

Elizabeth, Feb. 8, 1862.

G. A. Tava, Esq.

Dear Sir:—I have been absent from home, or your favor of the 7th would have been answered sooner. My letter to Judge Kelly was strictly a private letter, written in confidence to a gentleman with whom I have been intimate from his early youth, & excepting what I say of Mr. Conway's speech, was intended for his private perusal alone. It was not designed for publication, & though there is no view contained in it that I did not honestly entertain when writing it, there are, according to my recollection, (for I have no copy of it,) several things in it which I think it would be inexpedient to publish, & for which I should not care just now to be held publicly responsible. The situation of affairs seems to me to have somewhat changed since the date of the letter, & I have received assurances that the President is disposed to adopt a higher &

broader policy with regard to our public affairs,
& that the new Secretary of War is heartily with
us. I am, therefore, unwilling just at present
to appear publicly in an attitude of so decided
hostility to the Administration as I fear my
letter would place me, if published. Unless
I had an opportunity of revising it, & striking
out a few sentences, which, I fear, are unneces-
sarily severe, & add nothing to the argument
which I am suggesting to my friend. The
view I take of Mr. Conway's speech I think
just, & I should have no objections to that
being published with my name. The pro-
priety of treating the seceding States as out of the
Union I am willing to maintain, in public
or in private. Yet I think the letter had
better not be published just now, even if
corrected. I am very much obliged to you
for your kind offer, but I must reluctantly
decline giving my consent to its publication,
especially as Judge Kelly, to whom it was
written, & who ought not to have suffered

it to go out of his hands, writes me that, he
wishes no more than that part relating to Mr.
Conway's speech to be published.

I have the honor to be
With sincere esteem

Yours truly

C. A. Brownson