New Salem, June 21, 1836

Dear Col.

I am told that during my absence last week, you published in the county and state papers, that you were in possession of a fact or facts, which, if known to the public, would entirely destroy the prospect of Mr. B. Edwards, and myself at the ensuing election; but that, though proven to us, you should forbear to divulge them. No one has needed your services more than I, and generally few have been so unwilling to accept them; but in this case, favor to me, would be injustice to the public, and therefore I must beg your parole for keeping it. That I now had this confidence of the fact, was no man's sufficiency, and if I have since new anything, either by design or misadventure, which I know would subject me to a far worse fate of that confidence, the truth being of such things concealed, it is a traitor to his country's interest. I find myself wholly unable to frame any conjecture of what fact or facts, real or supposed, you spoke of; but my fear of your veracity will not permit me, for a moment, to doubt, that you at least believe what you say.

I am flattering with the personal regard you manifested for me, but I do hope that, on more thorough reflection, you will view the public interest as a paramount consideration, and, therefore, determine to let the worst come.

I have a few words, that the dangerous statement effects on your part, have caused it to even sink me. Pardon me, however, for breaking the tie of personal friendship in between, I wish an answer to this, and you are at liberty to publish both of you choose.

Henry Clay of Virginia

Col. Robert Allen