Comptroller. I am, &c.

Robert S. Garnett Esq.r S. Pleasonton

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, October 22, 1839.

Sir

The following accounts with their respective vouchers are herewith transmitted for adjustment - viz: George Bancroft Superintendent of Light Houses in Massachusetts, Smith Stilwell, Superintendent of Ogdensburg Light house, Samuel S. Downs, Superintendent of Barnegat Shoal Light house, Edwin J. Kelso, Superintendent of Presque Isle Light house, for the quarter ending 30th September, 1839. F. S. Beattie, Superintendent of St. Marks Light house for the quarter ending 30th June, 1839.

84/105

I am, &c. S. Pleasonton

First Auditor of the Treasury

Ex d.

Treasury Department
Fifth Auditor's Office, October 22, 1839.

Sir

Your Light house account for the quarter ending 30th September last has been received and handed to the first Auditor for adjustment. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

205 Smith Stilwell Esq.r
70/190 Samuel S. Downs "
85/209 Edwin J. Kelso "
30./364 F. S. Beattie " (June quarter)

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, October 22, 1839.

Sir

On the 4th of February last, near nine months ago, I requested you to ascertain the names of the heirs of Andrew Dewees, the

the owners of the land on which the Light house stands at the mouth of St. Johns, and which you informed me was public land, and to purchase their right to two or three acres, if it could be had on reasonable terms. On the 9th March you gave me a list of their names and informed me that you had written to some of them to ascertain the lowest sum they would take, and as soon as you received their answer, you would inform me of its import. Since this period I have heard nothing further from you on the subject.

86. 120

Mr Downing, however, has recently informed me that Mr C. Taylor has purchased the right of the other heirs, (he being one) and the latter has written me a letter wherein he demands five thousand dollars for the site on which the Light house stands.

After informing me that the land belonged to the United States, and inducing the erection of the Light house on it, you will have incurred a heavy responsibility if you have suffered Mr. Taylor to purchase the right of the other heirs, and put it in his power to harrass us by exorbitant demands for a right to a few acres. On this subject I should be glad to hear from you without delay. I am &c

Ex.d

S. Pleasonton

James Dell Esqr

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditors' Office, October 22, 1839.

Sir

About 2 years ago one of the Floating Lights in the Delaware Bay, parted from her moorings, and after an ineffectual search for them by the Cutter, I directed Mr Whiteley, the Superintendent, to advertise a reward of three hundred dollars for them, (they being worth six or seven hundred dollars). They were not found and a new sett was necessarily obtained, and the Boat again moored.

100. 104

Some short time since a person of the name of Clayton found the old moorings, presented them to the Collector and

are on board the Ville de Lyons, which put into Bermuda in distress, and probably will not reach this country until the 1st February next.

I am, &c. S. Pleasonton

Secretary of the Treasury

Exd

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, January 1, 1840.

195.
201

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 30th ultimo, enclosing a letter, an account and bill of exchange from Mr. Lepaute, and have this day requested the Secretary of the Treasury to remit to you 900 dollars and 66/100, equal, at 5/3 francs to the dollar, to 4803 55/100 francs, the amount of the bill, and the balance due to Mr. Lepaute, for the manufacture of two sets of Lenticular Apparatus for Light Houses.

53. Exd

192.
215

I am sorry to learn that a part of the Lenses is on board the Ville de Lyon, which put into Bermuda in distress. I am, &c

S. Pleasonton

Mr. Auguste Belmont.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditors Office, January 2, 1840.

Sir

195.
202

I have received your letter of the 21st instant, as to the present condition of the two Light houses under your care, at the Mouth of St. Johns and Amelia Island.

183.
235

You will cause the Light house and Keeper's house at St. Johns to be white washed, and you will cause the leak in the Lantern of the former to be stopped, and the plastering in the Keepers house which has fallen off, to be replaced. You will also cause a new coat of Roman Cement to be put upon the Amelia Island Lighthouse, if you have any workmen who can do it well. If not it would be a useless expense, and you will whitewash it only. You will also cause the

Kitchen chimney to be raised in order to prevent its smoaking. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

James Dell Esq.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, January 2, 1840.

Sir,

195. 201 The Light house account of Thomas L. Shaw, Superintendent at George Town, South Carolina, for the quarter ending 30th September last, is herewith transmitted for adjustment. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

First Auditor of the Treasury

Ex d.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, January 2, 1840.

Sir,

192. 215 Your Light house account for the quarter ending 30th September last, has been received and handed to the First Auditor for adjustment. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

Thomas L. Shaw Esq.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, January 2, 1840.

