

POWDERLY'S WARM WORDS

URGING HIS FRIENDS TO VOTE FOR GEORGE.

THE HEAD OF THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR ADDRESSES A LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING IN COOPER UNION.

General Master Workman of the Knights of Labor T. V. Powderly telegraphed to the managers of Henry George's campaign yesterday afternoon that he would be in New-York in time to make a speech in favor of Mr. George last evening. There was no time in which to "work up" a big meeting to greet Mr. Powderly by the usual methods, but the word that the General Master Workman was coming was passed from mouth to mouth among Mr. George's followers, coupled with the announcement that he would speak in the large hall of the Cooper Union. At 7 o'clock the doors of the hall were thrown open. In less than 10 minutes afterward the great hall was packed until not another person could find standing room within it. Pressed forward by those in the rear, those who first entered the hall after the seats were taken swarmed down the aisles to the railing in front of the platform, over that and the reporters' tables and upon the platform, until every foot of space around the speakers' stand was occupied.

When James Quinn, of District Assembly No. 49, fought his way through the crowd to the front of the platform, he appealed to those on the stand to retire, in order that Messrs. George and Powderly and the other leaders might have at least standing room. There was not a policeman in uniform present to enforce this request, but a hundred or more of those to whom Mr. Quinn appealed promptly left the platform, and passed through the committee rooms in the rear out into the lobbies and the street, giving up every possible chance to see or hear what was going on in the hall. It was an exhibition of kindly good-will to the speaker and the candidate rarely seen at a political mass meeting, and it spoke volumes for the temper of some at least of the men who will vote for Mr. George to-day.

Even after this exodus from the platform Mr. Powderly, Mr. George, and other men prominent in the George movement had to go without seats, while the space left for the speakers was barely six feet square. Then Mr. Quinn stepped forward again and announced that Mr. Powderly would speak outside the hall before speaking from the platform. A good many in the hall wanted to go out to hear the General Master Workman, but only those in the rear doorways could get out, and when they left their places were instantly filled by others from the street. Mr. Quinn's announcement had no effect in relieving the enormous pressure of the crowd. No band was present to make noise, and if one had been there it could hardly have made itself heard. Somebody started a cheer every other minute, and campaign cries and shouts filled up the intervals.

When Mr. Quinn introduced James B. Archibald as Chairman of the meeting he could not be heard 20 feet from the platform. The audience quieted down a little while Mr. Archibald told them that Mr. Powderly had come to the city for the express purpose of refuting the calumnies and slanders of the press of New-York. Just as he said this the tall, thin form of the General Master Workman was seen pushing its way through the throng. Chairman Archibald had no chance to say anything more. Every man in the audience jumped to his feet, and for a full minute cheer followed cheer, while the air was full of waving hats and handkerchiefs. Mr. Powderly took off his overcoat while the Chairman introduced him in the midst of the din.

Mr. Powderly spoke rapidly and earnestly. He was there, he said, to ask every one within sound of his voice to wield the weapon of the ballot on the morrow for an honest man for Mayor. He was there to ask them to get their neighbors and their friends to do the same. The number of votes was what would count. No amount of enthusiasm—nothing but votes would carry the day. The supporters of Mr. George were not voting for the city of New-York alone, for the eyes of the western world, and all the world, were turned toward this city in the hope that it would be redeemed from the slurs and disgrace that had been cast upon it by bad officers in the past. Henry George was a man who would properly, honestly, and ably administer the affairs of New-York, as had not been done before.

Mr. Powderly had heard that he and George had no sympathy with Parnell and Ireland. Mr. George was running for Mayor of New-York, and the question of Parnell and Ireland had no business in the campaign, but the statement that he (Powderly) had no sympathy with Ireland was a barefaced lie. George was a free trader. The speaker was a protectionist from head to foot, but free trade or the tariff had nothing to do with the election of a Mayor. He agreed with Mr. George that poverty should be abolished. The things that the good God ordained we should have should be ours, and if we didn't have them we should blame God for it. No earthly power should take them from us. A beginning should be made somewhere, and now was the best time to make it. Mr. Powderly's hearers were in duty bound to support Mr. George as much as they were to administer to the wants of their families.

