RG26 E18

Portland, Maine.

Treasury Department
5th Auditor's Office
Oct. 17th 1846.

Sir,

On examining the report of Captain Howlands which you lately transmitted to me I find the consumption of oil at the Cape Cod (Truro) Light, to be the enormous quantity of nearly 52 gallons pr. lamp, per annum.

This Light was at first fitted up with Hoopers lamps, which consumed from 56 to 58 gallons pr. lamp, and I caused them to be taken out and Winslow Lewis' (Hemmingways) substituted in the belief that the consumption would be reduced below 40 Gallons, and afford equally as good a light. I have had satisfactory evidence that the Light was as good as formerly, but I was not aware until now that the consumption of oil was so great. This consumption of oil must be owing to too much ventilation, producing a flame much larger than will fill the focus and of consequence burning oil in waste. I must request you to cause this defect to be corrected.

I also observe from the same report that the three lamps at Mayo's Beach, consumes still more oil, being 59 2/3 gallons pr. lamp. These lamps, I think, are of the kind in common use, which ought not to con-

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sume if the Keeper is careful, more than 33 or 34 gallons.
Be pleased to enquire into this matter and informe me
how it is. If this great consumption is caused by too much
ventilation or by a defect in the burner, I beg you will
have it corrected as in the case of Cape Cod.

I am, &c.
L. Pleasanton.

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Lemuel Williams Esq
Supt. of Lights
Boston, Mass^tts.