by Mr Bennett, the Keeper of the Light who arrived in the city this morning, with fragments of the structure.

The last time that the Light was seen standing was at about half-past three o'clock yesterday afternoon. The Light was not seen burning last night.

About 4 o'clock this morning Mr. Bennett was on the beach, and discovered, strewed all around, fragments of the building. Parts of the residence room and of the Lantern itself, were on the beach, and also portions of the bedding, Mr. Bennett's clothing, &c.

One of Bennett's Life Buoys came on shore, having the appearance of having been used by one of the unfortunate men who were in the Light House. He had lashed it to his back but the waves probably washed him out of it.

Mr. Bennett was absent from the Light when the sad catastrophe occurred. He had been ordered up to the city by Collector Greely to purchase a new boat and on his return, Tuesday afternoon, found the sea so high that he could not get out to the Light House. To this he is indebted for the preservation of his own life.

The names of the two who were on board were Joseph Wilson, and Joseph Antonio, (a Portuguese.) Wilson, we learn, was about 20 years of age; Antonio was 25, and formerly kept a boarding house at Cohasset. They were both true and faithful men.

After being unable to get on board, Mr. Bennett returned to his house on White Head, opposite the Lights, from which he, with his family, was washed on yesterday by the high tide.

Besides his clothing, &c. Mr. Bennett lost some $50 or $60 in money which was on board the light.

The beach was strewed with fragments of the wreck—some of which Mr. Bennett brought to the city, and deposited at the Custom House.

The whole height of the light was 75 feet—From the rock to the keeper's house, 60 feet. The diameter of the iron piles was 8 inches at the base and 4½ inches at the top. Breadth of base 25 feet. Keeper's room, 14 feet. The diameter of the lantern was 11½ feet, and it contained 15 reflectors of 21 inches each.

It is but a few weeks since, when the public mind was much excited in relation to the safety of this structure, that the engineer under whose superintendence the light-house was built in a long communication, which was published in the Advertiser, demonstrated, on scientific principles, that the building was perfectly safe! The communication contained a most ungenerous sneer at the fears which had been expressed by Mr. Bennett.

We thought at the time that ocular demonstration of the insecurity of the structure was more convincing than scientific theory to the contrary; and that a structure so exposed, which oscillated at least *twelve inches* each way in a gale, could not stand a storm of more than usual severity.

We were confirmed in our opinion as to its insecurity by the testimony of pilots, fishermen, and other nautical men, who were aware of the dangers to which it was exposed, and of the fearful force of the waves by which it was washed. It now appears by the testimony of Mr. Bennett that where strength was most required the braces were of *cast* iron!

A few days after the great gale in March last, young Wilson—a modest and unassuming young man—called at our office and gave us an account of the fearful and appalling scenes through which he passed during the four or five days which the gale lasted. We remarked to him that probably it would be difficult to find men to keep the Light if Mr Bennett should leave it. "Yes, sir," said the brave fellow, "I shall stay as long as Mr. Bennett does, and *when we leave the Light it will be dangerous for any others to take it!*"

Poor fellow! He left not his post, but nobly died doing his duty. When we saw him last he thought the worst of the season was over, and that he should be able to retain his post, at least through another summer. But he was not without his misgivings. In the event of the worst fears being realized, he hoped, with some degree of confidence, that he should be able to reach the [illegible] We cautioned him of the probabilities against such an escape, but he assured us that he should stand by the Light as long as the Light itself stood. As Mr. Bennett says, he was a true and faithful man, and his name will be inseparably connected with the memory of the melancholy event which we to-day record.

The result has proved that those whose duty it was to see that the lives of the keeper and his assistants were not needlessly endangered, *have been lulled into a false security.* Had the earnest representations of the keeper been heeded, timely measures would have been taken to render the Light house more secure, or to provide a place of refuge for its inmates. But *nothing* was done, and in addition to the loss of life, the money expended in the erection of the light-house has been thrown away, and our shipping are now more than ever exposed to the dangers of Minot's ledge.

Mr. Bennett has been subjected to many annoyances and much persecution for having dared to intimate a doubt of the safety of the structure! He has been accused of fear, and yet those who know him best entertain the highest opinion of his courage and fearlessness. It has been intimated too, with irritating sneers, that a desire for an increase of salary induced him to make the representations which attracted so large a share of public attention! His freedom of speech, we have reason to believe, has been made the occasion of attempts to procure his removal. We know that he has greatly suffered in mind by these persecutions, and, now that he is turned out of employment by a catastrophe which he only escaped sharing by mere good fortune, it would be but an act of justice in the government to give him another station which will secure him the means of support.

We trust that the mercantile community to many of whom Mr. Bennett is well known, will take some measures to have this worthy faithful and, withal, ingenious and talented man, retained among us. He has been peculiarly unfortunate in some of his recent undertakings, which competence seemed almost within his grasp, and he richly merits public sympathy and encouragement