Mt Desert Lt Station May 15th. 1899.

Lieut Commander J K Cogswell
Lt Inspector 1st District.
Portland. Maine

Dr Sir

Yours of April 24th recd to day.
and in answer to Mr Thos Milans complaints of me. will endeavour to make a corect statement.

the 15th of Sept last I furnished the schooner Alena Keeper young with oil. supposed it my duty to do so. and that the Keeper would have so considered it had he been present.

he did not speak to me in regard to this matter. I first told him what I had done. and asked him if it was all right. he said no. we had no right under any circumstances to furnish a Vessel with supplies from the station if light houses and life saving stations are not for a sailors benefit for what are they.

in our Book of instructions to Keepers page 6 section 23 reads it is the duty of light Keepers to aid wrecked persons as far as lies in their power. However as Keeper stated bought five gallons best oil which he permitted me to do.

as to the Station Boat I went to Bass Nov 4th 99.

it was a very hard spell of weather it was while there that the Steamers Portland and Pentagoet and very many Sailing Vessels were lost. had the Boat loaded and ready to sail at the end of two weeks which were the latest instructions in regard to time on shore. but the chances were against me and I tried to get a Vessel to take me out but failed to get any one until I had been gone over four weeks. I then secured the Schr Vanguard to land me here. the wind at the time was N E with every appearance of a snow storm and I left the Boat in care of my Father and told him to take best care of her cause if she was injured it would not be well for me he did as I told him took of sails &c however she was a little chafed on one or two plank the piece of Plank put in to the Bat is a graving piece about half way through it is six inches square. of the damage the Boat received will show for itself. Book of instructions ~~on page 7 section 26 Makes it the duty of~~ all damages caused by their carelessness of Boats and their equipments. and I told our Milan I would have a carpenter put a piece of plank in her and pay for the same. and had the Boat been here at the times when the Boathouse was flooded and doors carried away she would without doubt have been a total loss.

as to the charge made in regard to my absence report
will say the latest instructions I have known in regard to time on
shore were given by Commander Thomas Perry who said
this was an isolated Station and that two weeks was
short enough time could fix that among ourselves. that
wanted the Mail once a month but not to run any
unnecessary risk. and this being the first word of coplant
I ever heard. I did not anticipate any trouble from
that cause. it is possible and quite a comon thing
during the winter months for Keepers to make long trips
and even sometimes in summer for instance I take
my family and go on shore and stay two weeks
am then always ready to come. and it comes on a dungeon
of fog and rough weather and sea. under such conditions
I believe it to be my first duty to look well for the safety
of My family and self. however the records will show
which I presume are correct.

I asked Mr Milan what his object was in making
complaints about me. he said I commenced on him first
and that is far from being the truth. as you will remember
the last time you were here the talk that was made concerning
the man and that I made no complaint of him or at any
time forevons.

from the Light-House Board

to

Secty Treasury

you have Mr Milans letter of complaint of me.
and this is my answer. I have endeavored
to make a careful statement of the facts conected with this
case and hope it will be satisfactory to you.

it is very evident to me that Mr Milan
saw me looming up in the distance as a possible successor
and that he would stop me while he yet had a chance
to do so.

in conclusion and with your ~~permission~~
permission I want to come to Portland when I go in
shore the first of June wind and weather permiting.
will you kindly send my answer to) Mc Kinley
Maine

Respectfully

Asst Keeper. Mt Desert. Light Station.
Maine

RECEIVED JUN 3 1892 LIGHT HOUSE BOARD

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