

## MR. GEORGE'S SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE.

In accepting the nomination Mr. George spoke as follows:

"Fellow Democrats: (A voice, "That's it). Men who voted last year for William Jennings Bryan (applause); I accept your nomination (prolonged applause. A voice, "He is all right"). From now until election closes I am yours (applause. A voice, "And after election, too.") Aye, and after election, too! (applause). I am a Democrat (applause. A voice, "Not of the David Hill type").

"I cannot divide into parts the questions which I, as a citizen, have to deal with. For the very same reason that I oppose unequivocally and unalterably this monstrous tariff in all its forms (applause), for the same reason that I would vote wherever I could for the utter abolition of the tariff (applause), for that same reason I am opposed to the interferences with individual liberty which we see here in New York (applause).

A Jeffersonian Democrat.

"I am a Democrat in the Jeffersonian sense (applause); because I believe in the principles and stand for the philosophy of Thomas Jefferson, for that reason my mind in everything on which a citizen can vote is clear and certain. It was for that that I voted in the last general election.

"It was because the Chicago platform, however much I might differ with this thing or that thing, represented to me the coming to the front of the great common people as a whole (applause), that I stood for it, that I voted for it, that I was sorrier than I ever have been before that it was defeated; defeated, I shall hope to see it rise again. (A voice, "It will"). And now for that principle I stand. (Ap-

plause.)

"I have not sought this nomination directly or indirectly; it has been repugnant to me; my line lay in a different path, and I hoped to tread it; but I hold, with Thomas Jefferson, that while a citizen who can afford to should not seek office, that no man can ignore the will of those with whom he stands when they ask him to come to the front and represent a principle.

#### Why He Accepts the Nomination.

"It seemed to me that this would pass from me; it seemed to me that some one else would be taken to stand in this place for mayor of Greater New York, until last Sunday week gentlemen came to me representing the Democratic Alliance, urging me to state if under any contingency I would stand as their candidate, and again, when a few days later the accredited representatives of the United Democracy came to me tendering me a nomination without pledge, an unequivocal nomination.

"If I had answered at once it would have been 'No.' They urged me not to make an answer, and I verbally returned this answer, that I would take no nomination until this great convention, - the City convention, - had acted, and if, in the meantime, they wanted an answer, it must be 'No.' That convention has acted. It has registered the will of whom? (Cries of "Croker, Croker.") Of Mr. Croker, just from the English race track, a man whom you know (cries of "thief"). Who had grown rich on what? Aye, that is a question; on what? Takes the Democratic nomination. Is it the Democratic nomination? As a Democrat I say no.

"The real Democracy, the Democracy of Thomas Jefferson, the

regular Democracy that I allude to, tenders me the nomination tonight. I have sought by every means to have some one else come forward to take this place. I would gladly support him. It was not until it was shown to me that unless I took this nomination Mr. Corker's representatives must poll the votes of the Democracy of Greater New York that I consented to stand. (Applause.) Now I accept. Such power as I have, such strength as is left me, such ability as I still can wield is for your cause (applause), - the greatest of causes.

All Men Created Equal.

"I am a Democrat. Not a silver Democrat, nor a gold Democrat, but a Democrat who believes in the cardinal principle of Jeffersonian Democracy. To me this great truth is self evident, that all men are created equal. On that principle I stand. That principle, so far as I have power, will be carried forward. The great office for which you name me gives me no power to carry out in full my views, but I can represent the men who think with me that all men are created equal, and whether it be success or failure matters nothing to me. (Applause.) Something to all of us, something to our friends and relatives in the far off lands, something for the future, something for the world; to make the fight is honor, whether it be for success or for failure. To do the deed is its own reward. You know me. (Applause.) You know what I think, and what I stand for.

Says He Beat Hewitt.

"Eleven years ago, on this very platform in this very place, at this very time, I stood on this platform to accept the nomination of the United Labor societies, the United Democracy, for the office of Mayor of New York. I made the fight. I won the race. (Applause.)

I know, as you know, that the votes cast for me were counted by the system which prevailed then for Mr. Abram S. Hewitt, the savior of society.

"We were poor. It had been a hard struggle. No newspaper was with us; what was the use of complaining? Not a bit. No word of complaint escaped my lips. Personally, I was glad to be relieved. I had done my duty. I had fought the <sup>fight</sup> ~~race~~. I had been defeated. (Cries of "cheated"). Robbed, or cheated, defeated anyhow. I addressed myself to work. It is over. It is done. The very same principle, the very same platform, is here today, and it is here in the name of Democracy. (Applause.)

Democracy, Not Aristocracy.

"A little while ago it looked to me, at least, as though that defeat, the trust kings and the money power grasping the vote of the people, had inflicted upon William Jennings Bryan (great applause) was the defeat of everything for which our fathers had stood, of everything that makes the country so loved by us, so hopeful for the future. It looked to me as though Hamilton had triumphed at last, and as though we were fast verging into virtual <sup>a</sup> aristocracy and despotism.

"You call me to raise the standard again (great applause), to stand for that great cause, to stand as Jefferson stood in the civil revolution of 1800.

"I accept. (Three cheers for George. and "You can be elected.") I believe I will be elected. (Great applause.) I believe, I have always believed, that the Democrats are filled with a principle and power that Jefferson invoked in 1800, which would cast aside like chaff all that encumbered and cast it down. That <sup>177</sup> ~~is~~ the common people, the

honest Democracy, the Democracy that believed that all men were created equal, lay a power that would revivify not merely this imperial city, not merely the state, not merely the country, but the world.

"No greater honor can be given to any man than to stand for that. (applause.) No greater service can he render in his day and generation than to lay at its feet whatever he has. I would not refuse if I died for it. What counts a few years? (Applause.) What can a man do better or nobler than doing something for his country, for his nation, for his name?

"Gentlemen, fellow Democrats, I accept your nomination. Without wavering or turning, whether those who stand with me be few or many, from henceforward I am your candidate for the mayoralty of Greater New York."

Oct. 13, 1897.