State Library of Massachusetts

Portsmouth N.H. May 21st 1850

Sir

Mr J.W. Coburn who built the Light house on Mt Desert rock in 1848, called on me last Evening, and requested me to examine the Estimate he had made and given in to the Collector of the customs at Portland for building a Light house on Monhegan Island, lately advertised for proposals. As there was great difference in the amount of the proposals handed in, some for about ½ the cost of the Lantern & Lighting apparatus, the Collector concluded to forward said proposals to you for your decision. Having made the Plans for said building I feel anxious to have the business go into such hands as are known to be well acquainted with the kind of work to be done, and who would with Zeal perform faithfully, Mr Coburns Estimate of Eight thousand Dollars I believe to be as low as the work can be done in a faithful and workman like manner

It would be better in my opinion to let the old building remain until such persons can be employed who can be depended upon to faithfully erect a new one on the improved plan furnished by

Six your Obt Servant

Alex. Parris

Hon Stephen Pleasonton
5th Auditor of Treasury
Washington

Copy of Letter to the
Hon. S. Pleasonton
May 21st 1850

Lighthouse on Nut Desert, Me

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