M.M.B.

File No. 5027.

22 July, '03.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The letter of the Chief of Engineers, U. S. A., to the War Department, of 27 June, '03, relative to moving the light-house buildings at Fort Constitution, N. H., which was referred by you on 30 June, '03, to the Secretary of the Treasury, was by him referred to this Department, whence it was referred to the Light-House Board.

This Department now has the honor to state, at the instance of the Light-House Board, that it consents to the removal of the dwelling of the light keeper in charge of Portsmouth, Harbor, N. H. light-station, on the following conditions:-

The proposed site is immediately behind the granite scarp wall, the construction of which was abandoned about thirty-five years ago. The wall is 14 feet high. If that part of it which will be in front of the dwelling be removed to permit a view from the dwelling to enable the keeper to readily and clearly see when to start the fog-signal, and to permit direct access from the dwelling by a foot bridge over the surf, immediately outside of the wall to the tower; and if the use of a battery of 100 pounder Parrot guns, mounted at the granite scarp

only a few feet from where the dwelling will be, and now said to be used for firing salutes, is to be discontinued, this Department sees no objection to moving the dwelling to the site proposed.

It is between the granite scarp and the old brick scarp, 100 feet behind it. If the dwelling be moved to it, this Department recommends that a lot of that depth, extending back to the brick scarp, and with a front of 80 feet be cleared of piles of granite that now encumber it, be covered with soil, turfed and graded and enclosed with a suitable fence by the War Department, and that the fuel house and water closet, as well as the dwelling be moved to it.

This Department also recommends that the dwelling at the new site be placed upon a substantial stone underpinning to permit a cellar with a clear height of six feet four inches, as at present under the dwelling, the rocky sites, old and new, permitting no cellar under the ground; also that any damage caused to the buildings in moving them be repaired by the War Department; that a brick cistern like the present cistern be built in the cellar; that that part of the scarp wall in front of the dwelling be removed down to the soles of the embrasures, taking down the four upper courses; and that a foot bridge be built from the scarp wall in front of the dwelling directly to the tower, like the bridge at present in place, and that this work be done at the expense of the War Department.

Respectfully,

Secretary.