

Copy.

January 20, 1841



New-York, January 20, 1841.

John F. Norton, Esq.,
Farmington, Conn.

My dear Sir:

The Com. on behalf of the Amistad Captives wish you to meet Thomas Fessenden Esq. of this city, in Hartford, Friday afternoon, at the City Hotel. He expects to leave here, Friday morning for Hartford.

We are greatly apprehensive that the Supreme Court will decide against the Africans. Advice from Washington confirms this apprehension. Still, Mr. Baldwin is sanguine of success. If the decision is, as we fear, the Executive will be very quick in removing the Africans out of the reach of philanthropy.

It is our opinion that a serious consultation had best take place in Hartford immediately with reference to applying to Ch. J. Williams to allow a writ of Habeas Corpus to issue returnable before him. This will bring up the case for adjudication before the action of the Superior Court is known. The Africans are now detained without law. It will therefore be a legal thing to set them at liberty. After the decision at Washington is known a Coun. Judge might be reluctant to interfere. This action in Coun. ought not to effect the judgment of the Sup. Court at Washington.

Mr. Fessenden is a highly respectable Counsellor at Law of this City, & a professed abolitionist. He understands the facts in the case & is a man of sound judgment. We have employed him, at considerable expense, to go to Hartford to consult with some of the

leading brethren there, and then to act as circumstances
may dictate. The names of the Com. here, had best
be kept out of sight, and the proceedings had in the
name of gentlemen in Connecticut. We have thought
your name would be sufficient. You can judge of this.
It does not appear desirable to have many consulted.

On receipt of this, we hope you will go
to Hartford immediately. If you think proper to consult
or take with you Mr. Williams or Mr. Demming, or both,
please do so.

Any expense to be incurred will be promptly
met from the funds in our hands.

Very truly yours
Lewis Tappan
G. G. Jocelyn

To John D. Norton

Jan 20/41.

Wm. C. Conyers

Woods to state

25 to new paper