

January 25, 1840

Phila. 25 Jan. 1840.



Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 22. inst. was received this afternoon. Since reading it I have had a conversation with brother Whitier on a little difficulty, which I had as to the best method of getting permission of the President to accompany the Africans to their native land. Brother W. suggests that, if Messrs. Staples, Baldwin & Sedgwick would as counsel for the Africans respectfully petition the President in my behalf stating my desire to go with them to Africa, it might be successful. If you will see Messrs. Staples & Sedgwick & talk with them, you could decide how to make the application. I should be satisfied to have my passage out & home given me for such services as I could render, or even my ~~expenses~~ passage out, to say nothing of compensation.

I must see Messrs. Bacon & Griswold before I go, & I hope you will write soon to them & get from them all the information you can respecting the probability of Mr. Griswold's going to Africa, & if he does go, on what terms. It would be inexpedient to mention any thing of my particular object in going, at least just now.

If Mr. Gurley should find out that I wished to go with the Africans, & had any reason to suspect my real object, he would defeat it. If I could see Mr. G. in N.Y. or here, & I had the petition to which I alluded in the former part of this letter, I have some reason to believe I could obtain his name to it. If I <sup>could</sup> secure a free passage to and from Liberia, it would be a great saving of expense. How would it look for me to go to Liberia at the expense of the United States, & then come back & write a big book, abusing the Colony, the Colonization Society, the United States, Government & all? It would be called another Yankees trick, wouldn't it? Should I go there with the Amistad freemen, I should have no occasion to tell Gov. Buchanan my whole object in coming but if I went in any other way, I should deem it my duty & of course true policy, to tell him I came to examine their situation &c. Gov. B. is a fine man & one whom I esteem, having been for some months engaged with him in the same Sabbath School. But of this another time. I shall need much wisdom, & if I go, hope I shall (~~safely~~) be directed rightly. I shall look to you, & depend much on your advice & instructions &c. Please to give me the earliest intelligence you can as to any movements, which may be useful for me to know. I hope you will have a complete list of questions ready

for me, so that if I go to A. I shall omit nothing  
that ought to be known. I shall make out a list  
my self, & ask my friends to assist me. I hope I  
shall see Mr. Bacon & get what I want from him



Jan. 31.

Since writing the preceding lines I have seen  
that an appeal has been made from the  
decision of Judge Judson in the Amistad  
case. This morning I see by a New York  
paper that no appeal has been entered.  
You undoubtedly know the truth of the  
matter & will act accordingly. With respect  
to G. Smith's signature I would say that  
he left Phil. before the paper came & on  
my asking him to leave his name with me,  
he said he would sign it in N. Y. I of course  
expected that he would be at your meeting  
on the 15<sup>th</sup>. I can send it to Peterboro if neces-  
sary. I send you with this letter a copy of the  
Leger, which contains a marked article, which  
please read & give to J. Leavitt.  
At mob at Trenton, gag law at Washington.  
So we go.

Yourkinsman

J. Coffin.

St. Lucia Cott.  
Philad Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 40

about going to Africa



Louis Gaffhan Esq  
New York