

## A CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION \*

FELLOW CITIZENS: I suppose that in the first place it will be proper for me to make a few remarks about my own candidacy. But all I can say in regard to that, is this: as I served you last year, so will I serve you this. If you are satisfied with what I did last year, you may return me; if not, I will take my dismissal. The duties of an assemblyman are not of a very high nature. I think all one needs to have there is honesty and courage. I certainly shall do the best I can to serve you with these qualities. And I use honesty not in the sense of merely refraining from taking that which is not your own, though I wish some of my fellow assemblymen had adopted that principle. I use it also in the higher sense, that of carrying private morality into public life. It is not always necessary to vote strictly within party lines, and I am happy to say that though I generally vote in the Republican party, still I wish to feel when I return that every citizen in the district can feel that I have served him to the best of my ability. I shall certainly try to please you and make every man feel as far as possible that I have served the cause of good government in the city and State of New York.

Mr. Chairman, I shall speak upon a subject of more importance than the election of an assemblyman—that is, the election of congressman from this district. Our candidate is Mr. Strong. If you return him you will

\* Address at a mass-meeting of Republicans of the twenty-first assembly and aldermanic districts, at Lyric Hall, New York, October 28, 1882. From *Lyric Hall Republican Rally*.

be certain that you have made no error. I have taken the liberty at times of differing very much from some of my Republican compatriots, but I have in no case approached the democracy. The Democratic party is now what it was twenty years ago; as long as the history of our State has been, as long as the history of our nation has lasted, the Democrats have been one and the same; from Jefferson, miscalled the Great, to Buchanan, the Little, it has been one and the same thing all the way through. And we can say this much of the Republican party: it is the party that had in it Alexander Hamilton, of the older day; that had Webster and Clay; the great party which has produced a Lincoln, the party of Seward and of Chase; the party within whose ranks we now hold Schurz and Choate, and every other name almost that tends to make this city illustrious. I think we can say this much, Republicans have not always done well, but it will be an evil day when they do as badly as the Democrats.

Two years ago the Democrats in this city started a new movement avowedly in the interest of reform. There was going to be a reformed democracy, to spring from the ashes of the unreformed democracy. We have finally seen the bud of promise of Democratic reform blossom into the flower of Pat Keenan and one-third of the spoils. After having invoked by everything that was sacred and holy, and sworn that they never would coalesce with Tammany, they have now come cringing in, only too glad to take what Tammany chooses to let them have.

I think we could use with advantage, as Republican documents, all that the supporters of Mr. Thompson have written about Mr. Kelly, and all that Kelly's supporters have written about Mr. Thompson. Summing

them up we get a fair idea of the party to which we are asked to turn over the government.

We Republicans have nominated for mayor Allen Campbell, a lifelong Democrat. We have nominated him purely and entirely because we believe by having him in the office of mayor we would insure for ourselves good government, entirely irrespective of any personal interests. I wish to ask you if you really believe that the Democrats would, if they were in circumstances such as these, nominate a Republican for mayor? There has been much outcry raised against the Republican party. We have been sneered at as being the party of moral ideas. We *are* the party of moral ideas. Instead of profiting by the dissensions in the Democratic ranks, we have nominated Allen Campbell, and we intend to elect him.

I now wish to speak for a moment to those Republicans who call themselves the Independents and work outside of the party. They always claim that they wish to purify the Republican party. They say that to do that they must defeat our candidates. There is a better way to teach those on the inside—that is, when they put up good candidates elect them.

I certainly cannot conceive of any nomination that could have been made that would better come up to the expectation of all men, no matter of what class or social station, than that of William L. Strong.

Mr. Root, in speaking of me, said that I would serve quite as well as if I wore a red flannel shirt. If it would be any comfort to any gentleman I will wear it. Up in Albany I find what one sees perhaps in every station of life, that those who make the loudest professions are not those who carry them out best. There is an issue in this State of great importance, and they who

defend it have to some extent brought it into dispute, that is antimonopoly. But nevertheless there is no question that there is a vital spirit underlying it; that we as a people are suffering from new dangers; that as our fathers fought with slavery and crushed it, in order that it would not seize and crush them, so we are called on to fight new forces, and we cannot do it unless our hands are held up, and those who act outside of legislative halls give us the support through which alone we can act.

It is for each individual voter to decide what those you chose to represent you shall do. According as you show an intelligent appreciation of what they are striving for and accomplishing, or striving to accomplish, just so far will they be successful in the duty allotted to them. You have no idea of the extreme difficulty of contending against great evil, without some power behind you to back you up. I had many fellow members last year who by profession were antimonopolists, but they rarely extended it to practice. In fact, I think the man who was loudest to proclaim his antimonopoly principles was the easiest to pervert.

It would be useless to speak of some of the issues fought in the last legislature, were it not very likely that they will be fought again in the one coming. We will have to face at Albany this year, as we did last, the fact that there is always a certain number of men who can influence legislation so as to give themselves unlimited power. I think that especial attention should be paid by the voters of this city in choosing our candidates, to seeing that men go up whose honesty is above reproach. There very rarely comes a time when it requires any special ability to decide what would be the best course to take. It will almost

certainly be pointed out. What a representative does want is the courage and honesty to follow out his conviction. And if you select one who has these qualities, the twenty-first assembly district will be well represented.