"a reasonable time for his return, or until his Proposals could be matured", and on the month of August which was also prior to the Signing of the Articles. I again wrote, apprizing him that "it was the determination of "the Department to accede to none but an explicit Proposal, the expence "whereof to the United States could be ascertained and fixed. for if "contingencies of this kind were kept for future adjustment, there could "not be that certainty which ought to govern in all our engagements "for Public account".— On referring to the Superintendents Letter of November 2d 1798, I find that in pursuance of my instructions, he had proceeded to the Cape, designated the most eligible Site, and purchased the Lot of ground upon which the Light House and its appendages have since been erected.—

Although it is not my wish to disappoint any claim which the Contractor has set up, I cannot but repeat the observations which I first in a Communication heretofore Submitted on this Subject, viz. that the savings in laying the foundation, and in the anticipation of his funds, have more than counterbalanced all the inconveniences which have been suggested in his Memorial to the President.

Upon examination, it will be found that the Balance unexpended of the appropriation for erecting the Cape Hatteras & Shell Castle Light Houses amounts to 611 70/100 Dollars, and that after paying off Genl Dearborn there will remain a Surplus amounting to no more than 261 57/100 Dollars. If it should be the intention of the President to extend the Contractors allowance beyond that Surplus, an additional Appropriation should be made during the present Session of Congress.—

Extract of a Letter from Samuel Tredwell Esq. Superintendent of the Cape Hatteras & Shell Castle Light Houses to the Commissioner of the Revenue dated October 29th 1803.

"I am of opinion that it will take 150 tons of Stone to "enlarge the Work round the foundation of the Beacon and "Keepers Dwelling, and make it of the full extent proposed "by the Plan which you sent me, and I can find no person "disposed to collect and place it on the Spot and in the manner "proposed, for a less Sum than three Dollars and fifty Cents "p ton. I do not however think, that there was so much Stone "wanting to finish the Work when Genl Dearborns Agent "left it, or in other words, I am of opinion that some has been "taken away from the eastern part of the foundation; probably "to the quantity of 20 to 30 tons".—

"The Lanthorn of the Beacon is now finished, and every

thing

" thing about it is compleat, excepting that there is no Stove yet
" fixed in it, nor is there any in that at the Cape. There
" are some Repairs wanting about the Windows of the Beacon
" & Keepers House, which have been broken, which I have directed to
" be done, and to paint the Iron Railings and work - for I found
" it rusting very much both there and at the Cape. I have mentioned
" above that there is no Stove yet provided and fixed in the Lantern
" at the Cape, that is the only thing now wanting there to close the
" work of the Contractor, excepting a little coppering which is wanted
" on the floor of the Lantern, and which I have offered to Genl Dearborn
" to procure and have done for him, and excepting a Frame & door
" for the Cellar which Mr. Hobbert (the Contractors Agent) omitted
" to engage a person to do when he went away, or if he did, it has
" been neglected, though however it is but of little consequence,
" for the Keeper I fancy would make little use of it more than
" what he now does, even were the doors on". —

Treasury Department
Revenue Office December 5th 1803.

Sir

In a Sketch exhibiting the Situation of the Light House Service, which I had the honor of submitting for your information in July 1803, I communicated a partial answer to Genl Dearborns memorial, and gave my reasons for delaying my final Report on that Subject.

A careful reference to the Files of this Office and to the correspondence which Mr. Pridwell has favored me with, since his return to North Carolina, has at length put it in my power to lay before you a Statement, with such observations as appear to be material in forming an opinion upon the merits of this claim.

I have the honor to be
with perfect respect
Your Obed. Servt.
Signed Wm. Miller
Commissioner of the Revenue

The Hon.ble
Secretary of the Treasury.