

superiority . . . that it guarantees an ideal order that shall be permanently preserved," and again, "This need of an external moral order is one of the deepest needs of our breast—the absolute things, the last things, the overlapping things, are the truly philosophic concerns; all superior minds feel seriously about them, and the mind with the shortest views is simply the mind of the more shallow man."

The only trouble is that not every pragmatist is a good pragmatist; and that pragmatism is apt to be hailed by many as a brilliant, unimpeachable angel succouring and justifying the shorter view. They are apt to find in it the expression of their own resolve to be shallow, and to make it the splendid banner of their thoughtlessness. They are happy to proclaim their very want of method as itself a method; and, in repulsing attacks upon their rough and ready means to unconsidered ends, they eagerly find in pragmatism their sanction and their name.

"The influence of democracy in promoting pragmatism," said the *Edinburgh Review*, "is visible in almost every page of William James's writing. There is an impatience of authority, an unwillingness to condemn widespread prejudices, a tendency to decide philosophical questions by putting them to the vote, which contrast curiously with the usual dictatorial tone of philosophic writings. Dr. Schiller at one time set to work to elucidate the question of a future life by taking a poll. William James claims for the pragmatist temper 'the open air and possibilities of nature, as against dogma, artificiality, and the pretence of finality in truth.' A thing which simply is true, whether you like it or not, is to him as hateful as a Russian autocracy."

Now, it is quite true that at stated intervals democracy still pays its homage to freedom as a standard. It is quite true that democracy praises its constitutions, amid great applause, as the guardians of freedom. But more and more, as we see democracy at work, we find that freedom is quite forgotten in the exaltation of some shibboleth that has no meaning save as a means to freedom; that some constitutional