

From S.H. Woodson to George R. Smith

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Independence
1st July 1856

Gen. G.R. Smith
D[ea]r Sir[,]

Your favor of the 27th June informing me that a friend of yours had told you that he had heard a gentlemen state that I had said in a public speech perhaps in Cass, "that you were as great an Abolitionist as there was in Massachusetts or in the North", and requesting an explanation, is just received and without a moments delay I procied [proceed] to reply.

As to the statement above aluded to I have only to say that there is not one word of truth in it. I have never either publicly or privately charged you with being an Abolitionist. I am mortified and astonished that you should become so evidently disaffected towards me on the strength of "rumor" or that you should expect me to undertake a defense against rumor. Let a definite charge be made and I will answer it. But our personal relations heretofore, demand, and my heartfelt desire to sustain

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those relations unchanged, constrains me to say more. I have honestly endeavored, and I think successfully, to carry out my determination as expressed to Dr[.] McCabe and repeated to you. I told Dr[.] McCabe what I did in regard to reports I had heard in confidence and for your benefit, and had no doubt he would inform you of them. I have no recollection of ever having on any other occasion or to any one else, given currency to those reports, though in the many conversations I have heard upon the subject I may have stated that I had also heard them, but it is certain that I never did to any one, make them as charges against you or use them for the purpose of prejudicing your interest.

I have invariably spoken of you as a gentleman in whom I had the utmost confidence, and for whom I entertained the highest personal regard, and I hope mere idle rumor or the exaggerated statements of political enemies may not impair our heretofore friendly personal relations. I know of nothing that can be distorted into "meddling" on my part, with the nomination

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for the vacancy, unless it be my letter written from Chariton, and directed to the "Jackson County delegation" in which I protest against the use of my name in connection with it.

Hoping that this reply may be satisfactory and that our personal relations may remain as friendly as they have ever been

I am very truly
Yours &c[.]
S.H. Woodson