Edgartown, MA

R626 E17E

Boston. March 17. 1829

Sir.

In June last proposals were advertised for building a pier and lighthouse at Edgarton, and for building a pier from the lighthouse to the shore. Separate proposals were received for those objects. My offer for both was much lower than any other, but as it was found that the sum appropriated was not sufficient for the completion of the pier to the shore, a contract only was entered into for building that part of the pier for the lighthouse to stand upon and the lighthouse; reserving the building of the pier from the lighthouse to the shore until Congress should make further appropriations. When I saw you in Washington in September last, I named to you that the part of the pier and the lighthouse were finished, and as it would require so many piles for extending the pier from the lighthouse to the shore, they could not be obtained (of hemlock) only on the snow in the winter, and that I would incur the responsibility of procuring all the materials on my own account during the winter, if the proposals I had

offered would be accepted, should Congress make the additional appropriation required. Your reply was, that should the appropriation be made, Mr. Dearborn would be authorized to contract with me if my offer had been the lowest. This conversation was renewed when I saw you in December last. In consequence I have procured all the materials for this work and prepared the machine for driving piles. My object in troubling you with this communication is to call your recollection to the state of this business, as among the numerous items that come before you relating to lighthouses which I perceive are still increasing, it may have escaped your recollection. ——

I have had some correspondance with the Superintendant of Lighthouses in the Delaware Col. McIlvane respecting a lighthouse to be built near the mouth of Duck Creek adjoining the Delaware Bay. By some person near that place he had been informed that a lighthouse could be built on that site selected 31 feet high for less than $20.000. I have proposed to him to build one on the plan of those on Long Point, Billingsgate, Sandy Neck and a number of others

for $3700 and guaranty it standing / that is, the solidity of the foundation / by giving satisfactory bonds to that effect. Since which I have not heard from him.

Permit me to add, that I have lately seen a gentleman from Gratiot who informs me, that the destruction of that lighthouse was not in any way owing to the materials of which it was built, but to the force of the sea washing away the foundation

I have the hona to be Sir.

Very respectfully
Your Obedient Servt.
W Winstanley

Stephen Pleasonton Esq.
1st Auditor and acting
Commissioner of the Revenue.