8412

My dear Mr. Evans:-

Will you kindly send me the address of Judge Tourgee? I am trying to arrange a lecture course for the early summer, or, at the latest for the coming fall, and to get the order of talent I wish to employ it is necessary to open correspondence well in advance of the time contemplated.

I see "our friend, the enemy", is still determined to perfect the great steal. All right; while I regret that you are to be cheated out of the honors you have so honestly won, it will prove a good thing in the long run. This act of perfidy completes the disruption of the Democratic party in Tennessee, and the breach will be made so wide and deep that it cannot be healed. Then, too, the outcome will be such an advertisement of your name, and such an illustration of your staying qualities and your power in the South, that, in the very nature of things you will come prominently to the front as the man best able to "break the solid South" on National issues. I have a suspicion that some of the leading spirits in the larceny see the result, and, could they retrace their steps would be glad to do so. But the pathway over which they have come has closed behind them at every step. They cannot retreat. They must go on, even to the pit of political destruction. Having made their bed they must occupy it. I predict they will find no springs or feathers in it.

Faithfully your's,

Thos. C. Manes.

Knoxville, Tenn., 3-19-1895.