Treasury Department
Revenue Office July 1st 1793

Sir

Not having received information of the steps taken in pursuance of the enclosed letter of the 10th of May last, concerning the Buoys, I am apprehensive it may have miscarried; dispatch in the construction of it is desired. The Chain, and other matters mentioned in your last shall receive early attention. I am &c

Very respectfully
your most Obed. Servant
Signed Tench Coxe
Commissr of the Revenue

Wm Lindsay Esqr. Superintt of the Light house
on Cape Henry. Norfolk
Virginia

Circular

T D R July 1st 1793

Sir,

I am this day officially informed that the President has been pleased to advance the compensation of the keeper of the Light house (1) to the sum of (2) Dollars p annum. This alteration is to commence, as of the first day of July current, and has been made in part from the increased expences of living in consequence of your reports & other information and on a comparison of services & compensations in other cases. A striking difference, not easy to be accounted for, had been made in these compensations, by the several Governments prior to their being placed under the authority of Congress: no less than between 80 & 400 dollars. An equitable apportionment with due regard to service, situation, expence & other circumstances has appeared to the President to justify the reductions in some and advancement in other instances.

I am, Sir,
very respectfully
Your mo. Obed. Servant
Signed Tench Coxe
Commissr of the Revenue

Jedidiah Huntington Esqr.
Superintt of the Connect. L. House
New London

(addition to Benj Lincoln's Letter.)

These considerations have led to the reduction of the Compensation of the Plymouth keeper to 200 the country being very fertile & fish plenty & cheap. they have likewise led to the reduction of the compensations of the Boston keeper & of the Thatchers Island keeper to 266 2/3 Dollars. The first has very convenient opportunity to pursue a profitable calling & has fish in plenty and some advantages from the land — the second has some benefit from the same sources. They are both as high as the compensations of the New York, Delaware, & Chesapeak keepers, who can make very little saving of expence from fish; have no other opportunities of business, and live upon sand hills totally unimproved. They are higher than all the rest. The present incumbents will it is presumed will perceive the perfect reasonableness & equity of this reform by the President. It is but justice to assure them, no representation in the smallest degree unfavorable to them has been received, nor is any thing known derogatory to their character or capacity for the Service. — —

I am Gentlemen

Signed T. Coxe C.R.

copy sent to the auditor

Jed. Huntington New London

Wm Ellery Rhd Island

Benj Lincoln Boston

Sir

T.D.R.O. July 19th 1793

The President has lately made a new arrangement of the compensations of the Keepers of the several light houses. In doing which it has appeared to him expedient to place the keepers of the New York, Boston & Cape Ann establishments on the same footing as those of Charleston, Cape Henry & Cape henlopen; these have salaries of 266 2/3 dollars p Annum and nothing whatever found them for their own [illegible] provisions. You

be lawfully allowed, by the accounting officers of the Treasury

I am Sir
very respectfully
Your obedt Servant
Signed Tench Coxe
Commissr of the Revenue

Capt. P. Dennis commanding the Revenue Cutter New York

Sir

T. D. Revenue Office July 25 1

I am this day officially informed that the President of the United states has authorised an allowance to the keeper of the Li house on New Castle Island near the harbour of Portsmouth of on hundred and eighty dollars per annum. The oil, wick & other suppl for the use of the light House itself (but not for the use of the keeper) will be furnished by, or through you, at the expence of the United

Ex.

A

The President has also directed that the keeper of the light should reside on the Island to perform the service deeming it e pedient to admit of substitutes or Deputies in the light house. You will signify to Mr. Titus Salter that it is not understood be the Presidents intention, to commit the duty to any other person if he will continue in the station upon the above terms of compensati and residence.

I am, Sir,
very respectfully,
your most obedt Servant
Signed Tench Coxe
Commissr of the Revenue

Jos. Whipple Esqr. Superintd. of the Hampshire Lt. house Portsmouth

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Sir

T. D. R. O. July 31st 1793

You will find in this enclosure a bill of ladin for eighteen thousand hard bricks shipp't to you by the sloop Trie ship John Chadwick commander intended for the light house es lishment on Cape Zare Island. Captain Chadwick is to

Sir

Treasury Department
Revenue Office February the 21st 1794

The hurry of business appears to have occasioned a small oversight of the object of a permanent keeper of the Portsmouth Lt House. When the salary was fixed at 180 Dollars it was expected that the place should be offered with a condition of residence, to the late contractor and keeper Mr. Salter. In the event of his declining the service, it was to be temporarily provided for, by your employing a person at a rate of compensation not exceeding the allowance of 180 Dollars, and you were to transmit the names of suitable persons for the permanent station. Among others, you were to enquire about and consider the pretensions of an Invalid officer in the Massachusetts or New Hampshire line of the late army, Major Moses McFarland now of Haverhill, and a native of one of those states. This appears to be a very worthy man with a large family. He has lost the use of one arm in the public service. Be pleased to make the business an early & separate object of attention and transmit me the result. I am Sir

with great esteem
Your obed Servant
Signed Tench Coxe
Commissr of the Revenue

Jos Whipple Esqr
Superintendt of the Lt house
Portsmouth N.H.

