

CHARACTER, NOT POLITICS

TO DECIDE THE CONTEST FOR MAYOR OF BROOKLYN.

POLITICIANS ALREADY TALKING ABOUT
THE MAN MOST LIKELY TO TAKE
MR. WHITNEY'S PLACE.

Will the Bacon investigation lead to the election of a Republican Mayor next Fall? is a question often asked, but seldom answered, in Brooklyn just now. Local politicians of both parties seem to fight shy of putting themselves on record in the affirmative or the negative, but, although they do little talking, most of them are busy laying lines along which they expect to conduct a successful campaign.

This is especially true of the Republicans, who, under the leadership of John B. Green, the new President of the General Committee, have already put in two weeks of hard work. Everything is expected to give way before the Mayoralty fight, for upon the result of the fight for Mr. Whitney's successor will in some degree depend the vote in Kings County for President in 1888.

All have agreed that much depends upon the character of the candidate and, as was plainly shown in the Congressional fight between S. V. White and James D. Bell last Fall, his ability to poll the mugwump vote. Mr. White, it will be remembered, ran in a district which at the previous election sent Mr. Darwin R. James to Congress with a plurality of 7,000 Republican votes back of him, while Mr. Bell, a Democratic Supervisor, came within less than 200 votes of beating Mr. White. This astonishing result was a knock-down blow to the managers of the party in Brooklyn, and has had one good result in compelling them to recognize the fact that the independents are not confined to the First Ward.

Since that election the party leaders have held frequent meetings, at which partisanship was the sole subject of discussion. One of these gentlemen assured THE TIMES's reporter yesterday that these conferences had resulted in a decision to run a non-partisan candidate for Mayor next November.

"It's our only hope," he said, "for the simple reason that nine-tenths of the men who live in Brooklyn leave their politics, with their business, in New-York. These men are Republicans or Democrats only in national politics. The City Government which enables them to enjoy their Brooklyn homes most is the one they want. Such men are after a Mayor who will keep the streets clean and put the telegraph wires under ground. They want good subordinates appointed who will enforce the laws."

"What effect do you think the recent investigation will have?"

"Well, it's hard to say. There's no doubt the committee showed that a great decline in the market price of official integrity had taken place since Mayor Low went out of office, but the voters may forget all about that in the next few months. If the election were to take place now and the Republicans had an upright business man on their ticket I think he would be elected. From the statistics in the hands of several prominent Republicans such a man should get about 5,000 plurality. This estimate is allowing for Democrat, Prohibition, and Labor candidates."

There will undoubtedly be a Labor candidate for Mayor if the men who are now in control of the United Labor Party continue to direct its affairs when the conventions are held. Such candidates have usually been sold out to the local Democracy, but John V. Browne, who is at the head of the General Committee, says that will not happen this year. He wants to see William H. Hazzard or some such man head the Labor ticket. He argues that such a nomination, if made in good faith, will compel the two big parties to put up their best men. It had that effect in New-York, he argues, and why shouldn't it in Brooklyn.

Democrats like District Attorney Ridgway and City Works Commissioner Conner are outspoken in their belief that the report of the investigating committee will add several thousand votes to the Democratic column. The former argues from the fact that in the face of heavy odds he ran ahead of his ticket.

The available candidates are few in number. Among Republicans, George B. Forrester, of the Tenth Ward, a member of the General Committee, and an authority among Baptists, is looked upon favorably. There is some talk of inducing Seth Low to try for a third term in the Mayoralty chair, but many of his friends assert that he will not accept a nomination. Gen. James Jourdan would make an excellent Mayor, all agree, but he is too busy amassing a million in elevated railroads to devote any time to politics. He is connected with half a dozen prosperous corporations. Over in the Eastern District there lives a man who, many think, would poll a big vote as a Mayoralty candidate. His name is Joseph F. Knapp, and he is a great favorite with the old soldiers. It was from the steps of his house that President Cleveland reviewed the Decoration Day parade of last year. Mr. Knapp is something over 50 years of age, and very wealthy.

The Willoughby-street magnate has not yet settled upon the name which all good and true Democrats must vote for next election day. He put up Joseph C. Hendrix, a newspaper man, to fight Seth Low in 1884, and saw Mr. Hendrix beaten. That the "boss" is really thinking of giving Mr. Hendrix another show is confidently asserted by some of his henchmen. That Mr. Whitney will be retired to the privacy of his grocery store, from which he sincerely wishes he had never been dragged, is certain. Even Mr. McLaughlin has had enough of him. No certain "tip" as to who will be named to succeed him has as yet been given out.