Sir

195. 202 I have the honor to request that you will cause a remittance to be made from the general appropriation for Light house purposes of Six hundred and Sixty five dollars $\frac{45}{100}$ to Joseph Ramsey, Superintendent at Plymouth, North Carolina, to enable him to defray the expenses of the Floating Light at the Mouth of Roanoke River, for the 4th quarter of 1839; he to be charged with the same and held accountable. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

Secretary of the Treasury.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditors Office, January 29, 1840.

Sir,

Your letter of the 15th instant on the subject of contracting with some person to take care of the Buoys on St. Johns Bar was received this day.

The best mode of obtaining a contract would be to advertise for proposals for two or three weeks and give it to the lowest bidder, if his bid be reasonable, and this I request you to do. In your advertisement you will specify the number and kind of Buoys, and the periods at which they ought to be taken up and removed. You will send me a copy of your advertisement. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

235. / 273

James Dell Esqr.

Ed

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditors Office, January 29, 1840.

Sir

The Comptroller has expressed a desire that you should forward your account for building Robbins Reef Lighthouse; it being necessary to carry whatever balance of the appropriation which may remain to the surplus fund. Permit me to request you to forward it, with the necessary vouchers, at your earliest convenience. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

192. / 240

Jesse Hoyt Esqr.

219. / 342

Treasury Department

making appropriations for building Lighthouses &c. and the decision has all the force of law, and cannot be abrogated but by act of Congress. On referring to that law you will see how the case stands, and that further legislation, in order to effect the object of the petitioners will be necessary.

I have the honor to return the papers, agreeably to your request, and to be, with great respect, &c. S. Pleasonton

Hon. William C. Dawson.
House of Repr. U States

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditors Office, March 3, 1840.

Ex. d

Sir

I have just received your letter (without date) enclosing a copy of your advertisement inviting proposals for taking care of the 3 buoys now moored on the bar at the entrance of St. Johns River, and requesting to know whether you shall enter into a contract or send the several bids to this Office. As exorbitant prices are generally asked to the South for all kinds of labor, I must request you to send the several bids to this Office, &c, if they are all too high, I may take some other step for keeping the buoys in order.

273.
335

I did suppose there were more than three buoys on the bar. There was an appropriation at one time of 800 dollars for buoys there, and there has been an appropriation since for this purpose. Be good enough to inform me how it is that only three are placed there.

I am &c. S. Pleasonton

James Dell Esqr

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditors Office, March 4, 1840.

Sir

I have been informed verbally, that the Keeper of the light house

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, March 18, 1840.

Sir

Your two letters of the 11th instant are received, together with an estimate of expenses of building a stone pier at Edgartown lighthouse and rebuilding the keepers house at Nantucket Beacon. The amount is greater than would seem to me the reasonable cost of such works, and I have therefore to request that you will advertise for proposals to do the work and find materials, by contract in both cases; accepting the lowest offer, all of which you will forward to this Office, afterwards to be filed. When the work is nearly completed you will advise me of the same, when the necessary remittance will be made. Jam. So.

S. Pleasonton

John P. Norton Esq.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditors Office, March 18, 1840.

Sir

I have received your letter of the 6th instant, enclosing the proposal of a Mr. Wightman for taking care of the three or four buoys located at the entrance of St. Johns River, for which I perceive he asks the monstrous sum of One thousand dollars a year. You will of course not accept it.

When these buoys require to be replaced or to be taken up and cleaned, you will apply to the Collector at Savannah for the use of the Cutter in performing this service. If there be any Cutter nearer to you than Savannah, it would be proper for you to apply for it, as being more convenient.

As these buoys were established principally for the accommodation

of the army, it is probable you could on emergencies obtain the use of the army boats in securing the buoys at their moorings. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

James Dell Esq.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, March 18, 1840.

Sir

I have just received your two letters of the 16th instant, in one of which you inform me that you had made an agreement with M. W. Lewis to deposit two thousand tons of stone around the Beacon on the Romer at one hundred and five cents per ton, which I consider quite reasonable. In the other you inform me of the arrival of the long expected Ship Ville de Lyons, with ninety four boxes of French lenses and a lantern on board, for our Light house establishment.

I have written to M. Fresnel, the Secretary of the light house establishment in France, to send to this country one of M. Lepautes best workmen to put these lenses in our lighthouses. I shall expect this person in the month of May, before which time I do not propose to do any thing with the lenses, they will consequently remain in your care until further orders.

