

I AM glad to have a chance to talk to you, because all we have to fear is lest some of the men upon whom we have a right to count fail to stand by us. We have heard a great many appeals to vote for Mr. Hewitt in order to beat Mr. George. I am going to receive a royal support from the regular Republican vote. I can count on the support of many young Democrats, of many of the men west of Eighth Avenue and east of Third Avenue. Now, if I am not knifed in the house of my friends I shall win. We have heard the plaintive wail of the men who have entreated us to vote for Mr. Hewitt, and one of them wrote me a letter saying that if I had the interest of good government at heart I would withdraw in favor of Mr. Hewitt. If Mr. Hewitt is so anxious to beat Mr. George let him withdraw in my favor.

I am, as you know, a strong party man, and I am not ashamed of it. But I appeal to you simply as good citizens. If I am elected I shall use the office to further the interests of this Commonwealth. Though I am a strong party man, if I find a corrupt public official, if he were the most prominent politician in the Republican party, I would take off his head. They say I am too radical a reformer. I am willing to make the fight on that issue. Do you not think you need one in this city? I will try to be one. Some people say I am a boy. I think from that sound the boys are with me. I will say one thing: I lack a good deal of having gray

* Speech at Wall Street meeting, October 30, 1886. *New York Times*, October 31, 1886.

hairs, yet no older man could go into that office feeling a graver sense of its responsibility.

If I am chosen mayor, I shall strive for one thing. I shall try to carry myself so that when I leave the office I shall take with me the respect of all honest men. I have received the nomination of the citizens' committee and pledges of support from many thousands of independent Democrats. It lies with you, gentlemen, and with the friends you may meet and talk to tomorrow whether I shall or shall not be elected mayor. If you all stand up in this contest I can and must win. There are many others to speak and I will not detain you. If I am elected mayor I shall try to make my deeds more than make good my words.