Office of U. S. Light-House Inspector,

FIRST DISTRICT,

Portland, Maine, 28 January, 1888.

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Rear-Admiral

Stephen C. Rowan, U.S.N.,

Chairman L.H. Board,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Replying to the Board's letter of the 18th inst. forwarding a petition for a light-house on "Two Bush" Island, entrance to Penobscot Bay, Maine, and requesting me to again consider the necessity for establishing a light at this point and report with recommendations should I have reason to change the views expressed in my letter of March 26th, 1886, I beg to state that in order to inform myself as fully as possible on the subject I have visited that locality, examined the island and

and the Channels leading East it, and have at various times within the past two years gained such information as was obtainable as to the number of vessels that would be benefitted by a light at the point named.

Whilst I have not been able to change the view expressed in my former letter that "it is neither necessary nor advisable" to establish a light on "Two Bush Island" my reasons for holding this opinion have been somewhat modified.

Fifty years ago when the commerce of Penobscot Bay was mostly carried on in square rigged vessels and before the Muscle Ridge Channel was so carefully buoyed and marked, a light on "Two Bush" Island would have been very useful and had it been built then, that Channel would doubtless now be greatly used.

It should be noted that the number of vessels above given represents not only the commerce of Penobscot Bay out of the entire Eastern coast, and that as a class these vessels do not lift their anchors in the morning without they have a fair prospect of finding a harbor before dark.

It will therefore be seen that there is no adequate necessity for a light here so far as the commerce of Penobscot Bay is concerned.

It is claimed by many that a light on "Two Bush" Island would render that channel safe for vessels bound East or West along the coast and that they could then keep inside the islands instead of going outside of Matinicus Rock.

An inspection of the chart will show that

There is another objection to the proposed light which, admitting all that is claimed for it by its advocates to be true, would seem to render it unadvisable to establish it.

To be of service a light on "Two Bush" Island should have a steam fog-signal. This it cannot have because two similar signals so close together would lead to confusion and disaster, and no one would, I think, propose to discontinue the fog signal at Whitehead which is of use to more vessels than any other similar signal on this coast.

A fog bell at the proposed light would not adequately serve the purpose as the channel is beyond the range of its sound.

One other reason for not recommending this light is that there is another point in that vicinity where a light is more needed, or that would be of use to ten times as