Treasury Department,
Fifth Aud.r Office,
Feby 5th 1850.

Dear Sir,

I had the hono.r to day to receive your letter of the 4th inst. enclosing one from Mr. G. D. Wiscop. and recommending that gentleman for the place of Light House Keeper at Carrysfort Reef.

This Light House is in the course of erection by the Topographical Corps, and I am unmformed when it will be finished and ready for a Keeper.

It is proper to inform you however, that all Keepers of Light Houses are appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury and when this Light House shall be finished the appointment will rest with him; and may add, that there is hardly a probability that Mr. Wiscop could obtain it as it would according to a standing rule, be given to some Citizen of the State in which it is situated.

As Mr. Wiscop's letter relates mainly to some experiments in science which he has been making, I think it proper to return it to you, as I do herewith.

I have &c &c.
S. Pleasonton

Professor Joseph Henry
Smithsonian Institution.

you will be pleased to make enquiry and ascertain whether a Boat, with a Bell on it, can be placed here with safety. It is supposed that the Rock is so perpendicular all around it, and the water so deep that it may be found impossible to moor a boat there. If this be so the object must be abandoned. You will however, be pleased to report its actual condition, after you shall ascertain it.

I have &c
S. Pleasonton

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Charles E. Avery Esq
Supt. of Lights
Michilimackinac
Michigan

Mem: The advertisement enclosed above is like that of Mr Bettencourt, at Wilmington for Orton Point and Campbells Island.

Treasury Department
5th Auditor's Office,
April 15th 1850.

Sir:

I have just received your letter of the 8th inst. in relation to the Buoys in your District, your accounts for the last quarter have also come to hand.

The course you propose for providing mooring, unmooring and cleaning the Buoys in your district is approved. You will therefore advertise for proposals for a week or ten days to replace and keep in order all the Buoys in your District, for one year (two if you think it necessary) and accept the lowest bid, if it be reasonable. If you shall be satisfied that the Buoy on Rebecca Shoal would answer as well as the Iron Can Buoy, you will employ such a Buoy in place of the Iron one lost.

You will be pleased to inform me whether the the Topographical Corps have abandoned the erection of the Light House on Canfort Reef, or have only suspended operations. If abandoned you will inform me of the cause, and what they have done with the materials.

Your estimate of Light House expenses for June quarter has been approved and returned by me this day to

158.

to the Commissioner of Customs for remittance after deduction of $ 578 34/100 for a balance in your hands as per your a/c for the 1st quarter.

I have &c
S. Pleasonton

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Samuel T. Douglass Esq
Supt of Lts
Key West. Florida

Treasury Department
5th Auditor's Office
April 1. 1850.

Sir:

I have received the copy of a letter from Capt. Evans, of the Cutter Campbell, which you have forwarded to me, by which it appears that the Wind Mill Point Floating Light requires so much repair that it will be necessary to bring her into port to have it done, and that the old Boat of the Smiths Point Floating Light is worn out and ought to be replaced by a new one.

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1812

Whenever you may think it necessary and proper to bring the Wind Mill Point Light House into port, you will do so and send the relief Boat, as a ~~suitable~~ substitute. When in port you will have a survey held on her and the repairs necessary ascertained and made by day work, you buying the necessary materials. The Captain of the Boat ought to oversee the work and take care that it is well done.

As to the small Boat for the Smiths Point Floating Light, you are authorized to procure a new one of the dimensions of the old one, viz: 16 feet long and 5 feet 9 inches wide.

I have &c
S. Pleasonton

Wm Gamell Esq
Supt Norfolk. Va

Treasury Department
5th Auditors Office
May 28. 1850.

Sir.

I had the honor yesterday to receive the letter of Mrs. Padelford, Fay, & Co of Savannah, which you referred to me, and which is herewith returned, requesting that a small Light on Fig Island, which they have established, in aid of a Light placed there by the United States, may be maintained at the Public expense.
These gentlemen may be informed that their request cannot be complied with. Light Houses, Buoys, Beacons, &c can only be established by law, and however small and trifling the expense may be, a light cannot be established without usurping Legislative Authority.
If therefore they should find it inconvenient to maintain this small Light themselves, their only resource will be in an application to Congress.