Mr. Powderly spoke of the readiness of every candidate for office to announce himself as a friend of the workingman, and then he declared that if labor needed a friend it would nominate its own candidate. Henry George was not required to label himself the workingman's friend, for his record showed that he was a friend of labor. He had been accused of being a Socialist, an Anarchist, and every other kind of "ist." Mr. Powderly knew how that was, for he had himself been through the mill of politics. He had run for Mayor of Scranton, and the people had said of him what they now said of George. One thing they said was that property in Scranton would not be safe if he was elected Mayor. He was Mayor two years, and the people elected him a second time. Then for a third time the people endorsed his principles by a tremendous majority. Mr. Powderly told how the city of Scranton had prospered and grown in population and the number of its industries during his administration, and the audience cheered.

After this digression the General Master Workman took up Mr. George again. He knew Henry George, he said. He had read his books and watched his course. "The burden of my song," said Mr. Powderly, "is, vote early to-morrow morning for yourself, for your family, and for your God, in the person of Henry George. Set an example that will be remembered until your man is in the White House at Washington." As the representative of every man who handled a tool, he asked his hearers to do their duty at the polls. He wanted a proper regulation of the land system, that would guarantee to every man his rights, and no more.

As he said this Mr. Powderly was interrupted by a confusion in the rear of the hall, where somebody had evidently made a remark not in harmony with the feelings of those around him. Cries of "Put him out!" were heard, but Mr. Powderly begged that he be allowed to stay until Mr. George could be turned loose on him. This put the crowd in good humor again, and Mr. Powderly went on. He wanted, he said, to see the workingman rise until he knew, when he cast a ballot, whether it was for a friend or a foe. He wanted the workingman to be no longer at the beck or whim of any party. "There is one other thing I want to impress upon you," said Mr. Powderly. "Go right by the door of the saloon to-morrow, if you never do again, Write under 'George' on your banners, 'Temperance for the Masses.'" That was coming, he added, and it ought to; for the man who could not intelligently cast his vote ought not to have a vote. Workingmen should not cast their votes at the dictation of liquor or liquor men. In conclusion, Mr. Powderly urged his hearers to go to work the moment they left the hall, "Don't go to bed to-night," said he; "go to work, and keep at work until the polls are closed and Henry George is elected."

Mr. Powderly had been constantly interrupted with applause and cheers, and as he stepped back from the platform edge three cheers and a "tiger" followed him. They were repeated again and again when he led Mr. George forward and introduced the labor candidate. Mr. George spoke for less than 20 minutes, telling the audience that he had done his part, and it only remained for them to do their part to secure his election. He was sure to be elected, and it was only a question now of the size of his majority. He undertook to say something about Mr. Hewitt, but the mere mention of the name called forth such an outburst of groans and hisses that the speaker could not make himself heard. Before he gave up, however, Mr. George declared that Hewitt's tactics included lies, slanders, and forgeries. The Democratic candidate, he asserted, had hired professional slanderers, shut them up in a room, and set them to manufacturing fraudulent letters and interviews. Mr. George promised that the people would never have reason to be ashamed that they had made him Mayor, and closed with the admonition to his friends to go to work and save their cheers for to-night. When Mr. George made his final bow the Chairman announced that there would be no more speeches, and the audience dispersed with repeated cheers for the labor candidate.

Mr. Quinn's announcement that Mr. Powderly would make his first speech outside the hall traveled quickly through the throngs in the street, and a large crowd collected in the open space at the north front of the building. But when half an hour and more passed and he did not appear many went away, thinking that they had been deceived. A good-sized crowd, however, remained, and when Mr. Powderly appeared on the piazza, accompanied by Mr. Quinn, a shout arose from the multitude below and was followed by loud hurrahs for the General Master Workman. When hurrahs for the General Master Mr. Quinn spoke for Mr. Powderly, who had the collar of his overcoat up and a handkerchief tied around his throat and did not feel very well. Mr. Quinn said that Mr. Powderly wanted his hearers to vote for the workingmen's candidate. The political parties, Mr. Quinn continued, deceived the workmen to that extent that they did not have any reason to trust them further with their welfare. The workmen were descending lower and lower in poverty and degradation, while the politicians were getting wealthy.

Mr. George's personal headquarters in the

Colonnade Hotel and the headquarters of his campaign in Eighth-street were crowded all of yesterday, and all last night busy hands were at work folding ballots and making the final arrangements for to-day.

Mr. Bogart, the Secretary of the Central Committee, was "up to his ears" in business when seen during the afternoon. He was having an excited interview with some members of the Irving Hall Democracy, who had come in and indignantly asked him to explain some ballots issued by the Henry George committee bearing the names of the united Democracy candidates for the offices other than the Mayoralty instead of the Irving Hall candidates.

Mr. Bogart thought George would get not less 100,000 votes. Mr. George himself would give no figures. He only said: "I have not the slightest doubt of my election," and then hurried away.