



Letter from Cinqué to Lewis Tappan

February 29, 1841

NAME: _____

NOTE

- Cinqué was the Mendi man who led the revolt aboard the Amistad.
- Lewis Tappan was a New York City businessman and abolitionist, who helped organize the defense of the Amistad captives.
- John Quincy Adams (“Mr. Adams”) was the sixth president of the United States and defended the Amistad captives before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Dear Sir

Mr. Tappan,

I will write you a few lines because I love you very much and I will tell you about Mr. Pendleton keeper [of the jail in New Haven, Connecticut.] He will kill the Mendi people, he says all Mendi people. He want make all black people work for him and he tell bad lie. He says all black people no good, he whip them. He says Mendi men steal, he tell lie, he is wicked, very bad. He says Mendi people drink rum, he tell lie...

...My friend, I want you to tell Mr. Adams about Pendleton he bad. The Lord God want all men to be good and love him, the Lord. Jesus Christ came down to make us turn from sins. He sent the Bible to do good on earth. My friend, I want you to pray to the great God to make us free and go our home and see our friend[s] in Mendi country. We want to see our friends in African Country and we shall pray to God to make our ____ very good and we want the God to have mercy on our friend[s].

Your dear friends

Cinque