I have &c &c
S. Pleasonton

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Hon
W. M. Meredith
Sec. Treasury

Treasury Department
5th Auditor's Office
May 28. 1850

Sir.

I have had the honor to receive a letter from Messrs. Merrick & Sons. of Philadelphia, which you referred to me. These gentlemen state that they furnished for the Treasury Department Last year, a Light House for Careysfort Reef. This is not so. The Light House for Careysfort Reef was placed by law under the direction of the Topographical Bureau, and for building which, appropriations have been made, from time to time, to the amount of $91.560. The Treasury had nothing to do with it. If that Bureau has expended these appropriations, it is very probable that Congress will make no other, as the newspapers have lately reported, that the work had failed & been abandoned. The letter of the Messrs. Merrick is herewith returned.

I have &c &c
S. Pleasonton

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227.
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Hon. W. M. Meredith
Sec. Treasury

Treasury Department
5th. Auditors Office
May 30. 1850

Sir

I received this morning your letter of the 23rd. Inst. in relation to the expenses to be allowed, during your annual visit (next month) to the Several Lights in your district Mr. Minge, the collector in 1845, visited the Lights at an expense of $19.45, and made 3 trips in a Steamer, and I cannot perceive why you cannot do the same thing. At all events, I should not be willing to sanction an expense beyond $30. or $35, for this purpose, and in allowing any amount, the items of expense ought to be specified & vouched as far as practicable.

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I have &c &c
S. Pleasonton

John I Walker Esqr
Supt. of Lights, Mobile,
Ala.

Treasury Department
5th. Auditors Office
May 31. 1850

Sir

I inclose the appointment of John Wilcox, jr. as Keeper of the Light Boat at Stratford Point, vice, John Taylor, dec'd, together with a copy of instructions to the former; both of which you will be pleased to deliver, and to admonish Mr. Wilcox of the necessity of residing, and being himself steadily on board said vessel.

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I have &c &c
S. Pleasonton

Hugh Maxwell Esqr
Supt. Lights New York

Treasury Department
5th. Aud Office
May 31. 1850

Sir

I received yesterday your letter of the 16. May, enclosing several offers you had had in pursuance of your advertisement for taking care of the buoys in your district, for the term of two years. The lowest offer, I observe, is that of Davis & Claff for taking care of all the Buoys $160 per annum for painting one of Rebecca Shoal $125, and for repairing all the rest $125. This offer does

not appear to include new Buoys, in place of any which may be lost. If it does not, it is pretty high.
As I may not fully understand these offers, I am disposed to confide the arrangement to yourself, and what you have suggested, appears to be proper: viz - To bargain with a pilot to place a good Spar Buoy on Rebecca Shoal: to Moor & unmoor, and clean all the buoys as often as necessary, and supply suitable Sinking & chain for such sum as you may agree on for one or two years, not exceeding for each year $400. or $500.
When any of the iron Can Buoys are wanted, you will give me Notice, and they will be forwarded from hence with every thing Complete. The Chain we allow to be double the depth of water. If this is not long enough, you will inform me. I had heard, through the News-papers, of the Erection of the Light House, at Carysfort Reef. If it is not put upon the outward reef, it will
179/298 be of no use; and if even it should be erected there, I have not the smallest hope, that we should ever be able to get Keepers, who would stay in it any length of time, for it will be impossible to erect a dwelling house on the Main Land, by which we could get several Keepers to alternate in their attention to the Light. In warm weather too, their provisions would spoil, exposed to the sun as they necessarily would be. That at Sand Key is much wanted, and towards that, you inform me nothing has been done. Could not a Stone or brick tower be erected there to stand the action of the sea?

I have &c &c
S. Pleasonton

Same. J. Douglass Esqr.
Supt. Light Key West
Fla.

Treasury Dept. 5. Aud. Office
May 31. 1850

Sir.

Your letter of the 29 inst. was received this morning, informing me that you were progressing in the Manufacture of your air whistle, and expected to have it finished in a few weeks, when I would be expected to authorize the Collector to pay you $350.
Now I am surprised that you should make such a
244 demand as this, when I told you when here, over and over again that I would not consent to pay more than one half of the actual cost of the