

testable and conspicuous than the love of democracy for authoritative regulation. The two things that men in middle age have seen most discredited among their contemporaries are probably free contract and free trade. The great majority of the democracies of the world are now frankly protectionist, and even in free trade countries the multiplication of laws regulating, restricting, and interfering with industry in all its departments, is one of the most marked characteristics of our time."

Let me also quote, in comment, this from a recent speech of the Dean of St. Paul's: "The first duty of any one who wants to understand the signs of the times is a critical examination of current shibboleths and catchwords. It is quite as easy to hypnotize one's self into imbecility by repeating in solemn tones 'progress,' 'democracy,' 'corporate unity,' as by repeating the blessed word Mesopotamia. Democracy is perhaps the silliest of all the fetishes that are worshipped among us. The method of counting heads instead of breaking them is no doubt convenient as a rough and ready test of strength, and no doubt government must rest mainly on force. It is also arguable that democracy is at present a good instrument for procuring social justice and educating citizens in civic duty, but that is really all that any one has a right to say. To talk to the average member of parliament one might suppose that the ballot-box was a sort of Urim Thummim for ascertaining the divine will. This superstition is simply our old friend the divine right of kings standing on its head. It is even more ridiculous in the new posture than in the old. There is absolutely no guarantee in the nature of things that the decision of the majority will be either wise or just, yet this ridiculous fetish stands grinning in our faces, and the whole nation burns incense before it."

My point then is that pragmatism is merely a philosophical expression of all this, and a means to crown it with a dignity which otherwise it would lack. In consequence it is the more astonishing that pragmatism should quote from Mr. Chesterton as to the immense import of plain theory. For