Treasury Department, 3rd Auditor Office, April 19, 1849.

Sir,

Your letter of the 15th instant was received yesterday informing me that Mr. Bryan had been to Execution Rocks for the purpose of ascertaining whether it was practicable to build a lighthouse thereon for the sum of $2,500. Subsequently, and that he has returned to Boston and was of opinion that a good and substantial lighthouse could be built for the sum of $2,500.80, you further inform me that he was preparing plans and specifications which he would forward in a few days.

As a law passed in 1809 requires generally to advertise for proposals for Light House buildings, I must submit the plan and proposals of Mr. Bryan to the Secretary of the Treasury for his opinion whether it would be proper to make an exception of this case, from the requirements of the law. It will be advisable for Mr. Bryan to urge, to put his proposal at as small a sum, as he possibly can to the work for.

In cases like this requiring secrecy to plan and execute the work, I am in favor of employing persons thoroughly qualified as fears now Mr. Bryant is without running the hazard of having the work half done, ignorant persons whom may be the lowest bidder, under an arrangement for proposals.

Should the Secretary think that we are bound to advertise, under the law, I shall be disposed to
to allow Mr. Bryant what may be reasonable and proper for going to execution. I have the honor to be, sir, respectfully, your ob. servant.

Alexander Paris Esq.
Boston, Mass.
Letter from the 3rd Advent  
9th April 1847