

## Letter to Henry Raymond

To Henry J. Raymond  
Confidential  
Hon. H. J. Raymond Springfield, Ills.  
Dec. 18, 1860

My dear Sir

Yours of the 14th. is received. What a very mad-man your correspondent, Smedes is. Mr. Lincoln is not pledged to the ultimate extinction [sic] of slavery; does not hold the black man to be the equal of the white, unqualifiedly as Mr. S. states it; and never did stigmatize their white people as immoral & unchristian; and Mr. S. can not prove one of his assertions true.

Mr. S. seems sensitive on the questions of morals and Christianity. What does he think of a man who makes charges against another which he does not know to be true, and could easily learn to be false?

As to the pitcher story, it is a forgery out and out. I never made but one speech in Cincinnati--the last speech in the volume containing the Joint Debates between Senator Douglas and myself. [2] I have never yet seen Gov. Chase. I was never in a meeting of negroes in my life; and never saw a pitcher presented by anybody to anybody.

I am much obliged by your letter, and shall be glad to hear from you again when you have anything of interest. Yours truly

A. LINCOLN

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Source: Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln. Volume 4.  
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865

<http://www.thelincolnlog.org/view/1860/12/18>