Sir

Treasury Department
Revenue Office February the 22 1794

Upon inspection of your account of the light houses purporting to be for the quarter ending on the 31st of December last, it appears that the receipt of Abner Lowell as keeper is for six months from the 15th February to the 15th of August, which is not the beginning or end of any regular Official term. You will therefore be pleased to pay up all the compensa-

of the best winter pressed Spermaceti Oil, fit for use in light houses in the Northern and Eastern states, in the Winter Season; to be paid for on demand, and to be delivered in good merchantable and staunch casks well hooped and coopered; as it may be required and called for, which offer will be decided upon, by acceptance or rejection of the President in a few days after the receipt of the proposals.

A

Should it unexpectedly happen, that the terms offered exceed 95 dollars per ton, it may be well to communicate them. You will remember that the purchase of last year was made at 95 dollars p ton; Mr. Coffin of Nantucket being now here, a negociation with him will also be tried.

I am Sir
with great consideration
your most Obed. Servant
Signed Tench Coxe
Commiss.r of the Revenue

Benjamin Lincoln Boston
Wm. Ellery Rh. Island New Port
Jerm.a Olney D.o Providence
Thomas Randall N. York

Treasury Department
Revenue Office March the 21st 1794

Sir

Due enquiry concerning the objects of the petition of the ship owners & others in the town of Portsmouth in New Hampshire having been made in pursuance of the order of the senate of the United states, I have the honor to communicate the result.

It appears that the Petitioners have not been accurately informed as to the state of preservation in which the Light house on New Castle Island is at this time — there are not found on a careful inspection, any the least symptoms of decay.

The imperfection of the light seems to have been occasioned partly by the bad construction of the former Lamps which prevented the use of the butt and partly by the omission of ventilators in the Lantern, which caused the

confined

confined only smoke to cloud the glass in the course of every night. New Lamps and the best winter pressed Spermaceti oil have been furnished, & a number of ventilators have been made, it is said with good effect. —

It is expected that the ~~high lands~~ felling some trees upon a neighbouring high land, will increase the visibility of the light and measures will be taken to procure that to be done. —

The plan of supplying and keeping the light house; which in continuance of the mode pursued before the cession, was by a contractor who employed a person under him; has been changed. The supplies of oil are now procured in the large purchases for the light House service, made by the U. S: and a Keeper to reside on the spot, immediately responsible to Government, is employed.

The exception made by the Petitioners against the superintendence of the collectors of the Revenues of Impost & tonnage, does not appear to be well founded. As it regards public economy, convenience & utility, the present collector has uniformly manifested the requisite attention and judgment. The alternative of transferring the duty from him, would be the employment of a special superintendent, at a greater allowance than the President has deemed it necessary to make to the collectors; who having other emoluments from the United States and having offices and furniture & clerks, can perform this additional service for a moderate compensation. It is held moreover that there is a particular propriety in placing the keepers of light Houses in all possible cases under the superintendence of the collectors; as all vessels arriving in the Ports of the U. S. are liable to pass under the Eye of the former. —

It appears however, that the present light house is really not sufficiently high, and that the lantern is too small, wherefore any building which may be hereafter erected should be in all respects upon a larger scale.

a person under him, has been changed. The supplies of oil are now procured on the large purchases for the light House service, made by the U. S. and a Keeper to reside on the spot, immediately responsible to Government, is employed.

The exception made by the Petitioners against the superintendence of the Collectors of the Revenues of Impost & tonnage, does not appear to be well founded. As it regards public economy, convenience & utility, the present Collector has uniformly manifested the requisite attention and Judgment. The alternative of transfering the duty from him, would be the employment of a special superintendent, at a greater allowance than the President has deemed it necessary to make to the Collectors, who having other emoluments from the United States and having Offices ~~and~~ furniture & Clerks, can perform, this additional service for a moderate compensation. It is held moreover that there is a particular propriety in placing the keepers of light Houses in all possible cases under the superintendence of the Collectors; as all vessels arriving in the Ports of the U. S. are liable to pass under the Eye of the former.

It appears however, that the present light house is really not sufficiently high, and that the lantern is too small, wherefore any building which may be hereafter erected should be in all respects upon a larger scale. It will remain to be determined therefore, whether it will not be expedient to postpone such a building, considering the soundness of that now existing and the increased calls upon the public Treasury.

In

In regard to Beacons & Buoys it appears to be of real and great importance that several of them should be established. The sum of five hundred Dollars would be sufficient. If judged expedient it might be granted to erect such unlighted Beacons & Buoys not exceeding five in number as may be found necessary in the river Piscataqua, and on the coasts of the United States adjacent thereto.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect, Sir,
your most obed. Servant
Signd Tench Coxe
Commissioner of the Revenue

The Secretary of the Treasury

Treasury Department
Revenue Office March 25 1794

Sir

It is not in my power yet to procure a determination on the offer of Oil — we are to hear from other places. It does not appear eligible, that the seller should be the shipper, as the quality is of consequence in the value and of the utmost importance in regard to the use. It is proper that a public agent fix the freight, for these purposes we must apply to the officers of the government residing on the spot, who having other emoluments are allowed a smaller compensation. The freight will be dearer from Nantucket than Boston or Rhode Island, and I do not see any reason to expect that the Oil will cost more than last year. On the whole, I do not mean to submit any offer to the President unless at or under 95 Dollars per Tun, until I hear from the five other Persons to whom I have written. I am Sir

Your most obed. Servant
Signed Tench Coxe
Commr. of the Revenue

Thos. Randall Esqr. N. York