H. CLAY EVANS.
CHATTANOOGA. TENN.

July 29 1895

Judge A W Tourgee

My Dear Sir. I am just home from a trip to New York and find your good and characteristic letter. After all your delay, you were so quick. Please add my name to your list of "Fools." I am not yet done with. I am not yet counted out. neither am I counted in. Our state is none of your old timers: we are original: We are able by a simple resolution of the two houses to suspend the constitution. hang it in mid air. or trample it under foot as we "democrats" see fit. In fact "democrats" are the Kaisers of that previous instrument and are able at times to perform miracles. as it were. Our Constitution provides that the returns for the election of Governor shall be sent under seal to the Speaker of the Senate and by him. in the presence of a majority of both houses. opened and published (not)

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and the candidate having the largest
number of votes "shall be Governor."
The present Govr (the defeated candidate) knowing
that I had the largest number of votes.
appealed to the legislature to save him. he
being 67 years old. an ex confederate. and
about out of a job. to save him. The legislature
thereupon agreed to not open the returns.
until this specimen of accidentated
Govr should have an opportunity through
the paid agents of the state & hirelings of
Democracy to investigate and prove that
my votes were fraudulent. & through I
should have been sworn in January 15.
they have not yet opened the returns
knowing that the returns show that I was
elected. It is the most lawless and
revolutionary method that was ever adopted
by any state. The fact is they had to
count me out. as they thought democracy
could not stand a Carpet bag Governor.
it was their battle cry during the campaign.
that I was born in Pa – see I have only been
in the state about 21 years. such a cry do
encouraging to the young man that should
want to make his home here. but I downed
them in one of the hardest campaigns you
ever saw. democrats give me credit of having made
the boldest and most aggressive campaign ever

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made in the state — and I did it single handed and alone. Although I had gone to Ohio in both of McKinley's campaigns, at his personal solicitation, and spent each time over two weeks. I couldn't even get him to come to Tenn to make one speech for me. I won by about 8.000 — was counted out of say 7.000 — had 840 left. You see they didn't count enough was all, their disposition was good and now they are trying to legalize further fraud. I don't care much about the place. I realize that h-l would be a comfortable place for a Republican as compared with the Governorship of Tenn. surrounded as I would be by all other Democratic officials, but I am desirous of defeating the rascals, the conspirators. I want to show them they can't run over me rough shod. I have the people behind me — I could put in the field within 48 hours 25,000 men if I should just say the word — all white men. You have never seen such a condition of affairs as exists in Tenn today. Of the better class of non office holding, non office seeking democrats at least 75% throughout the state are supporting me. I have dared them to run the race over. The situation here is such that I don't see how they can carry the state democratic in 96. — the desertions are many & pronounced

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They have just passed an act of the Legislature which awaits the signature of the hold over Govr providing special methods whereby they propose that I having the largest number of votes shall have the privilege of contesting for the seat - that is that I shall be the contestant. Four of the strongest Democratic daily newspapers in the state have been pouring hot shot into the gang every day.

I stopped in Washington three days. Attended the Annual Grid Iron Banquet Saturday night. It was a great event - about 175 men present. Big Tom Reed was there. a Grid Iron Banquet without Reed. would be like having a Banquet without Champagne. Bill Nye. Thos Nelson Page. Mgr Satolli. Senators. M.C. and other distinguished men were present. I am very great in admiration for the gentleman you mention as a probable leader for the race in 1896. he is a good one. The gentleman you mention as a good second appreciates the honor of the mention when it comes from men of your experience and good judgement but we must win our spurs here before we can wear them. You know what it is to fight democracy down here. They claim that they are afraid of negro supremacy - that is all a humbug - they hate a Republican worse at all times and under all circumstances than they do the negro. - the latter they can control. Don't forget it I have a lot of good backers down here in my fights. and I have done some hard missionary work. but I have them on the run in this state.

Come down & make me a visit. I will show you where you was not killed at Chickamauga. I was glad to hear from you. Very truly yours H. Clay Evans

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