

GENTLEMEN, I'd much rather hear you cheer than myself talk. There's business in those cheers.

My Democratic friends are advancing one argument in this campaign, and it is the key-note of their campaign. They want to make you believe that in order to defeat George you must vote for Hewitt. If they think their candidate is so weak why don't they withdraw Mr. Hewitt from the campaign in my favor? If they don't do that, why, then we'll go ahead as we now propose to do and beat both Hewitt and George.

One thing is certain, gentlemen, and that is that Mr. George will poll either a very large or an insignificantly small vote. It is conceded that in either event his support will come almost exclusively from the men who would naturally vote for Mr. Hewitt. If he polls a large vote, then the contest must be between Mr. George and myself. If he polls a small vote, then the contest is between Mr. Hewitt and myself. In either event I'm in the fight, and I'm in it to win, if possible. Mr. Hewitt's friends now tell you that his record is such as to insure honest administration under him. His personal record may give promise, but he is hampered by a constituency back of him which will prevent him from carrying any reforms he might wish to into effect. On Mr. Hewitt's personal record they place his right to his election, and again reiterate their plea that you must choose between him and Mr. George because he has made that the issue of the campaign. I don't think

* Speech at a meeting of dry-goods men in "the old store" of John F. Pummer & Co., at Leonard and Church Streets, October 25, 1886. *New York Times*, October 26, 1886.

any one who knows me will say that I am not in this race to beat George. I'm in to beat both him and Mr. Hewitt. But we must do something besides beating Mr. George. We must beat the ring that has so long ruled over us.

It is useless for me to attempt to controvert to you the fallacies of Mr. George's theories. You know them as well as I do. But in the midst of a discussion as to these, the people who pay taxes and bear the burden of the expenses of this great city should not lose sight of the greater issue, that there are municipal reforms to be effected, and that no man can effect these who goes into the City Hall hampered in his movements by having to look out in all his appointments as to how they may affect one faction or another of his party, how they may bear on conventions and their control, or affect State and national politics. He can cut off no heads that should be cut off, because it might work disastrously to this or that man's plans, and so his hands would be tied. If elected, I shall go to the City Hall unpledged to any one, and shall enter upon the management of the city's affairs with an eye sole and single to the city's welfare. My sole ambition will be to make you and all other citizens feel that I have well and ably and faithfully served you and your interests—not those of any faction of men. I shall go there flattered at the character of the support I have received, and knowing that you will hold up my hands in every effort to secure and give you an honest businesslike administration of the city's affairs.

If we stand together, gentlemen, we can and will win. Much will depend upon the action of the young men. If you will work for the success of the ticket by personal application to your friends and acquaintances we

have a certainty of success before us. Show to your friends, what is certainly a fact, that if the George movement is so dangerous the only way to beat it is by the support of the Republican candidate against a disrupted Democracy.