It is my intention to put the set of lenses for a stationary light at Sandy Hook, and the other for a revolving light on White Island, one of the Isle of Shoals, where there is now a revolving light. Among the apparatus in your possession is a lantern calculated for the lenses, but whether it can be put on the tower of the Sandy Hook light cannot be determined until M. Lepautés man arrives. If it will not suit, it will be an easy matter to have one made by it in New York, to suit the Sandy Hook tower. I am, &c.

the exception of 39 50/100 dollars, for piloting the Cutter Dexter, which is included in the estimate for the 4th quarter of 1839.

215/363 As your account for the 4th quarter of last year, which you have forwarded, does not include all the sums due in that quarter, I return it with the vouchers, in order that you may make the account complete, after receiving the remittance from the Secretary of the Treasury.

After making all the payments, you will return the account for the 4th quarter, and forward one for the present quarter. I am, &c.

S. Plesonton

Thomas L. Shaw Esqr.

Ex. d.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, March 25, 1840.

Sir

344/352 I have the honor to request that a remittance be made from the general appropriation for Light house purposes of eight hundred and fifteen dollars and 37/100, to Thomas L. Shaw, Superintendent of Light houses and Buoys at George Town, South Carolina; he to be charged with the same and held accountable. I am, &c.

S. Plesonton.

Secretary of the Treasury.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, March 26, 1840.

Sir

308/431 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, and to enclose, agreeably to your request, Copies of such letters as passed between this Office and Mr. Dell, Superintendent of light houses at Jacksonville, Florida, and as appear to have any bearing upon the title to the land on which the lighthouse now

stands at the mouth of St. Johns River, and also a copy of a letter from Mr. Dell to me of the 17th January 1839, enclosing the opinion of Mr. Douglass, the District Attorney, and papers connected with it, in relation to the title. A copy of a letter from Mr. Sanchez is also enclosed.

For your further information, it appears to be proper to state that the title to the land on which the first Lighthouse was built in 1828 and 1829, at the entrance of St. Johns River, was in dispute and a suit was then pending in the Courts of Florida, on the subject. Mr. John Rodman, then Superintendent at St. Augustine, was authorized to purchase the claims of both parties, and he accordingly entered into an agreement with both parties to pay twenty dollars per acre for as much as the United States wanted, to the successful party. This was decided in favor of Andrew Dewees' heirs, Ex.d Mr. E. Taylor being one. A copy of this agreement is herewith enclosed.

There has been no division of the property among Andrew Dewees' heirs, and a suit I understand is pending between them upon the subject.

M. Birchard Esqr. Sam, &c. S. Pleasonton Ex.
Solicitor of the Treasury

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, March 26, 1840.

340/357

Sir

I received yesterday your letter of the 14th instant, enclosing what you call an estimate of the expense of coppering and repairing the Light ship at Careysfort Reef. This paper is not signed by any one, nor does it appear by whom the Vessel was examined, and the repairs necessary, ascertained. I cannot authorize repairs to this extent ($8432 36/100 dollars) without having the Vessel particularly examined by Ship Carpenters, and a report made as to the repairs necessary, and the cost of them.

317/362

I have to request therefore, that you will, at the season when she can be best spared from her station, have the Vessel brought into

330/371

him for appointment in place of Captain Morris. If no such person is to be had in your Country, I will send one from the North who will do justice to this Light, which has for a long time past been shamefully neglected. Let me hear from you without delay on this subject. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

John B. Hogan Esq.

Ex.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, March 30, 1840.

Sir

I have just received your letter of the 28th instant, enclosing the valuation of Mr. Dimond and Mr. Whitmore, of the Cutter Rush, which you and Mr. Nicoll consider too high.

350. 375

I cannot direct how this vessel should be disposed of, that authority belongs to the Secretary, but as you think the valuation much too great, you will refuse to receive her at it on account of the Lighthouse Department. She will then probably be sold at auction, by order of the Secretary, when you will buy her in for Lighthouse purposes, if indeed the price does not exceed two thousand dollars. This is all I can say on the subject. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

Jesse Hoyt Esq.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, March 30, 1840.

Sir

I have received your letter of the 16th instant, inclosing one from the

335. 356

Keeper of St. Johns Light house, stating that an ejectment had been brought against him by Corneliu Taylor for the land on which the Light house stands.

You will take no step in the case, as it is in charge of the Solicitor of the Treasury, and the District Attorney at St. Augustine.

Another letter of the 16th was also received, but which requires

no answer; having recently written to you on the subject to which it relates.

I am, &c. S. Reawonton

James Dell Esq.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, March 30, 1840.

