

GEN. SICKLES' LATCHSTRING

IT HANGS OUT TO THE "BOYS"
IN HIS DISTRICT.

AND THE GENERAL'S DOOR IS EXPECTED TO SWING OPEN READILY TO ALL ANXIOUS CALLERS—HIS FORTUNE AMPLE ENOUGH TO SATISFY EVERY REASONABLE DEMAND.

The advent of Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, the millionaire candidate, into active politics after a lapse of many years has been hailed with delight by the "boys" in the Tenth Congressional District, in which he is to run for Congress.

Sickles clubs, Sickles guards, and Sickles barbecues are being organized from one end of the district to the other. The message which the General recently conveyed to his constituents that he was willing to lay down his retired army officer's pay with his uniform and sword at the door of the House of Representatives in order to serve in Congress the good people of the Tenth has been the keynote of a general rejoicing.

Through Bleeker Street, around Cornelia and Barrow Streets, up to Bedford Street, and into the inmost nooks of the maze of smaller streets and lanes which form this part of old Greenwich Village, there has been displayed, this week particularly, unwonted activity among the colored voters who make this region their home.

A thorough canvass there has revealed the fact that there are many wavering votes waiting for the right sort of substantial persuasiveness to be gathered into the Sickles fold. Col. E. F. Shepard has given name, uniforms, and means to a number of Harrison-colored brigades in this vicinity, but since the report has been circulated that a more liberal hand will shower munificence upon them there are anxious expectation and doubtful political principles.

Lispensard Stewart, who ran on the Republican ticket for the State Senatorship last year in the old Eighth State Senate District, which is comprised in the Tenth Congressional, dispensed money most liberally, but Gen. Martin T. McMahon won the State Senatorship from him by a large majority, and with no funds, having only the record of a long and honorable career in war and politics as his dowry. It was, therefore, much feared by some politicians in the district that should he be chosen by the organization to run on the Democratic ticket this year the campaign would be a dry one.

New Sickles clubs are forming not only in the limited precinct bounded by West Houston and Bank Streets, but all along Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Avenues up to West Fortieth Street, the northern terminus of the district. Already Gen. Sickles's house has been overrun with visitors, and on several occasions. It is said, the candidate, not accustomed to this sudden rush of popularity, has taken to his bed for refuge.

Whether this is true or not, it is certain that Gen. Sickles intends to contribute largely in cash to the success of his candidacy. He said recently that when appointed Minister to Spain he not only gave up his army salary of \$5,625 per annum during his term of office, but also spent from his own private pocket \$30,000 yearly for six years in order to keep up the dignity of the office. The salary attached to the position was \$12,000, which he considered a mere bagatelle.

The reports of Gen. Sickles's large fortune are not exaggerated. He is, according to his own statement, because of excellent investments made in stocks and real estate by his father, the late George Garrett Sickles, a very rich man. In the lower part of the city he owns, among other real estate, 111 and 79 Nassau Street, office buildings which bring in a fine rental. He has a clerical force to receive his rentals. In the up-town districts and on the east and west side the Sickles estate, represented and partly owned by him, comprises valuable tenement and apartment houses. His father paid regularly taxes on over \$2,000,000 worth of real estate, the greater part of which Gen. Sickles has inherited.

Besides this, Gen. Sickles owns the house 23 Fifth Avenue, at the northeast corner of that thoroughfare and Ninth Street. Although it is only a three-story brick dwelling, it extends some distance back on Ninth Street, and has some waste ground around it planted in grass. It stands on several city lots, and is said to be worth several hundred thousand dollars.

Gen. Sickles lives on the first floor of this dwelling. His apartments are splendidly furnished and filled with costly curios, art objects, and valuable bronzes and pictures. In fact, there are few finer private collections than his in the city.

The two upper floors of this house Gen. Sickles rents as private apartments. The second floor contains seven rooms, and is frescoed with cupids and Watteau paintings, and hung with Venetian mirrors. The modest sum of \$2,500 a year has been asked for this apartment, and from its revenue the General is able to pay a large part of the taxes upon the house in which he lives.

There is also in the Sickles property valuable real estate in New-Rochelle, and quite a fortune in stocks and bonds, including shares in the Nassau Bank and other institutions in which the elder Sickles was a Director and a large stockholder.

This fortune has been inherited. George Garrett Sickles, the father of the General, retired from business in 1850, being then supposed to be worth \$150,000, a large sum in those days. He had conducted printing offices, one at Water Street and Burling Slip and another at Liberty Street and Broadway. His fortune was made in printing lottery tickets for the many State and other lotteries then in existence.

When he retired from business George G. Sickles devoted himself to the study of law; but after the war he resumed commercial life and went into Wall Street. Here, with the increased capital of former days, he made a very large fortune, which he invested for the most part in real estate, which has trebled in value. He died in March, 1887, leaving Gen. Sickles—his son—and three daughters. Gen. Sickles inherited the greater part of the property, and is the administrator of the estate.

The General filled various representative positions in former years, and then, when his means were nothing as compared to the present time, according to his own statement, he disbursed large sums in order to maintain the dignity of his position. It is this precedent which has brought joy into the hearts of the "boys," and which has caused the campaign heeler of the Tenth Congressional District to exult.

From now until election day the latchstring of 23 Fifth Avenue will hang out to Gen. Sickles's constituents, and it is said he will always be in to give them a generous, hearty, and satisfactory reception.