Boston August 26th 1840-

Sir,

In your Letter of the 12th inst, you state that Mr Bancroft has been authorized to have a New Lantern put on to Scituate Light-house & fit it up with New Lamps & Reflectors & also to put a New Lantern on Thatcher's island Light-houses & fit them up with New Lamps & Reflectors & that you had directed him to call on me for proposals, as well as Messrs Hooper & Co.; not hearing from Mr Bancroft, two days since I addressed a Note to him, asking whether such work was to be done this season & whether my proposals would be received; his reply was, that every facility of free competion should be afforded me; which is all I could ask of him.

If you may recollect that I named to you last December something of the manner I had been treated, by Mr I. W. P. Lewis & that although I wished him well, all intercourse with him had ceased, it is painful to me to allude to him again, but his repeated pieces, published in the papers, over his own signature & the tenor of them compels me to notice them to you even this I should not have done, had he not in the closing part of the Enclosed, dated Augt 19th made such an outrageous attack on every one who has heretofore had any thing to do with the Light house Establishment.

I will only trouble you with con-futing a few of his assertions, in claim for improvements, all the Reflectors are made for him by Messrs Hooper & Co, I have now by me a number of old Reflectors, made from 25 to 30 years ago of precisely the same form, the New Light on Cape Cod, by his own account has been seen 28 miles, the one at Cape Hen-lopen considerably farther, as to his improvement in Ventilation

Boston Lantern with 14 Lamps, has an aperture at top of 18 inches, the new Lantern at Cape Cod with 16 Lamps, has an aperture not exceeding 8 inches; as to his removing nine tenths of the obstructed light, the Lanterns that have been made for 10 years past have 8 post 2 inches square, sash bars 3/4 inch, which is the smallest that they can be reduced, to hold the Glass; the New Lantern on Boston Light house, has 16 post one inch thick, you will at once see that the only difference in the obstruction of the Light is, what is made by the introduction of the large plate Glass, the Glass in the Cape Cod Light I think is five feet by two,- the superior construction of his argand Lamp consist in the ornament, but I will not trouble you with any farther remarks, this is the age of invention, when an actual improvement is made, no one would sooner acknowledge it than myself, let it come from whom it may, but when any one undertakes to build up a reputation by publicly condemning all that has been done by others & claims as his own the precise thing that had been in constant use for 30 years in this Country & 26 years in England, I must notice it, but I shall not again notice in any way, any thing Mr I. W. P. Lewis may publish relating to myself, but, should he again attack those who have had the management of the Light house Establishment, should he do that, I shall not remain silent.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
Winslow Lewis

Stephen Pleasonton Esqr.
Fifth Auditor & Acting,
Commissioner of the Revenue
Washington.