

I am glad these men are free by Law & not by stratagem or force.

Farmington March 13, 1841

Bro Tappan

You can no doubt realize the joy we feel in the deliverance of the Amistad prisoners & now I have a strong desire that all among the Africans that will not prefer to return immediately to their native land & homes if they can find them, should be put in a course of education, & that to an extent fully to qualify them as missionaries & teachers; then they can go to benighted Africa with a fair prospect under the guidance of providence of rendering essential service to their country now & of opening an effective for the introduction of civilization & Christianity into that long neglected and darkened land.

And now for the plan. I would recommend the establishment of an institution for their education & the instruction of such other colored men of this land who might wish to avail themselves of an education free of expense; let there be a place selected with convenient buildings already prepared; if that cannot be done, grounds procured & buildings erected (in some favorable country town where produce is low & labor cheap & such Teachers & assistance procured as is necessary to accomplish the end desired. Such a place might be procured in this town for about 6 or 8000\$ & teachers employed & other help with what they could do towards their board, or rather preparing their board for 2000\$ pr year, & then would be required at least for 6 years which would make 12,000\$ & their board say 1\$ pr week for 30 individuals would be free 6 years, 9, 360\$ & other incidentals expenses for books & say 5000\$ in all amounting to 33.360\$.

Now for the funds: let a man of devoted piety, of commanding influence & great perseverance take with him Cinque & about 6 of the most intelligent & visit the principle places in the free states & hold public meetings, by sale of tickets from .25 to 1.00\$ & in the course of 12 mos. Might be raised at least enough to defray expenses of an education & their outfit to Africa.

If this plan should not seem practicable as to the establishment let them be place at Oneida Institute or Oberlin where perhaps they could be educated on better terms.

And if all these plans should seem unwise or they could not be persuaded to remain or pursue this course I think they will conduct a few of them with Cinque to travel to see the country & procure friends for their expenses on their return voyage & for the general object to raise funds to carry forward the Scheme of Emancipation in this or other lands.

You are aware that 1000\$ was recd in Hartford & more than 1000\$ (as I am informed) in N.Havenat 121/2 cts admission, then think what could be raised in Boston, New York, Phila., & Albany, Buffalo & the 10,000 smaller cities, my estimate of 100,000\$ is low.

Let immediate measures be taken to carry this plan into effect for the earlier it is started the better or these men will be visiting many of these places & the novelty will be over. Let no time be lost in traveling after the purpose of raising money & it can be used advantageously.

Yours in the cause of God & Man

A.F. Williams

P.S. I think an exhibition of these men would do more to remove prejudice than any other efforts that have been or can be made.