Fifth Auditors Office Treas^{y} Dep^{t} Washington 1st Sept 1851

R 3^{d} Oct^{r}

Stephen Pleasonton

Treasury Department,
Fifth Auditor's Office,
1st September 1851,

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure on the 30th Ult. to receive your favor of the 15th Ult.

By a law passed on the 3d March 1847, Congress authorized the Topographical Bureau of the Army, to erect certain Light Houses, and made appropriations for them accordingly. Among these was a Light House to be built at Sand Key, near Key West, for which the first Appropriation was $11.000, and afterwards a further Appropriation was made of $39.970 71/100, making together the sum of $50.970 71/100. This last Appropriation was made the 12th August 1848, and was intended to Complete the building; since which period no other Appropriation has been made for this Object.

The Topographical Bu=
=reau, instead of building the House themselves, I understand employed J. W. P. Lewis for the purpose, who, it appears, screwed some Iron Piles into the Sand, and sent to England for the House to be put upon them. The House has arrived and been stored in the Custom House Stores at Key West, as I learn from the Collector there, and J. W. P. Lewis with the Piles Stamping, and the House in the Custom House Stores, has abandoned the Work, as alledged, for want of an additional appropriation to enable him to prosecute it.

The above facts were

Communicated=

Communicated to me verbally and informally by the Collector at Key West, and cannot, therefore, be Considered as Official, and I do not wish you to use them as such.

I have the honor to be,
Sir very Respectfully,
Your Obt. Servt.,
J Pleasonton

Colo. Thomas Aspinwall,
Consul of the U.S. States,
London,