Treasury Department
Revenue Office November 30th 1803.

Sir

I have been honored with your Letter of the 29th ultimo and am happy to find that the Lights are at length passed on Cape Hatteras & Shell Castle. As much of their utility will depend upon regularity in cleaning the Lanterns and keeping them lighted at all proper hours of the night, those points ought to be particularly impressed on the recollection of the Keepers.

As you have not specified the price at which Porpoise Oil may be had, and as I have received no satisfactory assurances of its being of a good quality, I have concluded that I will not depend altogether upon Supplies of that kind, until further information and experience may justify it. I have therefore determined upon ordering from Stephen Hussey Esq. Collector of the Port of Nantucket, 800 gallons Winter Spermaceti refined Oil, which will be forthwith purchased on account of the United States, and shipped to the care of Alx. Wallace at Pocacock to be held at your disposal for the use of the Cape Hatteras and Shell Castle Light Houses. Should this parcel not arrive in proper season, I request that resort may be had to Alx. Wallace or any Gentleman in the neighbourhood, who will be most moderate in his terms, for a temporary Supply of Porpoise Oil.

As the Secretary of the Treasury may find it beneficial to the Service to supply the Southern Lights with such Oil as your neighbourhood produces, I will thank you to ascertain the quantity on hand from time to time, and the prices at which it may be had. I also wish a fair experiment to be made at the Cape or Shell Castle, in order that the quality of the Oil may be correctly ascertained.

When you forward Accounts of disbursements, you will please to transmit the Keepers Receipts for Oil and other articles, and to charge the customary Commission of 2½ per Cent.

I am respectfully
Your obed. Servt
Signed Wm. Miller Jr.
Commissioner of the Revenue

Samuel Tredwell Esq.