

Transcription of correspondence between Lord Melville and his son Robert Dundas. This letter discusses the proposed erection of a lighthouse on the Bell Rock, n.d. National Records of Scotland, GD51/1/195 p122.

My Dear Sir,

I received at Ferry bridge your letter with the inclosure from Mr Dempster, on a subject which I know has long been justly considered as a matter of great public concern to the trade on the Eastern Coast of Scotland. I believe that Rennie is a good deal connected with the principal people at the Trinity House at Leith; & though they have no immediate jurisdiction in the matter, he would probably be able to give or procure whatever information might be requisite from that quarter.

I do not recollect at present who are the Commissioners under the act for managing the Northern Lighthouses but I rather believe the Provost of Edinburgh is one of them, neither do I know who are the acting persons that ought to be consulted. As far as I can judge of Mr Dempster's suggestion from his own statement it seems perfectly reasonable & proper; but of course any proposal to Parliament on the subject ought to have the concurrence of the Commissioners. With so large a sum in their hands I cannot conceive of any object to which their capital can be more properly applied provided their annual income is adequate to the maintenance of all those now under their charge with this proposed addition. If the Commissioners should be of that opinion & nothing more is wanting than a Parliamentary sanction, I should hope there will be little trouble or difficulty in the matter; but if they have other views for the disposal of their money, I am afraid the present suggestion is not likely to be carried into effect without some further discussion.

We arrived here today after an easy days journey from Stanford; the Children have grown fat on their journey & are in perfect health. I remain,

My D[ea]r Sir,
Ever Yours Affect[ionatel]y
Rob[ert] DUndas