Extract of a letter from a Merchant in New Bedford, dated October 31. 1804

"I am told that there is considerable complaint against the light in the Boston light house, so much dissatisfaction that last week several Captains of Vessels that had just arrived protested against it. I hear that Jared Gardner is one of the Captains who protested against that light. — Boston light has always been considered a poor one, owing to the construction of the Lantern and lamp: perhaps it will be well for the light house keepers to be stirred up to pay strict attention to the business if its worth paying any attention to at all.

The Government order all the light houses furnished with stoves to warm the oil, but if those stoves have no fire in them then had as good be no stoves; and it is my opinion that few if any keep fire in the stoves."

Treasury Department

Albert Gallatin

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Benjamin Lincoln Esqr.

Superintendent of the light house establishment

Boston