

## THE LAST SPEECH OF HENRY GEORGE,

Delivered at the Central Opera House in New York  
on October 28th 1897.

Mr. George appeared obviously tired and ill as he entered the hall at 10.30 P.M. He was accompanied by Mrs. George and by his brother, John V. George. The audience cheered for four minutes. There were cries of "What's the matter with Henry George" and "Three Cheers for Henry George". Mr. George then spoke, as follows:

"Fellow democrats: I hear above your shouts, occasionally the rooster crow. (Imitation of the rooster crow by one of the audience. Mr. George acknowledged same by a bow and smiled, as did his wife.) I believe, over these old Boroughs in this new Greater Municipality you will hear the rooster crow; the bird of freedom, the old democratic emblem, for the party of real democracy, the party of Thomas Jefferson, the party of the common people. (Applause) After years of waiting, after years of longing, after having been pushed aside, after democracy of this kind and democracy of that kind, after the democracy of Grover Cleveland (hisses) and the democracy of Richard Croker, (hisses) there will come again the democracy of common men; the democracy that knows no privilege, the democracy that knows no special institution, the democracy of equality, the democracy of common right. It is for that we struggle and for that we stand. It is for that I stand before you as the nominee of my fellow citizens for this high office. I have been travelling far, wishing in the democratic manner to show myself to the citizens whose suffrages I ask. I have met everywhere with crowds like this; with crowds not merely in number, but great in purpose and intense in spirit. After seeing them I believe that I shall be elected; that Dayton will be elected; that O'Neill will be elected and that the next duty which devolves upon us will be the duty of carrying out your will. So let it be. I have not sought this office, but if the majority of the people, as I now think will be the case, do believe that their interests are best subserved by our election, elected we will be. I will not keep you longer. The hour is getting late; I wish merely to show myself. What I am you probably know. Since 1886 I have not hid my light under a bushel. Whatever I believe, I have stated. It is unnecessary for me to make, at this time, any general explanation. I do not believe in what has been the practice of Mr. Croker's man, Mr. Van Wyck, the gumshoe policy--the saying nothing and trusting to the power of organization. I believe it is franker and better to meet one's fellow citizens to discuss with them the questions that are involved. We are nearly to the verge of election. The battle is about ended. If I am elected I will do what I can, honestly, faithfully, conscientiously and fearlessly, to carry out the principles for which I stand. (Cries of 'we believe you.') You may believe me and trust to the result. So with this brief explanation of my purposes and my policy I ask for your suffrage. (Cries of 'you will get them!')

Good night."

Not many hours later, Mr. George was dead.

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Compliments of John T. McRoy.