

September 16, 1839

Professor Gibbs -

Dear Sir,

Boston, Sept. 16, 1839

This letter goes by an African by the name of Samuel Barney, now residing in Salem, in this State - He is of the Mandingo nation & speaks his native language, besides having some knowledge of a few words in other dialects. I have been trying him with the Vocabulary in Baillie's Travels, and am of opinion, that his services may be useful in communicating with the captured Africans of the schooner Amistad - His English pronunciation, I am sorry to say, is imperfect; but if you or some other person will sit down with him, your ear will soon get accustomed to it, & you will then find no difficulty in understanding him; though it may be difficult, in a public room (like a court house) to follow him. It is so difficult to find an interpreter of the Mandingo in our country, that I had no hesitation in recommending, that he should proceed to the place of trial; when you will soon discover whether the captives recognize him as a country man. I should add, that I have known him for more than twenty years, & he has ever sustained



John Quincy
Boston Sept 16/39
by Saml Barney

Ans of Sept 18th S. B.
& told Mr P. that S. B.
could not talk with the
prisoners re Standings
stands the Standings
vocabulary of Mr. Park.
He put at duty in he speaks
He died in the coast
the fugives he could
Standings.

Sustains the character of an honest, industrious,
hard working man; he now has a family
of grown up children - and I should place
full reliance upon his statements. I hope
he may be made useful in this interesting
& important case.

I am, Dear Sir,
with great regard
Yours
J. Pickering