Treasury Department,
Fifth Aud.r Office,
November 7. 1848.

Sir,

The Deed which you transmitted in July 1847 for the Site of the Light House at Clinton River, was agreeably to law laid before the Attorney General for his opinion as to the validity of the title.

I have just now received his opinion, a copy of which I herewith transmit. You will observe that he requires further information which he specifies, before he can give a decided opinion, and this information I have to request you to obtain and forward to me for his use.

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I have &c &c,
S. Pleasonton
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Charles G. Hammond Esqr
Supt of Lights,
Detroit, Michigan

Treasury Department,
Fifth Aud.r Office,
November 7. 1848.

Sir,

I have just received the Report of Commander Gardner of the Navy, who was appointed by the Secretary of the Navy, under the Light House law of the 14th of August last, to examine the several sites for Light Houses, which were authorized to be built by that law, and to report his opinion as to the expediency or inexpediency of building any or all of them.

He is in favor of establishing them

all as follows:

1st Two Light Houses on Oak Island one higher than the other to range with the Channel of the River.

2d Two Beacon Lights at Prices Creek to range with the Channel also.

3d A Floating Light at the Point of Shoals off Oaks Islands.

4th A Beacon Light at Orlons Point

5th A Beacon Light on Campbells Islands. (Place not named)

6th A Beacon Light on the Upper Jettee. (place not named.)

It will accordingly be your duty to examine these several sites, taking with you an experienced Pilot and fix on the proper places for the several Lights (except that on the Jettee) and where the land is not owned by the States, to purchase a small quantity, say an acre or two, for the accommodation of the Light at each place. I have understood that the proper sites at Oak Island belongs to the United States having been purchased for the use of the Fort there, and consequently nothing more will be necessary there than to fix on the spots where the two Lights ought to be placed. I should suppose that two Lights one 20 feet and the other 30 feet high would be sufficient, as Mr. Wood informed me that it was not necessary that they or any of the other Lights be seen more than 6 miles. You will give me your views upon this subject, and also whether it will be necessary to erect a dwelling house for a Keeper; it being probable for a small monthly pay a person in the fort or in the neighbourhood could be

procured to keep them and live in his own House.

2d Two Beacon Lights at Prices creek.

You will select the proper sites at this place and purchase a small quantity of lands, if the owner will not give it to us. The buildings at this place need not be higher than 20 feet for one and 30 feet for the other.

3d A Floating Light off Yeaks Islands I have been told that this Light was not generally considered necessary, and as such Light is very expensive in its maintainance, I must ask you to enquire of navigators and Pilots, whether it may not be dispensed with. If many of them should answer in the affirmative get them to say so in writing and send the papers to me to be laid before Congress. If a majority should be in favor of the Light, you will so inform me and I will take measures to have it built.

4th A Beacon Light at Orlons point

It will be necessary for you as in the other cases to select the site and purchase a small quantity of lands, if it is to be had at a reasonable rate. A building 20 feet high will be sufficient here, and it is probable you can hire a person to keep it for 12 or 15 Dollars a month and live in his own House.

5th A Beacon Light on Campbells Isld.

You will select the proper site and designate it by a stake or other mark, and purchase a small quantity of lands comprehending it. This may also be a small tower about 20 feet high, built either of bricks

or wood, to be determined on hereafter. You will inform me whether a Keepers House be necessary or whether we can hire a keeper who may live in his own House. If a Keepers House be necessary the Light might be put upon the top of it.

6th A Beacon Light on the upper Jetty. Captain Gardner has designated the Jettee on the East side of the River as the upper and proper place for a Light. whilst it is evident the one on the west side is the upper Jettee meant by the law. In the present situation of both those Jettees I understand no Light can be placed on them, and to make a foundation for one in water some 20 feet deep, would cost a Sum much beyond the 3500 Dollars, appropriated I wish you would have the upper Jettee examined, by Mr Wood, and an estimate made by him of what Sum would be necessary to establish a Light at the end of it, and send it with your report.

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You will give me your opinion whether all the Beacons (except those on Oak Island) may not be built of wood. On Oak Island I should prefer to have them built of bricks laid in Cement.

I have &c &c.
S. Pleasonton

Wm. L. Bettencourt Esqr
Supt of Lights,
Wilmington
North Carolina.

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Treasury Department,
5th Fifth Aud.r's Office,
Nov.r 4, 1848.

Sir,

In addition to the two buoys heretofore ordered for Wilmington, N.C it will be necessary to have prepared as soon as possible, two more wrought Iron buoys, with their fixtures, including mush Chains, and forwarded to Mr. William C. Bettencourt, the Collector at that Port, to replace two which he advises me have been destroyed or lost lately.

336 Be pleased to call at this Office at your earliest Convenience.

I have &c.,
S. Pleasonton

William Carby, Esq
Washington City
District of Columbia.

Treasury Department,
5th Fifth Aud.r's Office,
Nov.r 4, 1848.

Sir,

Your letter of the 4th Inst with its enclosure, is received. The buoy shipped from New York, and lost overboard from the Schooner "L P Smith" was one of the two mentioned in my letter of the 21st August last, intended for Oak Island and Baxter Bar, in Cape Fear River, under the appropriation of the 14th of that Month. In addition to these, I have now

344 ordered two wrought iron buoys, with their fixtures to be pre-
368 pared by the Contractor and forwarded to you without delay, to replace the lost buoys mentioned in your letter. You will be pleased to advise me immediately on their arrival and delivery at your port.

William C. Bettencourt Esq

I have &c
S Pleasonton