



Boston, Sept. 20, 1839.

Lewis Tappan, Esq.

Dear Sir, I thank you very cordially for your kindness in sending us minutes of the trial &c. at Hartford.

Our board authorized me, if I should think it best, to send on Robert Rantoul junior to see Mr. VauBuren. Rantoul's engagements are such that he cannot start for 2 or 3 days, & I now write to ask you to consult with one or two of our friends whom you think best informed, & let me know your opinion as to the expediency of sending him.

Rantoul has written very urgently to the President, advising him not to give the prisoners up.

We have but a certain amount to spend in this matter, & as Rantoul's bill will probably be large if he goes to Washington, we do not wish to send him, unless you think it pretty apparent that he

ought to be sent.

Have you thought of writing out to the British member of the Mixed Commission at Havana. He might furnish valuable information as to the Spanish laws &c. of which he must know more than any one. He might also be thus prepared to throw the British Aegis over the prisoners, if they should finally be surrendered. — Perhaps he would even send out some competent person to testify as to what the laws of Spain now are, — or authenticated copies of the laws themselves.

I sent yesterday to Hartford, (directed to R. S. Baldwin) an account of a young man ^{here} who can speak Spanish, English (very well) & three African languages viz. Ah-ne-go, Mandingo, &

Ma-hee-no, With a specimen of each
of the 3 last.

I see by The Salem papers, Today,
that a man has just arrived in port
who can speak several African languages.
I have requested a friend there to
make a short vocabulary from his
lips, & to send it to Hartford, directed
to Lewis Tappan, or R. S. Baldwin.

Very Cordially, Yr friend,

Ellis Gray Loring.



Ellis Gray Loring
Boston Sept 20/39
about the Rantoul &



Arthur Tappan Esq
or
Lewis Tappan Esq

City of New York.

