at the same rate of compensation he heretofore received, you will enter into an agreement with him to that effect for one year from and after the 1st. of July next, and you will also cause the necessary repairs to be made to the buoys.

411. 438 If the Lantern at Faulkner's Island cannot be repaired so as to last three or four years, we must necessarily procure a new one in which to put the new lamps and reflectors of Mr. Lewis. You will, in the event supposed, employ Mr. I. W. P. Lewis to have a new lantern made, if it can be done and put up upon such terms as you shall consider reasonable. If we should be obliged to remove the Lighthouse to another part of the Island the lantern, lamps and reflectors can be removed with it. Ex.d

I have received a copy of your advertisement inviting proposals for securing the foundation of the Lynde Point Lighthouse, which appears to be in all respects conformably to Mr. Lewis' plan. I am, &c.

S Pleasonton

Charles F. Lester Esqr.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, May 11, 1840.

Sir

I have the honor to enclose a joint letter from the Hon. Mr. Hubbard of the Senate, the Hon. T. Shaw and Thomas J. Parsons Esqr. accompanied by sundry depositions and letters in vindication of Joseph L. Locke, as late Keeper of the Whales Back Light house, and requesting his restoration to the office of Keeper. These papers are numbered from 1 to 16.

408. 430 Mr. Drown, the Superintendent of Light houses for New Hampshire having made frequent complaint that Mr. Locke would not attend to the Light in person, the first of which complaints appears to have been contained in his letter to me of the 9th November last, which was transmitted to you with my letter of the 15th of that month, and afterwards in his letters to me of the 20th November, 14th and 20th December last, and also stated that the Whales Back Light house was in a dangerous condition, you requested me, on the 16th November, to cause the Light to be suspended, if I considered it unsafe to attend it, and if I was not entirely satisfied upon the subject to call upon the Collector for a report, and in the mean time to instruct

him to keep the Light in good condition until that question was settled, and to put a temporary Keeper there if necessary, in consequence of the absence or neglect of Mr. Locke, and to suspend the payment of Mr. Locke's salary during the time.

Mr. Drown was requested accordingly to cause the Whale's Back Light house to be examined and a report made to the Treasury whether or not it would be safe to continue the Light. The report, which was dated 28th of November, was in favor of continuing the Light, and on the 4th of December following I wrote to Mr. Drown that it had been determined to continue the Light, and that if Mr. Locke, the Keeper (to whom I should write on the subject) did not repair to the Lighthouse and attend to the duty in person, he, Mr. Drown, would put such temporary Keeper there as would run the risk of keeping the Light up, in which case Mr. Locke's salary would be suspended and the amount given to such temporary keeper. In this way Mr. Chickering, who is now in possession of the Light was appointed and put in charge of the Light, on the 6th of January last.

Among the papers produced in Mr. Locke's defence, is a letter from Mr. Boardman, marked 9, by which it appears that Mr. Locke was taken seriously sick some time in October last, and was not able until a long time subsequently, to attend to his duty in person; and it appears also from the depositions of William Duncan (No 6) and Hiram Filfettier (No 5) that Mr. Locke during his sickness employed them to attend to the Light, and that as soon after receiving my letter of the 4th of December, (No 2) as his health would permit, which was on the 18th of December, he repaired to the Lighthouse to enter upon its duties, and continued there, he avers, until the 31st of that month.

It appears to be clear from the papers produced in behalf of Mr. Locke, that whilst Mr. Drown was complaining of his absence without leave from the Lighthouse, which was forbidden by Mr. Locke's standing instructions, Mr. Locke was not able in point of fact to do his duty in person, but was obliged to employ other persons, but then it does not appear that he ever informed Mr. Drown of that fact, which he ought certainly to have done. Had Mr. Locke's illness been known here to be the cause of his absence from the Light house, no action on my part would have been had against him. Under the circumstances of the case, however, I consider it the province of the Secretary

of the Treasury to decide whether or not Mr. Locke can be restored to the situation he held.

If the letters of Mr. Drown containing the charges against Mr. Locke should be required, they will be sent.

Some time after Mr. Locke had left the Light house, viz: on the 4th of March last, Mr. Drown reported to this Office that, according to the returns made by Mr. Locke, on the 31st December, and by Mr. Chickering on the 6th of January, there appeared to be a loss of forty two gallons of oil, and subsequently, viz: on the 14th of April, he, Mr. Drown, reported that Mr. Chickering had discovered that eighteen gallons two quarts and seven gills, had been satisfactorily accounted for, leaving the deficiency twenty three gallons one quart and one gill, instead of forty two gallons, as stated in his letter of the 4th March. Copies of Mr. Drown's two letters upon this subject are enclosed, marked A. and B.

Ed. In vindication of Mr. Locke upon this subject, it is stated in the deposition of Mr. Tracy Fethern (No. 5) that he saw Mr. Locke take an account of the Oil on hand on the 31st December, and that there was 223 gallons of Summer Oil and 95 gallons of Winter Oil, so that there appears to have been considerably more Oil remaining at the Light house than Mr. Drown appears to have been aware of. The difference can only be settled by Mr. Locke and Mr. Drown themselves. I attached no importance to the case myself; believing that Mr. Locke was an honest man, and that if, from any cause he could not account for the deficiency, he would pay Mr. Drown for the oil at the market price. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

Secretary of the Treasury.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, May 12, 1840.

Sir

I received yesterday your letter of the 10th. The arrangement you have made with Mr. Gordon the Collector, for paying the people on board the floating light in your absence, and enabling him to make up his accounts for this Office, is satisfactory. There will be no