

February 15, 1841



Framington Feb. 15/41

My dear Sir

Your of 12th came to hand today. In the haste of my interview with Mr. Soceby, I may have forgotten to explain to him why the Africans could not be brought here & kept as you proposed.

Judge Williams said expressly that if the prisoners were brought before him under existing circumstances, he should feel it to be his duty to proceed to an immediate hearing & so settled were his principles on the subject that he was confident he should order them directly back. You will perceive therefore that it would have been of no avail to move in the matter at all. He felt that he had no right whatever to interfere whilst the subject was before the Supreme Court of the U.S.

I agree with you fully that the Africans should be freed here. They are entitled to unqualified freedom. I should feel but little more confidence in our Govt. nor in ^{some of} our naval officers (Lieut. Maude for instance) than in the Govt. of Cuba

Much sincere prayer, as I doubt not, constantly
ascending in behalf of ~~these~~ our poor brethren
& I cannot doubt, that deliv'rance will
come in some way. Their friends must
pray without ceasing & at the same time
use every means, in their power.

If you think of it when at the
A.S. office, let the future number of the Refrain
be addressed to Rev. Horatio Potter D.D. Albany.

He has just spent three days with me & I
have given him ~~the~~ a set up to this time.
He is ready or quite right on the subject
of slavery.

Very truly yours

John J. Norton

St Albans City
Vt

John J. Norton
Farmington, Conn.
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