Office of Light-House Inspector,

FIRST DISTRICT,

Portland, Me., December 18th, 1872.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt on the 16th of your letter of 13th instant asking what has been done in the case of the Light Keeper at Whitehall and, exposed to contagion of small pox in Portsmouth N.H. as per letter of Superintendent of lights Dec. 2d addressed to the L.H. Board; & also whether any action on the part of the L.H. Board is necessary in the premises.

No action on the part of the Board is required. From Mr. Bailey I yesterday learned the history of the case as follows. Mr. Berry the Keeper came to Portsmouth N.H. on Dec. 2d inst to buy provisions, he called upon a brother-in-law, found him sick a bed with what was considered Typhoid fever, but was really small pox, & nursed him for awhile. Hearing this Mr. Bailey sent for him - forbade his

further attention to his friend, and required him to

remain in the City, & report to the Easton House daily, which things Mr. Berry observed. The brother-in-law died at the pest house, and all of his apparel was destroyed by the City authorities. The Superintendent of lights after a formal examination of Mr. Berry on the 16th & having seen him every day since the 2d instant deemed him healthy & in no danger of infecting the Light Station - and directed him to resume his duties at the light. Mr. Berry left for his Station on Monday the 16th - 14 days after the exposure - in Mr. Bailey's judgement in no way injuriously affected by his sojourn in Portsmouth

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
H. H. Mayo.
L. H. Inspector, 1st Dist

Professor
Joseph Henry
Chairman L. H. Board

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