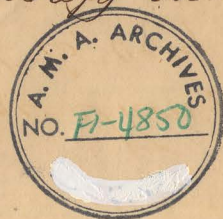


## Judge Thompson's Recent Decision.

The eminent abilities, and profound legal knowledge of this venerable judge have placed him high in the respect and confidence of the American people, but should not exempt his decisions from respectful criticism. ~~The~~ His <sup>proceedings and</sup> decision at Hartford, Conn., with reference to the African prisoners of the Spanish schooner Amistad, have occasioned ~~very little~~ <sup>much</sup> remark and discussion. Allow me to make a few suggestions.

The matter came before Judge Thompson very improperly. In the first place it is very doubtful whether an officer in our navy, even in the Revenue service, can, of his mere motion, arrest any individuals, or force a vessel to deviate from its course. But, waiving this, the District Judge committed to jail 49 Human Beings contrary to law. Forty six of them were held to answer to the charge of murder on the high seas - one of them being a little boy - Carré - about seven years of age! - when they were not amenable to any of our Courts. Three of them were held as witnesses, when they were too young to testify on oath,





Judge Thompson's Report

The various articles, and papers, and reports  
of the various judges, have been placed  
in the report and Conference of the  
Court, but should not attempt to discuss  
the merits of the various cases, or  
with reference to the African  
and American Societies, and  
remains to be made a  
subject.

The matter came before Judge Thompson  
in person. In the first place it is very  
difficult to offer an opinion, even in the  
course, one of his more intricate, correct and  
decisions, or for a course to observe for  
himself. But, wishing the District Judge  
committed to his judgment, and certain  
to be of the highest quality, and to the  
change of mind in the last year - one of them  
being a little boy - Case - also been  
aged, when they were not intended to any  
our Court. Those of them were held as  
when they were the young to help in case.

