

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE—ASSEMBLYMAN
ROOSEVELT'S MAIDEN SPEECH *



IT has been said that if the Democrats do not organize the House speedily the Republicans will interfere and perfect the organization. I should very much doubt the expediency of doing this at present.

As things are to-day in New York there are two branches of Jeffersonian Democrats, the Tilden democracy and the Kellyites. Neither of these alone can carry the State against the Republicans. Tammany cast some fifty thousand votes in New York last fall, and without this New York would be one of the strongest Republican States in the Union. It seems scarcely possible for the democracy to organize under these circumstances. I do not think they can fairly expect us to join with either section. This is purely a struggle between themselves, and it should be allowed to continue as long as they please. We have no interest in helping one section against the other; combined they have the majority and let them make all they can out of it. Hitherto they have not made very much of the power of that position to affect us. We are not responsible for the delay and the people will so understand.

While in New York I talked with several gentlemen who have large commercial interests at stake, and they

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do not seem to care whether the deadlock is broken or not. In fact, they feel rather relieved! And if we do no business till February 15th, I think the voters of the State will worry along through all right without it.