Sept. 20, 1859

To Sth. Stables, Theodore Scaquiche, and
R. G. Baldwin Esq., Counsel for the Africans

Gentlemen, can goods and chattels be arraigned at the
bar of trial, for infringing the Laws of Nations,
on the high seas, as sentient, intelligent beings?
Are untaught, uncivilized, uncircumcised, heathens
required to known the Laws of civilized Nations?

I would ask you, through you, the court whether
a slave could be arraigned at the bar of any court in the
United States, as a transgressor of the laws made for killing
or defining his master. Such questions as these, were I a counsel-
lor, should be put to the District Attorney, and the Judge,
in the case of the Africans about to be tried for Mutiny.

There is a case in regard to the treatment of the Indians,
or Negroes, of
in Darby, Darfield's county, Ll, by the Magistrates of
the County. With but a shade of difference in the
present case, the story was related to me by my grand mother
when I was a boy, 45 years ago. And the probability is that
it is over 100 years since the transaction. I am about
to relate, I seem that there was a raiding for timber
in the forests, at which there were Indians & Whitemen.
There was liquor of some kind handed round to
for the people to drink, And one Indian drank
so much, that he behaved uncivilly, bad, and
used bad language, and broke the white man's

The day following, the Indian was summoned before the
Magistrate to answer for his conduct. The Indian obeyed the summons. When he arrived, Mr. Justice said to him: "What do you want of Indians?" He answered: "What Indians?" "Pay fine for drunkenness yesterday." The Indian drew up his shoulders, pitched his long breath, looked up, and pitched a gum chewing stick. "This is Indian country. White man no business here! Indians make laws for themselves. White man no make laws for Indians! This is Indian country. White man come here, bring fine, eat, drink, make drunk. Indians come, Indians send for Indians - pay fine. How much? Major Hillier. Indians breathe love. Here be my pipe - "Indian, I pay fine." Then you send you to prison." Justice writes, Indian looks on, "Mr. Justice (What you write?) We britons you. Contiuous to send you to prison." Ah - "Indian, we go to prison." Will you pay your fine? Then, "Indian, I pay fine, you give Indian certificate?" "What you want a certificate for?" "I pay you fine. I want certificate!" Major tell me what you want it for. Or I will not give it you. Indians here. Poor Indian die, he go up into sky, come to gate, knock. One day, who come than Poor Indian, "got certificate." "No." Then me have been back, go down, all round. Hello, finds Mr. Justice. Get a certificate for me get in de gate up yonder. The magistrate explet in a gruff manner, go about your business. Be off. This was truly Indian country. White man was an intruder, and I have not a touch.
But what the magistrate felt the force of the indio remarks, that but was a possibility for himself, a White rascal, if a magistrate, to go to hell—and that the poor untaught indio might go to heaven, and was glad to get off without giving a certificate, or receiving the money. These stolen Africans probably make their own laws and by their laws, they declared war against their White oppressors, went the tlelo, and retook them. Hilles & made prisoners of their enemies, and the United States, or the Spanish government, has no more right to try them for mutiny & insubordination than they would have over the Chinese while the laws of the United States allow those (Spaniards) traffickers in human flesh, the privilege of being witnesses in their own interest case, they too ought to be arrested, as accessories in kidnapping, if they are set aside, as witnesses, and declared, on the ground of interest, there will be no ground of action, and they must be acquitted for want of testimony.

N. Voorhees at Sept. 1839. A Philomathean Poet.
Sept. 20, 1809

Sir: I have the honor to acquaint you, with the committee, that I have some doubt respecting the right of the African Society to erect the new ...