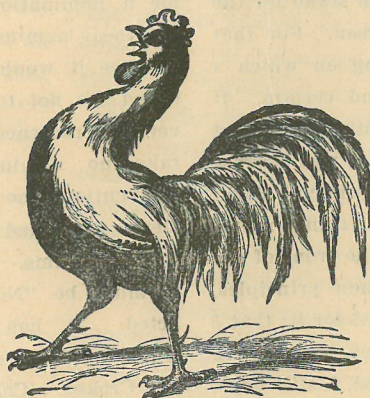


SPEECH
... OF ...
HENRY GEORGE

ACCEPTING THE NOMINATION OF
THE DEMOCRACY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON,

... AT ...
COOPER UNION, NEW YORK

OCTOBER 5, 1897.



SPEECH OF HENRY GEORGE.

Fellow Democrats—(A voice: "That's it," and applause)—and men who voted last year for William Jennings Bryan—(Great applause and cheers)—I accept your nomination. (Great applause and cheers.) From now until the election closes, I am yours. (Great applause.) (A voice: "And after election.") Aye, and after election, too. (Applause. A voice: "And always.")

I am a Democrat. (Applause.) I cannot divide into parts this question which I, as a citizen, have to deal with, for the very 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.)

I am a Democrat in the Jeffersonian sense—(applause and cries of "Good!")—because I believe in the principles and stand for the philosophy of Thomas Jefferson. For that reason my line in everything on which a citizen can vote is clear and certain. It was for that reason that I voted in the last general election—(applause)—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 and their principles, that I stood for it; that I voted for it; that I was sorrier than I have ever been before that it was defeated—defeated, I still hope,

to rise again. (Cries of "So it will!") And now for that principle I stand. (Applause.)

I have not sought this nomination, directly or indirectly. (Applause.) 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 it 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. It seemed to me that this cup would pass from me. It seemed to me until last Sunday week some one else would be taken to stand in this place for Mayor of Greater New York. Last Sunday week some gentlemen came to me representing the Democratic Alliance, urging me to state if under any contingency I would stand as their candidate; and, again, 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 reply—that I would take no nomination until the General Convention—the City Convention of the Democracy—had acted, and that 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. (Cries of "That's it!" and ap-

plause.) From the English race track—(applause)—a man whom you know—(a voice: "Murderer!")—who has grown rich—(a voice: "On what?")—on what? Aye, that is the question, on what? A man whom you know dictates the Democratic nomination (Applause.) Is it the Democratic nomination? As a Democrat I say, No! (Applause.)

The real democracy, the democracy of Thomas Jefferson, the regular democracy, as I hold it to be, tenders me the nomination to-day. 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. Croker's representative must poll the votes of the democracy of Greater New York that I consented to stand. (Applause.)

Now; I accept. (Great applause.)

Such power as I have, such strength as is left me, such ability as I still can wield, is for your cause—(cries of "Good!" and applause)—for the greatest of causes.

I am a Democrat—not a Silver Democrat, nor a Gold Democrat, but a Democrat who believes in the cardinal principles of Jeffersonian Democracy; a Democrat to whom this great truth is self-evident—that all men are created equal. (Applause.)

On that principle I stand; that principle, so far as I have power, I will 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, the men who believe with me—(applause)—that all men are created equal, and whether it be success or failure matters nothing to me. (Applause. A voice: "Something to us.") Something to all of us, something to our friends and relatives in far-off lands, something for the future, something for the world! (Applause and cries of Good!)

To make the fight is honor, whether it be for success or failure. To do the deed is its own reward. You know me—(cries of "We do, we do, we do!")—you know what I think

and what I stand for. Eleven years ago, on this very night—(great applause)—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 Mayor of New York. (A voice: "You were elected, too.") I made the fight. (A voice: "A good one, too.") I won the race. (Great applause.) I know, as you know, that votes cast for me were counted by the system which prevailed then for Mr. Abram S. Hewitt—(hisses)—the savior of society. We were poor, and it had been a struggle. No newspaper was with us. What was the use of complaining? (A voice: "Not a bit.") 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 my battle. I had been defeated. (Cries: "You had been robbed—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 to-day, and is here in the name of Democracy. (Applause, and a voice: "The very same man!")

A little while ago it looked to me, at least, as though the defeat the trusts and rings and money power grasping the vote of the people, had inflicted upon William Jennings Bryan—(applause)—was the defeat of everything that makes this 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 a virtual aristocracy and despotism. (Cries of "Never!")

You call me now to raise the standard again—(applause)—to stand for that great cause, to stand as Jefferson stood in the civil revolution of 1800. I accept. (Applause.) (A voice: "And you will be elected!")

I believe I will be elected. I believe, and I have always believed, that those so-called Democrats but fooled with the real democratic principle—that there was in it a power, the power that Jefferson invoked in 1800, that would cast aside like chaff all

that encumbered and kept it down. I have always believed that in the common people, the honest democracy, the democracy that believes that all men are created equal, lay the power that would revivify not merely this imperial city, not merely the State, not merely the country, but the world. (Great applause.)

No greater honor can be given to any man than to stand for that. (Applause. Cries of "Good!")

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! (Applause, long, continual.) What count a few years? What can a man do better or nobler than doing something for his country, for his nation, for his age?

Gentlemen, fellow democrats—I accept your nomination—(applause)—without wavering or turning. Whether those who stand with me be few or be many, from hence forward I am your candidate for the Mayoralty of Greater New York. (Great applause and cheers.)

THE DEMOCRACY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON.

FOR MAYOR,

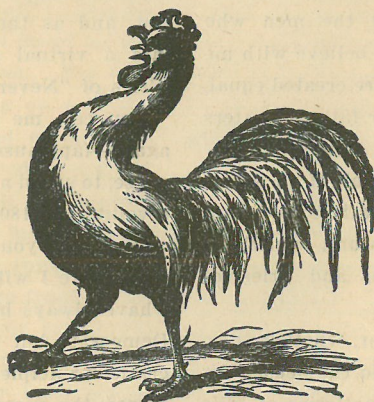
HENRY GEORGE

FOR COMPTROLLER,

CHARLES W. DAYTON

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL,

JEROME O'NEILL.



PUT YOUR MARK X IN THE CIRCLE O UNDER THE ROOSTER.