

ing else was talked in public. Such a thing as a black Republican was unknown in Balto. at that time, or if known as such, dared not speak out in public — The very air was lurid with rebellion — equalling Charleston S.C. — Long before that period in the Fremont & Buchanan Canvass a very highly respectable Episcopal Clergyman, Harry B. Goodwin of Charles County, & by the way, Lucket's Pastor when a boy, declared to me, that if Fremont was elected, he should never live to reach Washington, that if the South did not rise to act, he, individually, would put a bullet through his heart, that he would consider it his duty as a Christian to save his Country from *nigger* rule — And Goodwin too, was a Northern Man, married a Chs. Co. Lady, & even freed some fifty Slaves & sent them, under my care, to Liberia — Nor was he more crazy than Mr Calhoun with whom he was somewhat intimate — “Why was Ferrandina & others not molested?” Simply because, they had only *talked* as most others talked & as there was no chance for action, their talk subsided, & there was nothing to apprehend from them. It might as well & better be asked why were not the Southern Editors, who urged the “assassination of the Tyrant” punished, or the fellow who offered to do it for a certain sum? or Mr Southern⁷ of St. Marys Co. who shot down a sergeant for coming on his place for his Negroes? I cannot but think Mr Lamon has treated this matter too lightly, considering how the Mass. troops were treated by our *people* not *rabble*, soon after. Not knowing Mr Lamon's address, I pitched this at you — & you may pitch it at him, or into the fire, as you see fit — but I must express my obligation to you & him for a pattern biography, scarcely second to Boswells Johnson —

very respectfully —
James Hall.

LC: HW3094-95

468. James H. Matheny (WHH interview)¹

Springfield Decr 9. 1873.

Mr Matheny told me that he said that he understood that up to the time Lincoln left Springfield Ills in 1860 that he was a confirmed infidel, but that after he got to Washington and associating with religious People that he believes that Mr Lincoln [thought?] became a Christian — Knows nothing of Mr Lincoln's investigations into the Subject of Christianity — He — M — says he told Reed & Melvin² the histories of this — Reed — Melvin & Matheny were talking about the home of the *[illegible]* — Reed wrote the letter which I signed³ — Matheny

7. Probably John H. Sothoron, who killed a white army lieutenant who was recruiting blacks along the Patuxent River in Maryland.

1. Marginal note: *Mr Matheny told me in this conversation that he told Mr _____* ? This is apparently an unfinished version of the marginal inscription given in p. 583, note 4.

2. Rev. James A. Reed and Samuel H. Melvin. Reed engaged in a public controversy in 1873 with WHH over AL's religion. See Donald, 272–82.

3. Refers to a statement Matheny gave Reed, recanting some of the testimony he had given WHH on AL's religious beliefs. See §472.