

SLM110

Letter from Stephen Pleasanton to Alexander Parris

Treasury Department
5th Auditors Office
April 9 1847

Sir

Your Letter of the 6th instant was received yesterday informing me that Mr. Bryant had been to Execution Rocks for the purpose of ascertaining whether it was practicable to build a substantial Light House on them for the sum appropriated, and that he had returned to Boston and was of opinion that a good and substantial Light House could be built for the sum appropriated. 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 us generally to advertise for proposals for Light House buildings, I must submit the plan and proposals of Mr. Bryant 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. Bryant therefore, to put his proposal, at as small a sum, as he can possibly do the work for.

In cases like this requiring science to plan and execute the work, I am in favor of employing persons thus qualified as I am sure Mr. Bryant is without running the hazard of having the work half done, by ignorant persons who may be the lowest bidders, under an advertisement for proposals.

Should the secretary think that we are bound to advertise, under the law, I shall be disposed to

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to allow Mr. Bryant what may be reasonable and proper for going to execution Rocks and forming the plans and specifications, which he may forward to me.

I have the honor to be, sir,
respectfully, your ob[edien]t servant

S. Pleasanton

Alexander Parris Esq.
Boston, Mass[achuse]tts

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[written in Parris's hand]
Letter from the 5th Aud[i]t[or]
9th April 1847