

January 20, 1841

Washington City, Jan. 20, 1841

Brother Tappan



You will probably see Mr. Baldwin, & learn from him that our case is postponed to Feb. 6. There seemed a necessity for this, on various grounds, arising from the convenience of the court & counsel, & I do not think any harm will result from it to the African. I had an errand with W. W. Seaton this morning, & he told me that Key was to ~~appear~~ ^{appear} in the case in favor of sending them to Africa under the act of 1819. He appears on behalf of the Col. Soc. There is a scheme for you. What shall we do? Our counsel have never been instructed on that point, & I presume are not - certainly Baldwin is not prepared personally to oppose it. Would it be wise to do so? Can they not be directed to procure, if possible, such a modification of the Decree, as will require them to be sent to their own country - instead of Africa generally - provided it can be done with safety? That would it not.

be desirable, in that case, to furnish
Congress with a brief of the objections
against having them sent to Liberia
with troops, especially troops drawn
from the publications of the Col. Soc.
We could then put Liberia on trial.
We do it carefully, & cannot be
prejudged. I have not had an opportunity
to confer with Mr. Baldwin on the
subject since the idea occurred
to me.

As our route is just framed to go
later day, I may come home next
week, but this is not quite deter-
mined on. I will do what I can
with regard to the insertion of
Lidgwick's capital article in the
Star. The Intelligencer declines,
with a without pay. Perhaps I
will try the Modestian. Section
says the Star has very little circula-
tion.

Yours truly
John Sewitt.

Handwritten
March 22/41