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EDITORIAL

## OUR MAYOR'S PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY.

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**S**UCH is the mass of philosophic observations, contained in Mayor Gaynor's letter of February 21 to the Board of Aldermen on the Police Department, that there is danger of the practical part of his philosophy being lost in the glamour of its more brilliant portion.

Big is the chunk of philosophy contained in the citation from John Stuart Mill to the effect that that which seems the height of absurdity to one generation often becomes the height of wisdom to another; and the philosophic poise of the passage is all the more striking seeing that the Mayor connects it closely with Socialist propaganda, with the merits of which the Mayor expresses his personal disagreement.

Wide is the breadth of the philosophy contained in the passage that the Socialist flag being "red instead of blue, or yellow, or green does not annoy or alarm intelligent people." These are golden words weighted with comment upon the narrow-mindedness of the Orange patriots who decry the Red Flag, while they flaunt their own yellow colors in perpetuation of racial and property hatreds in Ireland; and the words are equally weighted with comment upon the presumption the wavers of the Green Flag, an exclusive national and foreign flag, in denouncing as un-Christian the Red Flag which the Mayor correctly states stands for the Brotherhood of Man.

Brilliantly philosophic are the passages that assert the "right of free speech in this country, so long as the speaker does not violate decency, or incite to violence or a breach of the peace," and that in the exercise of such free speech the Socialists "may let light in on us [anti-Socialists], or we may let light in on them."

These and many more such passages in the Mayor's letter are refreshingly sane, refreshingly lofty, refreshingly philosophic, seeing in how many instances

there comes from the high places of bourgeois society—press, pulpit, professorial chair, and political platforms—language redolent with the sulphur-and-brimstone of Dense Ignorance. Yet not all this abstract philosophy—actions that a man might play—compares with the practical philosophy contained in the passage on the Night Court, a court which the Mayor sets forth was established for the sole purpose of “enabling the multitudes of innocent persons arrested during the night to be heard by a Magistrate and discharged instead of being locked up all night, or compelled to hire a professional bondsman. **WHEN THE POLICE CEASE TO ARREST WITHOUT SUFFICIENT CAUSE THAT COURT WILL NOT BE NEEDED.**” This passage sheds a flood of philosophic light beside which all others pale. It is a flash of practical philosophy.

Not the criminals but the supposed Guardians of the Law are the feeders of the Night Court. When the police themselves cease to break the law, then, the occupation of that criminal court, for one, will have gone. Truly an eye opener. What court is there that would survive if the Pillars of Bourgeois Society ceased to perform the only function they perform to-day—produce the disease that their government is to cure?

No wonder Mayor Gaynor has been shot at by a Gallagher.

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