



November 18, 1839

New Haven Nov. 18. 1839.

L. Tappan Esq,

Dear Sir, Your favour of the 15th inst. was rec^d by Mr. Townsend. I assure you Sir, that the health and comfort of the Africans have been subjects of my earnest attention ever since they were committed to my medical care. Dissatisfaction having been expressed in some of the papers of New York, and elsewhere, in regard to the clothing and other accommodations of the Africans, on the 9th inst. I received from the marshal a communication ^{requesting} from me a statement in regard to their sickness, clothing, &c. My reply, to which I would beg leave to refer you, has been communicated to the Journal of Commerce. The marshal some weeks since informed me, as he publicly expressed, that if the decision of the court, which sits in Hartford tomorrow, should leave the Africans longer in his charge, he should immediately provide them with a further supply of clothing suitable for the winter; but he expressed an opinion, in which I coincided, that at present they were comfortably supplied. Had the Africans suffered for want of clothing, most certainly they would have been affected with colds, but not the slightest case of common cold, or of any other disease, has occurred among them since their residence in this town, except the two cases of pleurisy mentioned in my letter to the marshal, and one more recent case of the same kind.

The two former cases could not be attributed to exposure
to the weather, as they occurred in subjects who had been
confined to their room with the chronic diarrhea, which
affected more than one third of their number when they
were brought to this town. The more recent case occurred
in one who has been employed in the kitchen since their
return from Hartford — this being the only case of
sickness which has occurred among them, except in those
who have been constantly sick since arriving in this
country. Amid the general benevolent sympathy
excited in this community by the condition of these
Africans, I am happy to believe that no person has
experienced a kinder feeling for them than the marshal,
and I confidently trust that while under his charge they
will continue to be supplied with all reasonable accommo-
dations for their health and comfort.

Respectfully, my dear Sir,

Yr. obt. servt

Chas. Hooker

Dr. Hooker Nov 1839