RG 26 E17C

Collectors Office
District of Portland & Falmouth
Portland Aug 14 – 1851

Sir

I wish to call Your particular attention to the condition of the towers, on Bakers Island – White head, Moose Peak and Owls Head – These towers are in a bad condition, the cement and lime having worked out so much, that the water pours in, in great abundance –

The expending once or twice a Year a sum for pointing and white washing, is poor economy, especially, when it is next to an impossibility, to make these towers tight repair them as thoroughly, as it is possible so to do – So badly are they built of cobble stones –

The lanterns on each of these Towers, are old and lighting Apparatus, worth but little a nothing – Especially those at Whitehead – Bakers Island and Moose Peak –

It is to be hoped, that I may have authority before this time next Year, to rebuild the above named Towers & place new lanterns & lighting Apparatus on each of them

The Tower on Saddle back, ought at once to be repaired and unless it is, I am fearful, some large stones at the base may be forced out, endangering the whole Tower – The large rocks which have been found away

to a distance were never bolted to the ledge, as they ought to have been —

I would also call your particular attention to the condition of the dwelling house on Monhegan Island — It ought to be repaired before next winter — Or next year it will cost much more to repair it — The end of the house may perhaps be repaired, without taking it down — I have requested Mr Sherwood, who arrived here on the 13 inst to examine the house and give his opinion —

I would suggest whether it would not be best to authorize me, to make the necessary repairs, as I expect all the Light Houses and whether it would not be better to hire Mechanics at this place, take them on board the Cutter and let them make the repairs —

I am inclined to think this course, is the most economical one and I feel assured, that the work would be done in a more faithful manner, than it would, to trust to circumstances, whether faithful Men could be hired — At this or the other place —

I dislike to see work slighted and in order to avoid this, faithful men should be hired and paid good wages — It is a miserable economy, to have work done cheap — No judicious man in managing his own affairs ever thinks of this —

I have the honor to be
with much Respect
Your Obt Servant
Luther Jewett
Collector

Hon Stephen Pleasonton
Fifth Auditor of the Treasury
Washington —