Collector's Office,
District of Portland & Falmouth,
Portland, April 20, 1852.

Sir:—

I would respectfully call your attention to the condition of White Head Lt. House. The Lantern and Lighting apparatus must be new. They could, with but great difficulty, be kept in their place, through last winter, and, the Keeper informs me that, notwithstanding the repairs last Fall, he finds it very difficult to keep the glass from breaking. The truth is, the Lantern and Lighting apparatus are worn out.

It would, in my opinion, be a waste of money and labor to attempt to repair the Tower. Capt. Whitcomb, of the Cutter Alert, informs me that he can shake the Lantern, and with it a portion of the top of the Tower. Mr. Libby, who examined it, informs me that, at least, 15 feet of the top ought to be taken down and re-built to make the Tower at all safe, leaving the remainder 15 feet badly built of rubble stones, and out of the question to keep it pointed with lime or cement, more than a few months at a time. This Tower was built in 1804.

In the condition in which the Tower is, I would recommend re-building it, and of Granite Stone, similar to the one re-built on

Monhegan Island in 1850. I am informed there is a good granite quarry near the present Tower, easily split out and transported to it.

If it is intended to re-build it the present season, it would be well to advertise early for proposals. This is a very important Light;—thousands of vessels passing and repassing it every year—often, one or two hundred in a night.

I am of opinion that Owls' Head Tower ought to be re-built this year. The re-building of the Tower will not cost much, being but 15 feet in height. The Lantern and Lighting apparatus is very bad, and new ones are much wanted.

From White Head Light all vessels passing into Penobscot Bay run for Owls' Head Lt.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with great respect,

Your Obt. Servt.

Luther Lewis

Collector.

Hon. Stephen Pleasonton,
Fifth Auditor of the Treasy.
Washington.

Ans April 23 1852