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Office of Light-House Engineer,
FIFTH AND SIXTH DISTRICTS,
Baltimore, Md., August 8, 1885.

Sir:

In reply to Board's letter of August 5 requesting my opinion regarding the necessity for certain protections at Thomas' Point Lightstation I have to submit the following, viz:

It has for some time been my opinion based upon careful observation at the station and the reports received as to the effects of ice fields upon this class of lighthouses, that the lighthouse at Thomas' Point is not only so easily moved as to interfere greatly with the proper exhibition of the light, but that in cases of heavy ice fields drifting with the wind and tide it is very insecure.

In my annual report recently forwarded to

the Board I stated this fact and stated that the protection would probably cost $10.000.00 Stone in place will cost from $4.00 to $4.50 per cubic yard. The bottom is sandy and must be covered with heavy mattresses of timber or brush to prevent the stone from sinking. One half the amount estimated may serve temporarily but as the stone settles or is forced into deeper water by the seas and ice it will require renewing so that it is probable the amount of $10.000 will be required before the protection is complete. The stone should be placed in much the same way as at Love Point Lightstation covering the entire site and raised sufficiently high around the exterior of the lighthouse to prevent the ice from crushing against the piles, but leaving a small place under the seat-

ing into which a boat may be taken in ordinary weather.

Before receiving the Board's letter I had proposed making this the subject of a special communication, with a request that if possible $5.000 from the appropriation for repairs &c. should be allotted for this protection.

Very respectfully.

David A. Smith

Major of Engineers U.S.A.

L. H. Engineer

The Chairman of the
Lighthouse Board.
Washington,
D. C.