

Gore &  
Waltham, Mass

June 21<sup>st</sup> 1894

Dear Converse:

Enclosed herewith  
please find a rough sketch  
of a new system of revolving  
lights which I think will be an  
aid to navigation during thick  
weather, or moderately foggy  
weather. It is well known that a  
moving light can be seen further  
than one that is fixed; and can be  
more readily distinguished from  
other lights. We have a striking  
example of this in our system of  
night signalling with a torch by  
the Army Code, commonly called  
the "Key Bag". There are two or  
three practical difficulties in the  
way of its construction, however, <sup>which</sup> on

which  
I would be glad to have your  
opinion.

First, Can an incandescent light  
be made of sufficient candle-  
power & Equal, say, the harbor-light  
on the north End of Goat Island?

2<sup>ndly</sup>, would there be any practical  
difficulty in transmitting the electric  
current to the radii of the <sup>revolving</sup> wheel  
as in fig 1.?

3<sup>rdly</sup> What do you think of the prac-  
ticability of the plan.

I would like to see some Experi-  
ments with this system tried on a  
small and inexpensive scale, but do  
not want to ask the Dept. to sanc-  
tion such a trial unless, in the opinion  
of experts, it offers a reasonable  
hope of success.

Hoping all goes well with  
you, I am very truly, Yours

S. B. Luce

Com<sup>d</sup> J. A. Comstock U.S.A.

