Collector's Office,
District of Portland & Falmouth,
Portland, Aug. 26, 1852.

Sir:—

The dwelling-house at White Head is very much out of repair, and has always leaked very bad, and the reason that I have not repeated in favor of extensive repairs was owing to my opinion that the Tower would soon be re-built, and then would be the most proper time for repairs on the dwelling house. The Tower is now being re-built, and I caused three estimates of expenses to be made, after a survey by Mr. Libby, overseer of re-building White and Owls' Heads Towers. Mr. Libby report the following repairs as necessary:— A new Cistern of brick, to contain 1200 gallons; one chimney to be re-built; two chimnies to be re-headed; the kitchen to be re-lathed and plastered; one other room to be plastered over-head; one new gutter and conductor, with leads; all the old mortar taken from the joints of the walls of the house and re-pointed with good cement, and white-washed; lead pipes for the sink; a new Shed or walk, about 28 feet long, and 10 feet wide, of suitable height, to be built of good merchantable Lumber—roof and walls to be shingled with first quality of cedar shingles—one door and two windows: all to be done of the best materials, and in a faithful manner.

Mr. Hawks estimate is $380, to take the lantern of Old Tower, and all in it, at $50; reducing his estimate to $330.

Mr. McLaughlins estimate is $290; will take the old lantern and materials, at $60; reducing his estimate to $230.

Mr. Libby's (the overseer) estimate is $360; lantern at $50; leaving the estimate at $310.

Mr. Libby observes "that Mr. McLaughlins' engagements are such, that he can better attend to the work than any one else."

I think it would be best to make the repairs of the dwelling house thorough, as was done at Manhegan, when re-building that Tower.

Mr. Libby's opinion and judgment can be trusted, as to any work connected with Masonry.

It appears to me to be a waste of money and labor to keep patching up the old, unfaithful-built Towers and Dwelling Houses.

Owls' Head dwelling house needs considerable repairs, and Mr. Libby made a survey at my request, and recommends — a new Cistern, to contain 1200 gallons; four new windows of 24 lights each; one new gutter, conductor, and lead; a new cellar door; the eastern end and front side to be coated with cement; the remainder to be pointed, and all to be white-washed. The estimate is $184; taking the lantern in payment, at $40; reducing the estimate to $144.

If you coincide with me, and give me instructions, I will see that the repairs

are faithfully done, under Mr. Libby, the overseer.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

With great respect,

Your Obt. Servt.

Sutton, Lewis B

Collector.

Hon. Stephen Pleasonton,

Fifth Auditor of the Treasury,

Washington.

Rec'd. Aug. 30/52.

* The new Shed or walk is to connect the Dwelling House with the Tower — as the old one now connects.