

THE INDEPENDENTS WHO WOULD NOT BOLT *

I AM glad, for many reasons, that my first speech in the present campaign should be made under the auspices of the young Republicans of Brooklyn, who have won for themselves so honorable a name for their upright and fearless independence, and who have yet had the good sense to show that, though Independents, they are emphatically and distinctly Republicans, and that they mean to reform and not to destroy the party to which they belong.

There is nothing that I have more regretted in the present campaign than the fact that many of those with whom we were proud to act in time past, have now felt obliged to go over to the camp of those who are, as we firmly believe, the most bitter foes of the very principles which Independent Republicanism has so stoutly upheld. Beyond question, many of our brother Independents have done what they conscientiously believe to be right; most certainly. We cannot question the honesty of purpose and the sincerity of motive that actuate men like Carl Schurz, George William Curtis, and Horace White; but I think these gentlemen have been drawn into a course of action which, in the end, they must most bitterly regret, and into contact and companionship with men whom they must heartily despise, and I think they themselves would be among the first to see the evil results to the whole community that would inevitably follow in the

* Address before the Young Republican Club of Brooklyn, N. Y., October 18, 1884. *New York Daily Tribune*, October 19, 1884.

fortunately exceedingly improbable event of their being able to accomplish the defeat of the Republican nominee.

One feature of their conduct is, however, certainly open to criticism, and that is the way they have attacked those of their fellow Republicans who have remained loyal to the party. I do not object to their considering themselves the salt of the earth, but I beg leave to differ from them when they assure us that the rest of the Republican world has absolutely lost its savor. It is simply senseless to attack the motives of men like President Woolsey, of Yale; President White, of Cornell; Judge Dwight, Edward Everett Hale, John Jay, and a host of others whose names I might mention. During my three years in the New York legislature, I have sat with two Independent Republicans from my own city—Henry Sprague and Walter Howe—who actually did what others have only talked of doing; that is, who never hesitated to bid defiance to the machine and to jeopardize and possibly ruin their own chances for future political preferment, if they deemed that by so doing they could serve the community at large; and both of these gentlemen are supporting the Republican nominees. Without an exception all of the Independent Republicans who accomplished so much at Albany during the last two or three winters are loyal to the Republican party; and almost without an exception the same statement holds true of the band of Independents or Edmunds men who at the last State convention, held at Utica, achieved a victory for the cause of Independent Republicanism which is absolutely unparalleled in our political annals.

Now, why do all these men of whom I have spoken stand as they do? Because they know that the present

fight is substantially the same as the one that has been going on for the last quarter of a century. We are not electing an irresponsible autocrat; we are merely selecting a President who is the servant of the people, and is more especially the servant of the party that elects him. I know that Mr. Blaine, if elected President, must represent the honesty and must obey the will of the mass of honest and upright Republicans who have nominated him and who will elect him.

Now, the Republican party is certainly better fitted to serve the State than the Democracy.* Why, look at the Democratic candidate for Vice-President; it is Hendricks, one of the arch-snakes from the foul old copperhead nest, whose presence on the ticket is an insult to every man who was loyal to the Union in the days of darkness. We cannot but admire at least the courage of those gallant soldiers of the South, who, from a terribly mistaken sense of duty, fought us so grimly and so stubbornly for four long years, but we feel nothing but contempt for their cowardly allies of the North, the dough-face and the copperhead, who had all the will, but who fortunately utterly lacked the courage, to be traitors.

* "A gentleman told me recently that he doubted if I would vote for the Angel Gabriel if found at the head of the Democratic party, to which I responded that the Angel Gabriel would never be found in such company." From speech before the Young Men's Republican Club of the City of New York, October 22, 1884. *New York Daily Tribune*, Oct. 23.