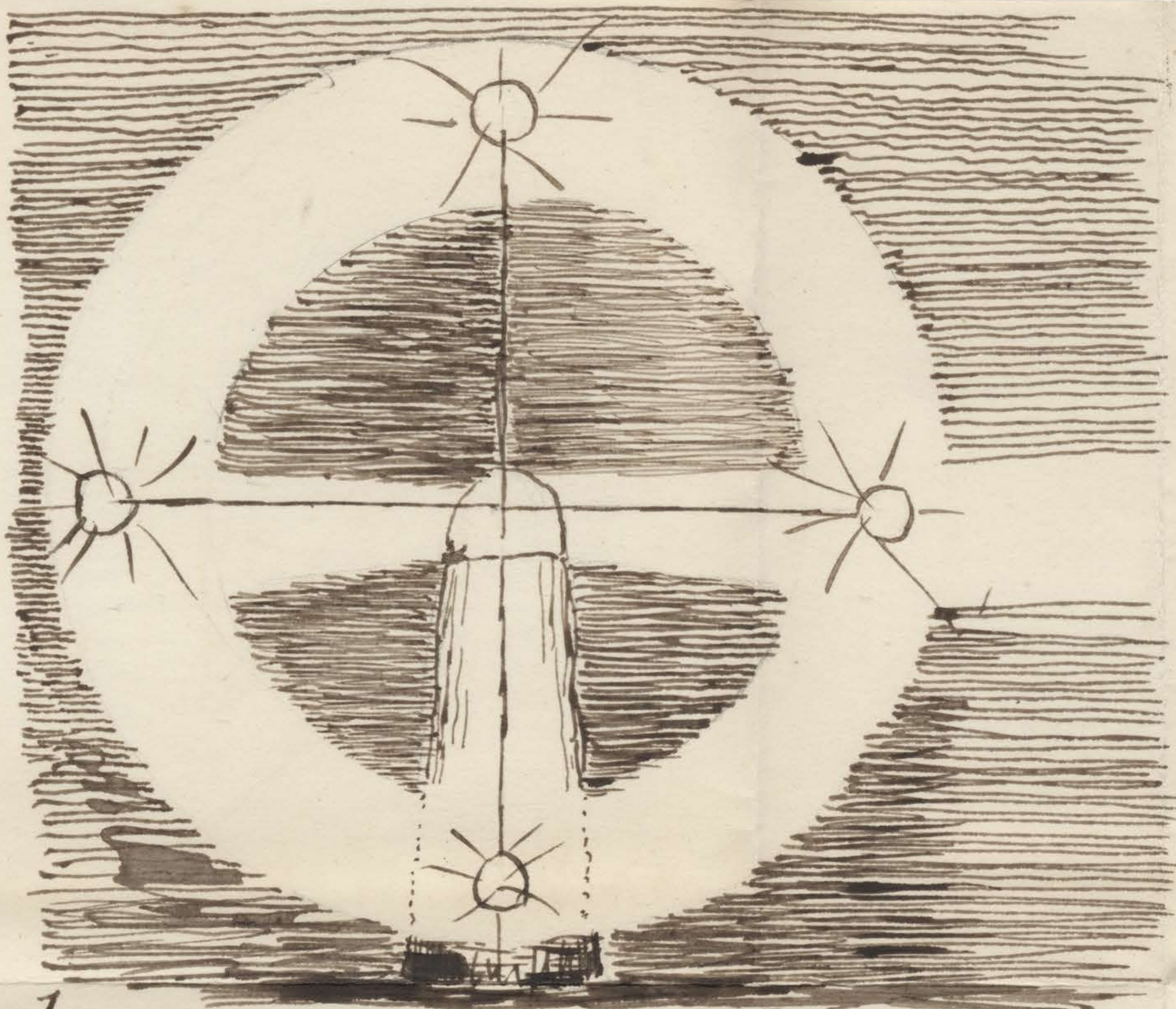
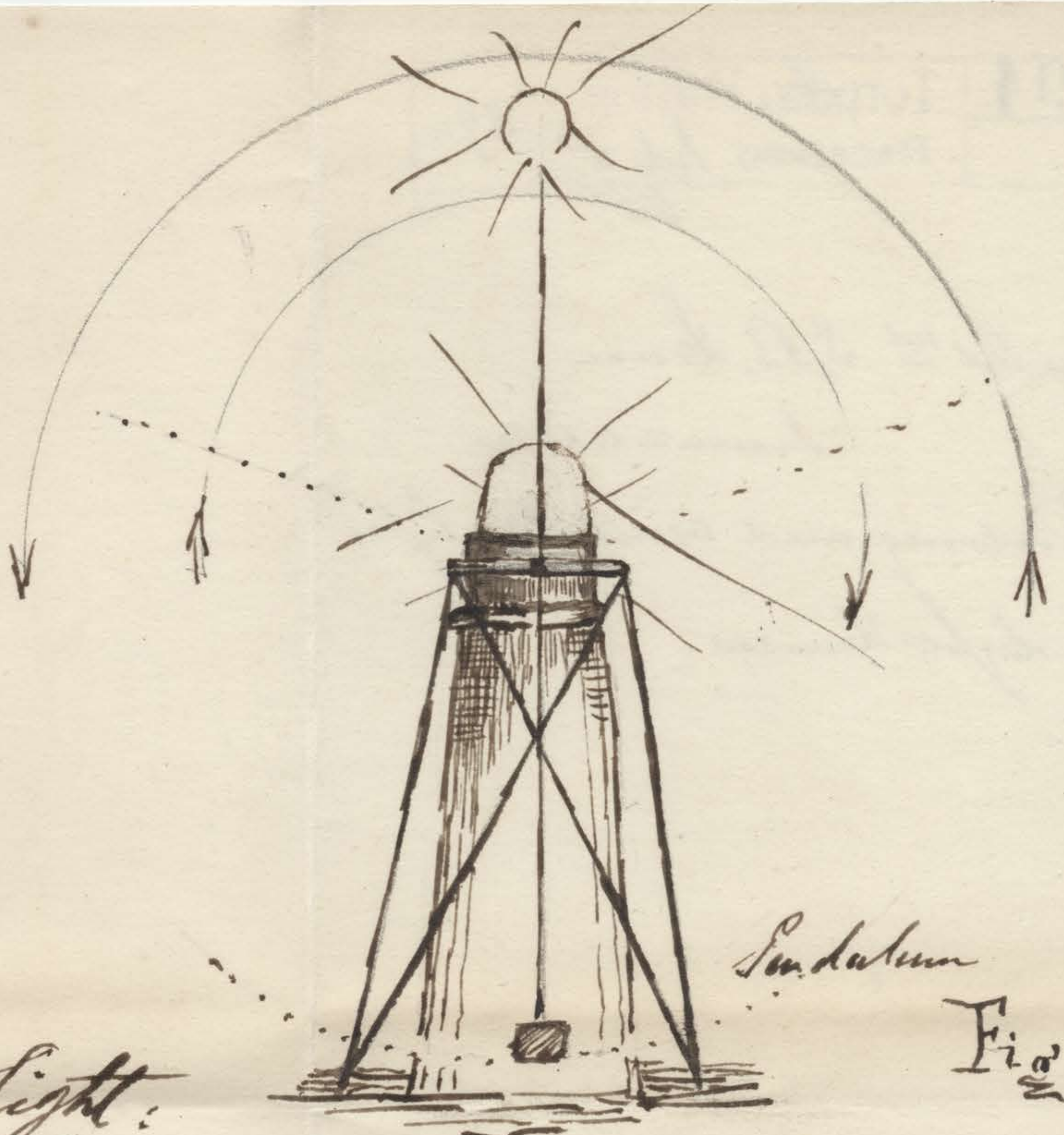


Fig 1.

Wheel revolving at such a rate as to show a luminous circle about the fixed light, as a center. The arms to be made of gas-pipe, to combine strength and lightness, & properly braced. The wheel to revolve on a frame work constructed near the fixed light; and in a plane at right angles to the line of approach. To be actuated by an electric motor.



Sundatum

Fig 2.

Light:

Incandescent (or oil lamp, on gimbal) or oscillating slowly thro' an arc of 160°. It would be absolutely impossible to construct such a light, with any other now in use. Clock work or electric motor, or steam power fore ft.

S. B. Luce

Waltham, Mass.  
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1194 Torpedo Station.  
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Received of S. B. Luce

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Revolving and oscillating lights  
for light houses -