

the meeting was at Dixon. Probably he is correct. Though Peck — Ray — Judd Et all say that Lincoln uttered the above words still I doubt the *Exact words.*, because, as you well know, Mr. Lincoln was one of the most secretive men that ever lived. The expression means that, “I am a candidate for the Presidency of the U.S. of America. That is what I am fighting for”. I do not think that Mr Lincoln ever uttered the words as stated, though he looked at the time for the office. I think at most that the words as above are inferences, legitimate ones. Lincoln never told mortal man his purposes and plans — Never. Evidently L beat around the bush.

LC: HW3691-92

621. *James H. Matheny (WHH interview)*

Decr. 4th '90

I wish now to make an other statement. If you remember you once asked me if the text in Lamon's life of Lincoln was Correct — page 396, as I remember it, and in answer to which question I said “It was substantially Correct” & I say so now.<sup>1</sup> Our Judge J. H. Matheny said to me, only a month or so before he died which was some two months since, that he heard Lincoln say in substance: “If Douglas can draw off such & such men from the cause of republicanism and be made to support him, who says he does not care wheteher slavery is vted up or voted down — if he can get strong & influential leading republican papers to laud him — & if he can attack and partly crush Buchanna's administration & can get in Illinois so many votes to Buchannans none, then he will play the *devil* at Charleston.

LC: HW3708

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1. Refers to a passage in Lamon reporting a statement by AL, concluding: “A man that can bring such influence to bear with his own exertions may play the devil at Charleston” (396). Lamon's anonymous informant may well have been WHH himself.