

I AM very thankful to you for this most cordial reception, and assure you most heartily that I am very glad to have the honor of speaking here to-night. I feel very much at home here, for I am one of you and among those I know I may count upon and greet as old friends. I see many a man among you by whose side I have stood in past fights. We were successful in many of those. We worked together then and won, and I think we have a fight on hand this time in which we can again win.

When I first went to Albany to represent many of you I had to depend in great measure upon you and those who were associated with you for support in performing the duty which I deemed it incumbent for me to perform in the interest of the great city we all love. I needed support outside of the regular political organizations in the successful prosecution of the work I set about. I found that encouragement and support in this organization and those made up of such young men as I see gathered about me here. When I introduced the bill giving to the mayor the arbitrary power which the candidate you will elect this time will first fully exercise, and which makes this election of such vital importance to the city's best interest now—the bill I refer to being the one taking from the board of aldermen the confirmatory power—I got the help I then needed from just such bodies as this. I had your help then,

\* Speech at the Republican Club, New York, October 20, 1886. *New York Times*, October 21, 1886.

gentlemen of the Republican Club, and I want it and expect it now.

Now, gentlemen, as to the outlook for this campaign. Some of our weak-kneed Republicans say that because there is a split in the Democratic party—for the George movement amounts to only that—the Republican voters should abandon their party and take some other machine to thoroughly smash the George movement with. And, curiously enough, their advice is to take the Democratic machine, which is the weakest, and proceed to smash Mr. George with that. That's the queer sort of logic they use, ignoring the fact that the Republican party has an organization which, because of the hopeless break in the Democratic party, is the strongest that exists and the only one that can be effectually used to crush the life out of that movement and bring to the city safe and honest government. We will use our organization and use it effectually to accomplish the purpose that every honest man desires.