Sir

In the month of March 1839, Mr. McDonell the Collector at Detroit, was instructed to advertise for proposals to build a Light house thirty feet high, with a Keepers house of the usual dimensions, at the mouth of Saginaw River, Michigan. Mr. McDonell however forwarded to me Ex.d a letter from a large number of Captains of Steam Boats and other vessels, requesting that the Light-house might be sixty five feet high, alleging that the appropriation of 5,000 dollars would build one of that height. It 352. 356 appearing to be the wish of those interested that the Light house should be sixty five feet high, I directed Mr. McDonell so to modify his advertisement as to invite proposals for building a tower thirty feet and also one of sixty five feet, although I was of opinion, from the experience I had had, that a 331 411 tower of sixty five feet could not be built for the appropriation.

Mr. Stephen Wolverton however proposed to build the Light house and Dwelling house, the tower to be sixty five feet high, for the sum of 4,775 dollars, and a contract was accordingly entered into with him. He was to have had the whole work done by the 1st of October last, but in consequence of the sickness of his workmen, as was alleged, nothing more was done than carrying up the walls of the Keepers dwelling. He now wishes, as you will perceive by his letter, which I enclose, to be permitted to build the tower thirty feet high instead of sixty five feet, which he has contracted to build. To this proposal it may be objected that the United States, besides having no motive for altering the Contract, would be doing injustice to all those individuals who did offer, and who might again be disposed to offer, to do this work for them.

It is no doubt a hard bargain for Mr. Wolverton, but he ought

in good order, and if [illegible] you
find the Keepers of the Lights at Pays Manchac and at Pleasantons 3 Rapids
are such as represented, and are incompetent to the right discharge of
the trust committed to them, that you will recommend others for ap-
pointment. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

Denis Prieur Esq.

Ex.d

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, April 3, 1840. Ex.d

Sir

Captain Howland, who delivered the Oil &c. at the St. John's
River Light house on the 9th December last, reports that the Light house and 296. 383
dwelling need whitewashing, and the dwelling pointing in some places. That
"the apparatus is in a neglected and filthy state, and that the oil butts
356. 450 are poor, and that probably two will be needed next year".

As the title to the site of this Lighthouse is in dubio, (an action of
ejectment having been brought against the United States) such repairs
only as are absolutely necessary should be made at this time. That
however is no excuse for the neglect of the Keeper. You will therefore
admonish him of his duty, and of the necessity of giving proper attention
to the apparatus, as well as every other part of the establishment; and such
repairs as you may deem absolutely necessary, you will cause to be
made. If two new Oil butts are needed, you will have them made.

Respecting the Amelia Island Lighthouse, the Captain reports
that the rough casting of the Lighthouse is peeling off in places, that
the dwelling needs white washing and is leaky about the windows. That
the chimney of the kitchen should be topped higher, and that "the apparatus
is in a neglected and filthy state, as it usually is".

The repairs necessary to this establishment you will also cause
to be made, and admonish the Keeper of the necessity of cleanliness about
the lighting apparatus, and of all due attention to every part of the

establishment. Such habitual neglect of duty on the part of the Keeper, as is inferable from Captain Howlands report, cannot be tolerated. I am, &c.

S. Pleasonton

James Dell Esqr.

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office, April 3, 1840.

Sir

I herewith enclose to you an extract from the Journal of Captain Howland, who delivered a supply of Oil &c. to the Light-houses under your charge on the 2d. 3d. and 4th. of December last, from which you will learn the wretched condition of the whole establishment, and the bad character of the Keeper of the Lights on Wolf Island.

Ex.d

I have to request that you will visit and examine into the condition of this establishment, and report to me as soon as you can, the repairs necessary to be made, with an estimate of the cost thereof. And if you find that the Keeper, instead of attending to his duty in person, farms out the establishment to some other person, or neglects it, as Capt. Howland has reported, you will recommend another man for appointment, if a suitable person can be found. Such neglect on the part of the Keepers cannot be tolerated.

296. 383

Of the Sapello Light-house the Capt. in his Journal says "The lantern or dome is leaky, and the floor, which is brick, wants repairing. Dwelling wants a few trifling repairs, such as mending the plastering, repairing the window blinds &c. Apparatus is in a very filthy and deranged state, the whole of it from the bottom to the top".

The repairs necessary to this establishment, which will not amount to any thing very considerable, you will have made, and admonish the Keeper of the absolute necessity of giving due attention to his business, and of keeping the Apparatus and every thing about the establishment in proper order.

I am pleased to find that Captain Howland reports the St. Simons Light house establishment to be "generally in good order", and that there is an improvement since the present Keeper has been put in