

RAPPING HILL'S KNUCKLES.

THE YOUNG MEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB
FOR REAL BALLOT REFORM.

The cause of ballot reform was taken in hand last night by the Young Men's Democratic Club at its meeting at the Hoffman House in a way that will not be looked upon with joy by D. B. Hill, Governor and purveyor of peanut politics. The action taken shows that most of the members of the club have little faith in his Excellency's reform views. The discussion came up on the resolution of John A. Beall, which recited that the club "heartily favors legislation for the improvement of our methods of election, which shall provide substantially for three following forms:

First—All ballots shall be official, and shall be printed and distributed at public expense.

Second—The names of all candidates for the same office shall be printed on the same ballot.

Third—All ballots shall be delivered to the voter within the polling place on election day by sworn public officials.

Fourth—Only official ballots so delivered shall be voted. The voter shall be guaranteed absolute privacy in preparing his ballot, and the secrecy of the ballot made compulsory.

Fifth—Voters shall have the right to nominate candidates by properly certified petitions.

Now there are things in this resolution that do not go hand in hand with Mr. Hill's views on the question. But those who favored the resolution didn't take Mr. Hill's feelings into account.

Mr. Beall made the opening speech on his resolution, and urged the necessity for taking interest in the efforts to bring about the reform. John H. O'Dwyer spoke to the same effect. W. H. Terrill and Mr. Tenney both had amendments to offer. Mr. Terrill's provided that a committee of five be appointed by the Chair to investigate ballot reform in general and look into the merits of the Saxton and Linson bills. Mr. Tenney's amendment asked for the appointment of a committee to do what it could to bring about such electoral reforms as had been suggested in the Governor's message. After some debate Mr. Terrill withdrew his amendment in favor of Mr. Tenney's.

John H. V. Arnold, the Tammany President of the Board of Aldermen, presided at the meeting, and said that, as long as he was to appoint the committee, he would like his position to be made clear. He believed that the organization, being a Democratic one, should do what it could toward assisting the Governor, who "is the bulwark between the corrupt Legislature and the people," in bringing about the reforms he suggests. Nothing should be done to embarrass him.

Mr. Beall, Ernest B. Whitney, and others urged that the original resolution be passed, and that the club should be put upon record as in favor of straight-out ballot reform. They wanted no half-way measures. New-York was lagging behind in the list of States that are seeking and securing good election laws. Mr. Tenney's amendment provided that all of the reforms suggested by Mr. Beall be cut out of the resolution and that it be simply "resolved" to further the recommendations of the Governor.

When it came to a vote Mr. Hill was snowed under, so to speak. There were about thirty-eight present, and at least thirty voted for Mr. Beall's resolution. President Arnold appointed the following committee to urge in the name of this club the adoption by the Legislature and approval by the Governor of a bill or bills containing such provisions, and that such committee be authorized to unite with the committees and representatives of other organizations in all legitimate action for the accomplishment of such result": J. A. Beall, E. B. Whitney, Oliver P. Bull, H. B. Tompkins, and A. Walker Otis.

The Executive Committee of the club met before this meeting and reorganized for the year. Bartow S. Weeks was made Chairman and W. E. Curtis Secretary. A committee of five was appointed to look into the scheme of getting a club house. The committee decided to suspend District Attorney John R. Fellows from membership. Mr. Fellows, it seems, has been careless about paying up his club dues. The officers don't like members to get into this habit, and so it was determined to give the District Attorney the benefit of a suspension. His dues have been running these many months.