

## THE DUTY OF THE FRANCHISE \*

I AM glad to see you here to greet me, but I want to impress upon you that it is much more important that you should go to the polls on election day. Come out. Come yourselves and see that every neighbor comes. It is not only your right to vote, but it is your duty if you are indeed freemen and American citizens. I want to see every man vote. I would rather have you come to the polls even if you voted against me than have you shirk your duty. Our opponents are relying solely upon one hope. They are making the boast that the country vote will stay at home. They know that they cannot win if a full vote is cast, and hope that you who live some distance from the polls will fail to do your duty and will stay at home. Look to it that you falsify their hopes. Look to it that you are true to your duty as citizens of New York State and citizens of the United States. Show that you have the civic pride that will make you not only exercise yourselves your privilege as freemen, but see that your neighbors exercise it also.

\* Speech at Richland, N. Y., October 29, 1898. From the original typed manuscript in Library of Congress.